

Forestry Department
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Kingston 8
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The Ridge to Reef Watershed Project (R2RW) is a five year (with an optional sixth year) activity contributing to the achievement of USAID/ Jamaica's SO2 – "improved quality of key natural resources in areas that are both environmentally and economically significant". R2RW comprises three Components contributing to the achievement of the results under SO2. Component 1 assists targeted organizations identify and promote sustainable environmental management practices by resource users. Component 2 focuses on identifying and supporting solutions to improve the enforcement of targeted existing environmental regulations, primarily in the Great River and Rio Grande watersheds. Component 3 provides assistance to key organizations to support, coordinate, and expand watershed management efforts in Jamaica. For more information about R2RW, please contact one of the following organizations:



Ridge to Reef Watershed Project
5 Oxford Park Avenue
Kingston 5
Jamaica
Email: ard@cwjamaica.com
Web: www.r2rw-jm.org
Tel: 754-7598 or 906-2268
Fax: 754-3913



National Environment and Planning Agency
10 Caledonia Avenue
Kingston 5
Jamaica
Email: pubed@nepa.gov.jm
Tel: 754-7540
Fax: 754-7595/6



United States Agency for International Development
2 Haining Road
Kingston 5
Jamaica
Email: kmcdonald-gayle@usaid.gov
Tel: 926-3645 to 8
926-5066
Fax: 929-9944



Caring for Trees Once Planted





The Ridge to Reef Watershed (R2RW) project supports the work of strategic partners, such as the Forestry Department and the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA). To ensure that the trees planted live a long, long time, R2RW wishes to remind everyone that we also need to care and maintain our seedlings once planted. Too often seedlings either dry out in the sun or animals eat them because people do not take steps to care for them properly. Here are a few easy things to do to take care of your seedlings once they are planted.

Involve Children

Taking care of seedlings is a lot like taking care of young children. Actually, young children can help to take care of young trees and should be involved right from the beginning. By helping to take care of the seedlings, children will learn to appreciate the trees when they grow up and will be more likely to adopt the habit of planting trees with their own families when they're adults.



Water Regularly

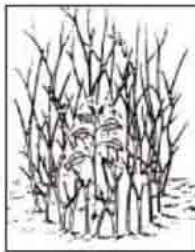
It is always wisest to plant your trees during the rainy season. If you do so, they will have a head start. But if there is no rain, you will need to water the tree to keep it alive. Water the plant enough to be sure that you have soaked it down to its roots. During the dry season, you may need to do this everyday.

Weed Control

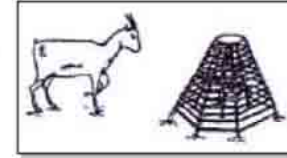
When they are young, plants need as much of a fighting chance as they can get. Too many weeds will compete with the seedling for nutrients. So, they need to be weeded regularly. The better the weed control in the first few months of growth, the better the chance that your seedlings will survive. Have young children help out and make it a game. Keep the weeds from getting near the trees, at least until they have grown up above the weed cover.

To Protect your Seedlings from Animals

Use branches and twigs and other available materials to construct a protective barrier around the seedling. Many people use chicken wire or barbed wire to protect their young trees, but you don't have to use purchased material. Twigs and branches from bougainvillea bushes or other shrubs with



thorns or "macca" such as acacia have natural thorns to deter animals from troubling your plants.



Another trick is to apply animal waste to the base of the plant and even on the leaves. You can also make a liquid mixture of manure and urine and spray it or sprinkle it on the plant. Animals won't eat anything that has their own manure or urine on it. Applying animal wastes can be effective, but you need to do it each season. You will also have to do it regularly during the more rainy times of the year.

Protect your Tree Seedlings from Pests

If you don't want to use harsh, environmentally unfriendly chemicals to protect your seedlings from pests like termites here are some ideas to try:

? You can actually create a little microenvironment that repels termites. Try adding poultry manure (which you can buy) to your potting soil. Or, do what people used to do in older times. Try spreading ash from charcoal or wood fires around the base of the seedling.

? Slugs and snails will be discouraged if you grind-up egg shells and sprinkle them around the base of the plant as well.

Feed your Tree

Seedlings that are well fed will also be stronger and will be better able to fight off pests and diseases on their own. Fertilize your plants at least once or twice a year to keep them well nourished. Using organic fertilizers is also a good idea.

More information

If you would like to do more tree planting activities in your school, a good place to look for more information is in the "Schools Environment Programme" [Tree Planting for Schools](#) booklet by Diana McCaulay. The SEP teachers' manual also has a lot of activities to explore and have fun with. Please contact:

Jamaica Environment Trust
11a Waterloo Road
Kingston 10
Phone: 960-3693 or