

**CATEGORY 700
LANDSCAPING**

BIODEGRADABLE TREE SHELTER

DESCRIPTION. Install and maintain biodegradable tree shelters (BTS) around newly installed trees at reforestation site or as directed by the Engineer.

MATERIALS. Provide 3 foot tall BTS composed of wooden slats fastened together with natural fiber twine or rope to form a protective ring around the tree trunk, or approved equal as determined by the Landscape Operations Division. BTS are not to be composed of petroleum-based products and are to bio-degrade in 3 to 5 years.

- (a) **Wooden slats.** Wooden slats are to be hardwood or cedar sections ½ inch thick by ½ wide, or 3/8 inch thick by 1-1/2 inch wide. Each slat is to be 3 feet long as per the specified height of the BTS. At least 4 wooden slats in each BTS are to be a minimum of ½ inch thick by ½ inch wide hardwood cut 1 foot longer than the specified height of the BTS. The longer wooden slats are to be used to anchor the BTS and are to be spaced approximately equidistant around the BTS.
- (b) **Natural Fiber Twine.** Natural fiber twine is to be composed of biodegradable, woven coir, hemp or similar fibers of sufficient strength to hold the wooden slats in place for 3 years.

CONSTRUCTION. Install BTS within 24 hours after trees are installed. Refer to Biodegradable Tree Shelter detail for additional directions for installation.

- (a) **Installation.** Install BTS as follows:
 - (1) Place the BTS around the tree with the trunk in the center and firmly tie the coir fiber twine to form a ring around the tree.
 - (2) Push the longer slats into the soil to a depth of 8 to 12 inches to anchor the BTS.
 - (3) Push the base of the fencing approximately 1 in. into the soil. If the soil is too firm to push the fencing into the soil without breaking, use the tip of a shovel to make a groove for the fencing, and mound soil around the outside base of the shelter to form a seal.
- (b) **Installation Inspection and Acceptance.** Installation Inspection and Acceptance will be performed in conjunction with Installation Phase Inspection per 710.03.19 and Installation Phase Acceptance per 710.03.21.

(c) **Maintenance Phase.** The Maintenance Phase begins upon Installation Phase Acceptance.