



Winter is a fine time to plant

If you missed the fall plantings season, winter is still a fine time to plant. In many areas of the country, frozen ground during the winter means that planting projects must be put on hold until spring. Not so in western Washington! Our mild winters provide excellent conditions for establishing plants.

Many species will grow roots through the winter months, with most active growth in the early spring; our native conifers will put on new roots starting in January or February. Better that this root growth occurs after outplanting, pioneering into the native soil, rather than in the nursery. Also, the cool, wet weather of winter is ideal for minimizing transplant shock; transpiration is low and ample moisture is available.

Overall, the earlier in the dormant season that plants go into the ground, the more time they have to adapt to a site and develop new roots before the demands of the growing season and summer drought. This translates into lower irrigation needs and more vigorous growth than for spring plantings. More success for you!

Please see *Why Plant in the Fall?* for more information.

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