



## Calusa Land Trust and Nature Preserve of Pine Island

P. O. Box 216 Bokeelia, FL 33922

Thanks to all who have volunteered to be 'foster parents' for the South Florida slash pine seedlings. Here are some guidelines for potting and caring for the seedlings:

1. Never let the roots dry out.
2. Keep the seedlings cool and moist until you pot them. Try to pot them ASAP.
3. The container must be tall enough so the entire root system is covered with soil. The top of the soil should be half way between the needles and the first roots.
4. Never bend or flatten the roots. It is OK to trim a few of the fibrous roots to make them fit in the pot, but never prune the tap root.
5. Be sure to have holes in the bottom of the container for drainage. One seedling only per container please.
6. Thoroughly water the seedlings 2-3 times per week. You can't over-water since the excess water will drain out the bottom. You can skip a watering if they get a good rain.
7. It is best to have your containers over grass, soil or gravel instead of concrete.
8. The seedlings should be in an area that gets full sun for at least 2/3 of the day.
9. The seedlings can not be planted now because of the dry season. As soon as the rainy season begins, often in June, we will plant the trees in their permanent locations. Watch for an email from the PIGC for details of how we will gather the seedlings from you.
10. If you took seedlings at the meeting please send me an email with your name, email address and/or phone number so I can keep track of the seedlings.
11. Thank you for your help in nurturing these seedlings for the next few months. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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