

Scratch test – To check if a plant is dead or alive

A sapling might shed all or some of its leaves. However this does not mean that it's dead. A dead 'looking' sapling might be very much alive. The best way to check for survival is by conducting the *scratch/scrape* test:

- With a small knife or your thumbnail, gently scratch the outer/bark layer of the plant a few inches above the soil.
- If you find wet tissue beneath the bark layer, or with a slight greenish hue, then this is a living tissue and indicates survival. *Even a little bit of moisture or greenness is a sign of life.*
- If the layer beneath is dry, brittle and brown, then it indicates that the tree has failed to live.
- Refer to the following images:



Living tissue:



Living tissue:



Dead tissue:

