



# Planting Instructions for Your Loblolly Pine Seedling Plug

*Tips for Success*



Forestry Topic 30

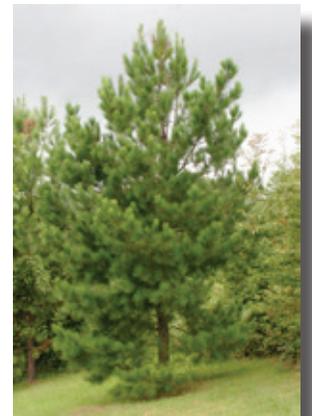
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## Instructions for planting your 100th Anniversary VDOF “Control Pollinated” Loblolly pine seedling:

1. Select a site that is well drained and open to sunlight. Your seedling will need full sun to properly develop. Since your seedling can eventually reach a height of 80 feet or more, you should avoid areas under power lines or other overhead structures.
2. Before planting, be sure to water the “plug” thoroughly prior to removal from the container. The plug contains peat moss, fertilizer and other ingredients that will help jump start your seedling.
3. Carefully remove the plug from the container by gently pulling upward on the stem of the seedling. There should be enough roots to hold all of the soil together. If not, plant the seedling and pour the remaining soil into the planting hole, which should be three inches in diameter.
4. Be sure to plant your seedling deep. If you see the top of the plug sticking out of the ground, it is too shallow. Try to have the top of the plug at least one inch below the ground surface.
5. After planting, be sure that all soil is packed tightly around your seedling to avoid any air pockets that could cause dryness.
6. The last step is to water in the seedling thoroughly to “settle” the soil and get things off to the right start.



*Growing Tomorrow’s Woods*

## Celebrate With Us!

Loblolly pine is very common to Virginia and is a hardy tree species. It should do very well in most rural, suburban and urban settings with minimal maintenance required. This year, the VDOF Nurseries will grow and sell more than 30 million loblolly pine seedlings for Virginia landowners.

Virginia Loblolly pine seedlings often have a purple color to their primary needles during the winter. This color results from “chilling” that occurs in the northern range of Loblolly pine. This same species farther south rarely ever exhibits these unique colors.

This year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the VDOF tree seedling nurseries, and we will harvest the 2 Billionth tree seedling in March 2017. These 2 Billion tree seedlings planted by Virginia landowners since 1917 have created more than 4.5 million acres of forestland in the Commonwealth.

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