



conserving
natural resources
for our future



July, 2014

Ward Soil Conservation District

If you would like to receive this newsletter via E-mail, please contact the office and let us know.
(701) 852-5438 ext. 3, or
wardsoil@srt.com

Ward SCD Staff

Charlene Kohler - District Manager/

Technician

Beth Brandt—District Clerk

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Gail Yuly—Chairperson

Greg Simonson—Vice Chairperson

Harlan Lee

Pat Zeltinger

John Pietsch

NRCS Staff

Jerry Wingenbach — District Conservationist

Darrick Ystaas — Biologist

Casey Guetter — Soil Conservationist

Jared Andrist— Resource Conservationist

Dan Owens— Engineering Technician



We'd like to congratulate our Webmaster
Mr. Charles Herrman, on winning a national award from the
Military Vehicle Preservation Association for:

WEBSITE EXCELLENCE 2014

NORTH DAKOTA MILITARY VEHICLE COLLECTORS



Please check out this website at:

www.ndmvea.com

Ward Soil Conservation District

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Minot, ND 58701

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www.wardcountyscd.org

The Ward Soil Conservation District Board Meets
every 2nd Wednesday of the month.

All meetings are open to the public.

Please call the office for a specific time and location.

It's not too early to think about ordering trees for next spring. Whether it be a machine planting with fabric or some conservation grade hand plants. For the best selection of varieties, get your order in ASAP. Go to our website at www.wardcountyscd.org for information on trees and an order form.

or

Call Charlene at 852-5438 ext. 3

Services Offered by Ward Soil Conservation District

*** Prices on all district services are subject to change ***

Hand plants:

Hand plant seedlings are \$1.50 each.

Starting this fall, we can take tree orders for next spring.

Tree Planting:

\$25.00 per 100 linear feet. This includes the cost of the trees.

\$300.00 minimum

Weed Barrier: \$55.00 per 100 linear feet. This includes fabric and installation.

\$300 minimum

Tree Row Grass Seeding:

\$100 per acre. This includes grass seed.

\$300 minimum

2014 Planting Totals

Trees = 99,357 feet

Fabric = 68,624 feet

RCPP

A new conservation program, called the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), was authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill and will benefit areas all across the nation. RCPP streamlines conservation efforts by combining four programs (the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative, and the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion) into one.

The RCPP will competitively award funds to conservation projects designed by local partners specifically for their region. Eligible partners include private companies, universities, non-profit organizations, local and tribal governments and others joining with agricultural and conservation organizations and producers to invest money, manpower and materials to their proposed initiatives.

“Local decision making is empowered through this program— bringing together conservation groups, cities and townships, sportsmen groups, universities, agricultural associations and others – to design conservation projects that are tailored to our needs here in North Dakota,” said Mary Podoll, NRCS state conservationist in North Dakota.

With participating partners investing along with the Department, USDA’s \$1.2 billion in funding over the life of the five-year program will leverage \$2.4 billion for conservation. Through RCPP, partners propose conservation projects to improve soil health, water quality and water use efficiency, wildlife habitat, and other related natural resources on private lands.

To learn about technical and financial assistance available through conservation programs, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or local USDA service center. For more on the 2014 Farm Bill, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/FarmBill.

CARING FOR NEW TREE PLANTINGS

Tree planting shows a long-term commitment to conservation of our land. Taking good care of the tree planting will extend the life of the trees and increase the benefits the planting can provide. In addition to proper management, there are some actions that should be avoided around trees to reduce damage.

Weed Control

Controlling weeds in your tree planting will improve survival and growth. Most seedlings are very susceptible to competition from weeds. Competitive weeds can slow tree growth and kill young trees. Mechanical weed control is using a tiller, cultivator or disk to disturb the soil and destroy competing weeds. During mechanical weed control, care should be taken to go no deeper than three inches. Cultivation deeper than three inches can damage the roots of the tree. Mechanical weed control should be performed several times a year (depending upon the weed growth). Weed control should continue for at least three years after planting or until the trees are well established. Chemical weed control is using herbicides to reduce competing vegetation. Chemicals can be incorporated into the soil or applied directly to the leaves of the weeds. Herbicides must be labeled for use on the tree species in your planting. Read and follow all label directions.

Cover crops: Seeding the planting site to a cover crop of slow growing grass or a thinly seeded annual crop reduces competition from aggressive weeds. Cover crops can be seeded before or after the trees are planted. Consult your local NRCS office for recommendations. Weed barrier fabric is a synthetic material that is laid over the tree planting and the seedlings are pulled through the barrier. In addition to weed control, weed barrier fabric conserves soil moisture. The material should be checked annually to make sure the edges are buried and the fabric is not rubbing against the tree. As the tree grows, the hole in the fabric may need to be enlarged to prevent damage to

the trunk of the tree. Keep the fabric at least 2 inches from the tree.

Replants

Individual tree seedlings can die for any number of reasons including animal or mechanical damage, poor micro-site conditions, poor planting stock, improper handling and planting or severe weather. While the occasional scattered loss of a seedling may not be significant, losing several adjacent trees can reduce the effectiveness of your tree planting. Plant replacement trees whenever two or more adjacent seedlings have died.

Irrigation

Watering trees immediately after planting is one of the most beneficial things you can do for newly planted trees. Watering saturates and moves small soil particles creating good root to soil contact. This contact with the soil is essential if the tree roots are to take up the moisture and nutrients needed to survive in a new environment.

If possible, water trees once every ten days during periods of dry weather. Apply 2-4 gallons of water per tree. Continue to irrigate throughout the first year.

Fertilizer

Fertilizer and other soil amendments are not recommended for newly planted trees. Most soils have adequate nutrients for tree growth. Fertilizer will stimulate top growth at a time when the tree needs to grow roots and adapt to its new location. Fertilizer will also increase the tree's need for moisture.

For more information on post tree planting maintenance please contact Ward SCD, the Minot NRCS Field Office, the NDSU Extension Service, or the North Dakota Forest Service.



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Return Service Requested

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OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND TREE PLANTING ASSISTANCE

North Dakota Soil Conservation Districts have received grant funding To be used towards tree plantings within the state. A landowner is eligible to receive a 60% cost share on projects with a total project cost up to \$25,000. The remaining 40% would be the responsibility of the landowner. Projects would involve machine tree plantings and fabric application. Certain requirements must be met to be eligible and the plantings would be scheduled for spring 2015. If you are interested in the Outdoor Heritage Fund Assistance, please contact Charlene at the Ward Soil Conservation District. (701) 852-5438 ext. 3.



**2013 Soil Conservation Achievement Award Winners
Displayed at the 2014 ND State Fair**