

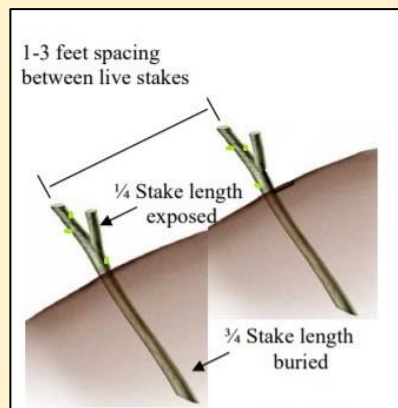
# LIVE STAKES PLANTING

**Why Use Live Stakes?** Cuttings from dormant trees and shrubs are called “live stakes.” Once planted, the section below ground will root in moist soil, helping stabilize slopes and banks. The above-ground part becomes branches. Live stakes offer clear benefits for revegetation projects: they are inexpensive and allow many plants to be installed in hard-to-dig soils.

**How to Use Live Stakes:** In soft soils, live stakes can be pushed directly into the ground or gently pounded into the soil with a rubber mallet. However, with hard, compact soils a tool called a planting bar must be used to punch a deep, narrow hole for the live stake.

Place the cutting with the sharp end pointing down, in the hole, and the flat end up. If unsure of which way to plant, ensure the buds are pointing skyward when planted. Refer to [WSU's Plant It Right video](#) to see how it's done!

Plant the stake so that **at least** half the length of the cutting goes into the soil, making sure that some buds are exposed at the top. Gently push down the soil around the cutting to ensure that there are no air pockets along the stem. After pounding in the stake, push the planting bar into the soil a few inches away from the stem and pull the soil back toward the plant, thereby ensuring good soil contact all the way around.



Adapted from Maine DEP

For more information, please read [WSU's Plant It Right: Restoration Planting Techniques brochure](#).



## How to Plant Live Stakes



Use a planting bar to punch in a pilot hole in compacted soils. Try to plant straight down or perpendicular to the slope face. With your back to the slope, place your foot on the flat foothold and press down firmly.



Live stakes should always be placed with the pointed end down into the hole.



The top of the stake should be cut flat to allow gentle hammering in. Note how the buds are also pointing upwards.



Use a mallet to gently drive the cutting into the earth.