

## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS:

# SunFlex™ Greenhouse Grow Tube System for Trees

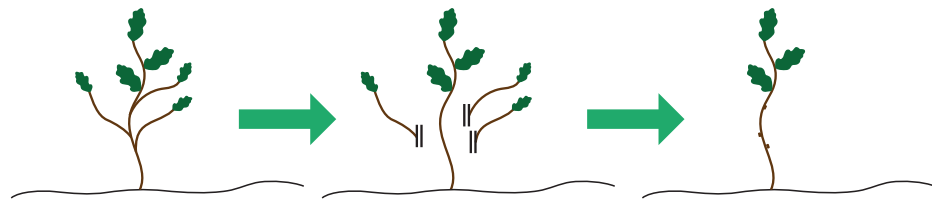
### STEP 1 Plant seedling

### STEP 2 Prepare the seedling for “tubing”

If your seedlings have side (lateral) branches please remove them carefully using sharp pruning shears before installing the grow tube (*see figure 1*).

**NOTE:** Do NOT bend side branches to squeeze or otherwise force them into the grow tube. Doing so will encourage weak branching and other problems as the tree matures.

FIGURE 1



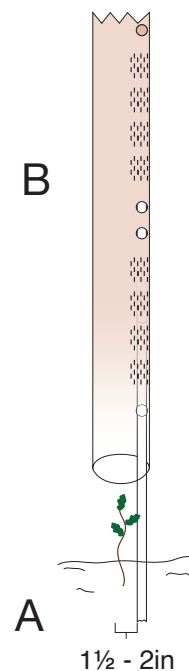
### STEP 3 Install SunFlex™ Grow Tube & Trunk Builder Stake

(Stake Entirely Inside Grow Tube) (*see figure 2*)

- A. Position stake 1.5 – 2 inches from the seedling with ground-line marker towards the ground. Use Plantra Stake Driver (**do not use a hammer or mallet**) and drive stake until ground-line marker reaches the the soil surface.
- B. Pop grow tube open by flattening tube its entire length in opposite direction as packed. Next, slide the grow tube over the top of the stake and down to the ground while carefully guiding both the seedling and the stake entirely inside the grow tube.

**NOTE:** *This method of installing support stake inside the grow tube is recommended for Trunk-BUILDER stakes only.* The Trunk-BUILDER Stake has a rounded top to avoid stem abrasion and a small diameter to avoid crowding the seedling inside the grow tube. Other stake materials should never be installed inside grow tubes as their sharp edges could damage stems that come in contact with the stake top and have large diameters which will occupy important growing volume inside the tube the tree should have.

FIGURE 2



### STEP 3 Continued...

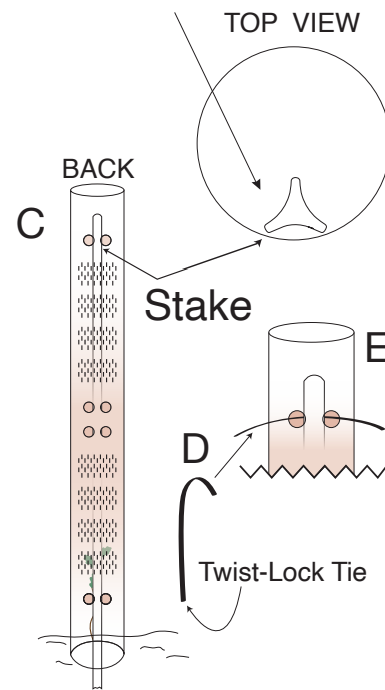
(see figure 3)

- C. Position the grow tube so a flat side of the stake is snug against the side of the tube and in-line between the paired tie-holes.
- D. Firmly tap the top of the tube to seat the tube base into the soil. Mound additional soil around tube base as needed to reduce entry by rodents. When completed, the tip of the Trunk-Builder stake should be at least 1-2 inches above the top tie hole and below the top of the grow tube.
- E. Attach the grow tube to the stake with 3 Twist-Lock™ Soft Wire Ties (only 2 ties for 35-in and 24-in tube heights). Begin by inserting the first tie through the top tie hole, guiding it around the stake and back out the paired tie hole. Twist the ends firmly so that the tube and stake are tight together to prevent the grow tube from sliding up from contact by animals. Repeat steps for one set of middle tie holes and for the bottom set of tie holes.

**TIP:** Bend the Twist-Lock tie about 2 inches from one end to make a “curl.” Use this end to thread the tie into one tie hole, around the stake and out the other tie hole.

### FIGURE 3

Stake Completely Inside Tube With Flat Side Of Stake Snug Against Tube



### STEP 4 Install bird exclusion mesh top

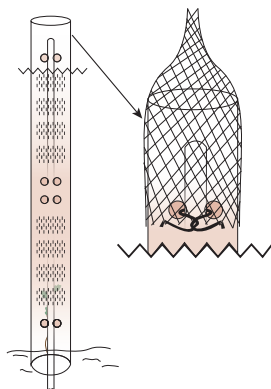
(see figure 4)

Simply stretch the netting over the tube top like pulling on a sock. Pull the netting down to the top tie and gently insert one or both ends of the tie through the mesh to keep it from blowing off in the wind.

When installed, approximately 1 inch of mesh cap should remain closed at the top as shown in Figure 4A and 4B. For 47-in and 58-in grow tube heights the mesh tops should be pulled down to height of tie holes. For 71-in SunFlex Grow Tube installation the mesh cap will only extend about half-way down between the top of the tube the tie holes. In this instance the tie ends will need to reach up to hook the netting in place to allow enough netting above tube top to remain closed.

### FIGURE 4A

47-in & 58-in Grow Tube Heights



### FIGURE 4B

71-in Grow Tube Heights

