

# Ward Soil Conservation District

End of Year  
2022  
Newsletter

## Start Your Tree Planning

Now is the time to start preparing for  
2023 tree plantings!

Contact us at

**(701) 852-5438 Ext. 3**

For more information.

## Inside this Issue:

- **Locally Led Meeting**
- **Tree Care**
- **NRCS Tree/Shrub Establishment  
Fact Sheet**
- **New & Existing Services**
- **Newsletter Changes**
- **Meet Our Staff**
- **NRCS Report**
- **2021 Annual Report**

## Board Members

Mark Schumaker

Chairman

Mike Aamot

Vice Chairman

Gail Yuly

John Pietsch

## WSCD Staff

Stetson Myers

District Manager

Angel Kaisler

District Tech

## NRCS Staff

Jerry Wingenbach

District Conservationist

Jared Andrist

Darrick Ystaas

Amy Koehler

# Locally Led

The Ward Soil Conservation District needs your grass roots ideas and concerns. Come have your voice heard at one of the locally led meetings across the county. What are we doing well? What can we do better?

Our goal is to lead conservation efforts on all land uses in Ward County, rural & urban. All are welcome, including landowners, ranchers, farmers, hunters, gardeners, teachers, business owners, conservation partners...well everyone.



Local Led Meetings start at 10:00 am

Thursday, February 9th, 2023 – City Hall, Kenmare

Thursday, February 16th, 2023 – Senior Center, Makoti

Friday, February 24th, 2023 – NDSU Extension Center, Hwy 83 South, Minot



Refreshments will be provided

WARD SCD is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

# Tree Care Maintenance

## **Water! Water! Water!**

One way to ensure survival of your trees is to make sure they have an adequate amount of water. When your trees are first planted, on average, they should be given 1-2 gallons per tree every day for the first 3-12 weeks. After 3-12 weeks, you can begin to water every 2-3 days. At the end of 12 weeks, trees can be watered weekly or until the roots are established.



Please remember that weather plays a factor. It is important to pay attention to how much precipitation your trees are getting so you do not over water or under water.

## **Cut Out Competition**

Another important factor for success in growing trees is eliminating competition. Trees start out small and their roots are not established so weeds or overgrown grass can take the moisture and sunlight away from seedlings. Making sure your sites are mowed or weeded will be beneficial to a better survival rate.

## **Root Systems**

If you are handplanting trees yourself, it is crucial to make sure you are not planting your trees too deep, the hole you are digging is not too big or too small, or you are not planting trees too close together.

A good rule of thumb is to leave about an inch above the root systems to allow sunlight at the base of the tree. Make sure to pack your soil and eliminate the chance of air pockets around your root systems.



## **Work the Dirt**

Whether you are doing a big or small planting, working the soil up once or twice can be a positive assistance to successful tree survival. Tilling the land before a planting helps break up the ground, making trees easier to plant, which in-turn helps the roots systems to establish better.



## **Keep Wildlife Out**

Wild animals can take a toll on new trees. Deer, rodents, and other small animals can kill off small seedlings very quickly. Deer like to eat the woody portion of trees and shrubs, such as leaves, stems, and the fruits off the trees/shrubs. They also rub, and trample new trees. Rodents tend to eat the root systems and stems.



Wildlife can be hard to deter from eating your trees and shrubs. There are fencing materials, granular repellants and liquid repellants available to help keep the critters at bay, although it is not fool proof, they are good steps in the right direction to help alleviate some stress that animals cause on the trees.

## **Fabric**

The use of fabric can be beneficial to tree survival. Fabric allows for little to no maintenance because it keeps weeds and grass from growing substantially around your trees. Fabric helps keep the moisture in.

Other options that can help are spraying for weeds around your trees or the use of mulch.

There are many ways to take care of trees and shrubs, although it is time consuming, it is worth the labor. By putting in the hard work for the first couple of years, it will make all the difference in the survival and success of the trees and shrubs you are planting for many years to come.



*“Conservation means development as much as it does protection. I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us.”*

*-Theodore Roosevelt*

**What is Tree/Shrub Establishment** —Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding, or natural regeneration. Site conditions and the owners purpose for the planting often determine the size, design, timing and method of planting.

**Benefits** —Tree/shrub plantings can provide forest products, streamside habitat, long-term erosion control, improved water quality, nutrient and pollutant filtering, cleaner air, carbon sequestration, alternative energy and enhance aesthetics.



A “natural looking” Tree/Shrub Planting - close row spacing, north aspect, multiple species within each row – Glen Harold Mine photo

**To Apply This Practice** —Determine the purpose of the planting. This affects species selection and will impact future management.

**Site Selection** —Select an appropriate site. When possible select sites where trees and shrubs may naturally occur. (North facing slopes, toe slopes, drainage ways, areas receiving additional moisture from snow melt or water run-on). Avoid block tree/shrub plantings in native prairie except where reestablishing native forest cover.

- Match the appropriate tree and shrub species to the specific soils at the site.
- Perform effective site preparation. One to two years of fallow may be needed before planting trees or shrubs on sites with established sod, especially on introduced sod forming grasses.
- Check site for potential herbicide carryover.



### **Planting**

- Before planting, store stock in cool location. Keep roots moist and covered at all times.
- Dip roots in water immediately before planting. Do not submerge roots in water for more than a few hours.
- If soils are dry, ( does not form a ball nor leave a dirty mark when squeezed in the hand) postpone planting or water trees immediately at planting.
- Plant so that the top root is no deeper than 1 inch below the soil surface.
- Mix species within the rows to yield a more natural appearance where compatible with site conditions and owner objectives.
- Pack soil around roots to ensure good root to soil contact.
- Planting may be by machine or by hand.
- When machine planting slopes steeper than 5%, consider planting on the contour.

## Maintaining tree/shrub plantings

- Keep a 3-4' diameter circle around each plant, or the entire planting, weed free spring to August.. Avoid tillage or large expanses of bare soil

where erosion risks exist.

- Avoid mechanical or herbicide damage to new plants.
- Replant dead stock to maintain continuity and to ensure full canopy.
- Consider seeding warm season grasses (blue grama, side oats grama) between the rows to reduce erosion while maintaining a 4-5' wide weed free zone immediately adjacent to the plants. Monitor for and control invasive or noxious weeds.
- Routinely inspect for disease, insect, animal and storm damage. Treat as necessary to correct problems. After 3-4 years, prune trees to develop proper form.
- Where deer predation is a problem, use tree shelters or repellents to protect trees. Include species less palatable to deer, and manage the site for natural regeneration from adjacent seed sources.



### Additional resources

*For very detailed information about site preparation, planting methods, and maintenance refer to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide*

*document Tree Care and Management. It addresses every type of site prep and planting technique that may work or been tried in North*

*Dakota. It is found in the ND Tech Guide at: [http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//references/public/ND/Tree\\_Care\\_and\\_Management.pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//references/public/ND/Tree_Care_and_Management.pdf)*

The following list of online resources provides links to other documents that will help determine an appropriate design to meet a specific

purpose and site. Additionally these sources provide specific instruction on how to perform many of the steps necessary for a successful planting.

They can be found online in the North Dakota Field Office Technical Guide.

*NRCS Field Office Technical Guide - Tree and Shrub Establishment Specification*

[http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/ND/612\\_specs.pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/ND/612_specs.pdf)

*NRCS Field Office Technical Guide - Riparian Forest Buffer Specification*

[http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/ND/391\\_specs.pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/ND/391_specs.pdf)

*NRCS Field Office Technical Guide - Conservation Tree and Shrub Characteristics*

[http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/ND/Tree\\_and\\_Shrub\\_Characteristics.pdf](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/ND/Tree_and_Shrub_Characteristics.pdf)

*NRCS Field Office Technical Guide - Expected 20 Year Tree Heights*

[http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//references/public/ND/Expected\\_20-Year\\_Tree\\_Heights.pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//references/public/ND/Expected_20-Year_Tree_Heights.pdf)

*Additional documents are available online and from local offices of the North Dakota State University Cooperative Extension Service and the North Dakota Forest Service.*

**Where to get help:** *Contact your local NRCS or Soil Conservation District (SCD) office for a site-specific plan.*

*North Dakota Forest Service, NDSU Extension Forester, NRCS Forester and Cooperative Extension Service offices can also provide planning and design assistance.*

# New & Existing Services

Our Pipeline Plow is in and ready to use! We are so excited to have this new addition to the list of services we offer. Please contact us at 701-852-5438 Ext. 3 to discuss the rental process and let us help you take care of your water needs!

## **Cost for rental of plow:**

- \$1.20 per ft rental cost
- \$100.00 credit for reels returned in good condition.



## **Existing Services Include:**

- **Machine Planting**-\$0.40 a linear ft (minimum of \$350)
- **Weed Barrier**-\$0.70 a linear ft (minimum of \$350)
- **Tilling**- \$75/hr. (minimum of \$150)
- Livestock Water Testing (partnered with NDSU Extension)



**NEW SERVICE!!** If you need pictures of your fields and don't have the time, look no further! Ward Soil is now offering drone services.

**\$50 an hr. (minimum 1 hr.)**

# Newsletter Changes

Ward Soil has decided it's time to get with the times! With ever changing pricing happening, stamps and cost of mailing has become more expensive, also we are trying to be better about our conservation practices so we would like to cut out the use of excess paper if possible. We will making our newsletter available by email and on our website for the next issue and future newsletters to come.

We appreciate all of our producers and want to continue to provide information about our district, NRCS, and so much more. If you have received the newsletter in the past and would like to continue to receive the newsletter in paper form, please let us know and we will get you on our list to continue sending the newsletter via mail. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, you can email us at [wardsoil@srt.com](mailto:wardsoil@srt.com), send us a message on Facebook, or call us at the office 701-852-5438 Ext. 3 so we can get you on the email list. Thank you for all your support.





# Meet Our Staff



My name is Stetson Myers. I have been the District Manager with Ward Soil Conservation District since September of 2016. In my spare time I enjoy hunting, fishing, anything sports related and collecting sports cards. I have enjoyed working with the SCD for the last 6 years. I look forward to continuing to work with the producers in Ward County.



My name is Angelica Vollmer. I grew up in Drake and currently live in the Towner area with my husband and two kids. I was hired as District Technician in March. I enjoy anything outdoors and spending time with my family. I am excited for the opportunity to work in Ward County and serve the wonderful producers we have.

# 2022 NRCS Report

- **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP): 26 Plans**
- **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP): 16 Contracts in 2022. 40 contracts total**
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): 2 Renewals. 5 contracts total**
- **Conservation Stewardship Program-Grassland Conservation Initiative (CSP-GCI): 1 Planned-goes active in 2023. 9 active contracts total**

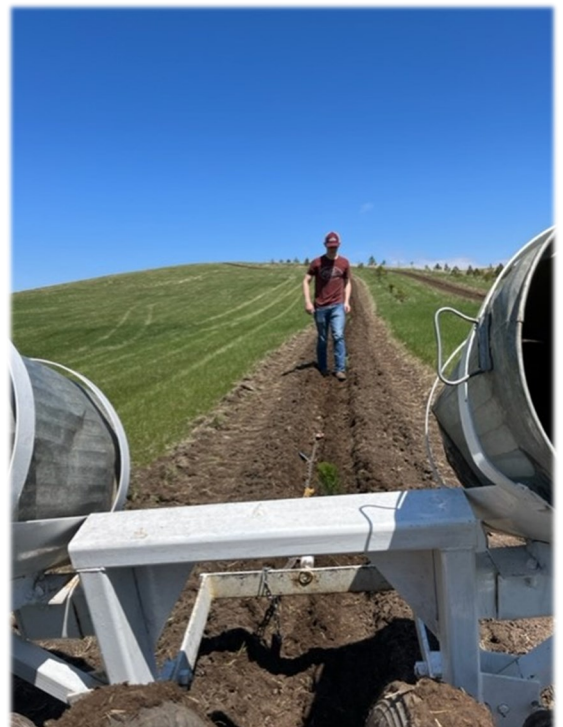
**EQIP is the Environmental Quality Incentive Program. The assistance from NRCS can be for structural practices for cross fencing, livestock water developments, windbreaks, and grass plantings; as well as no-till practices. This also includes precision application and prescribed grazing for nutrient management.**

**Sign up for EQIP can be anytime, if you are interested in signing up please stop in or call 701-852-5438 ext. 3 and let us help you with an application.**



# 2022 Annual SCD Report

- **# of Trees Planted: 72,298ft trees**
- **Weed Barrier Applied: 72,298ft of Fabric Applied**
- **# of Sites Tilled by SCD: 3**
- **# of Planting Sites: 28**
- **# of Handplants Sold: 4,000**
- **# of Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) Contracts Approved: 6 OHF**
- **# of EQIP Tree Planting Contracts: 1**
- **Pipeline Plow Installation Footage: 14,000ft**
- **Participated in Fair Parade & Advertised new Pipeline Plow**
- **Attended KMOT Ag Show**
- **Achievement Winners– Marlo & Kelly Stromberg & Michael Stromberg**
- **Held Eco-Ed & Envirothon in September**
- **Attended State Convention in Bismarck**



## **Ward Soil Conservation District**

**1920 13<sup>th</sup> St SE**

**Minot, ND 58701**

**(701)852-5438 Ext. 3**

[wardsoil@srt.com](mailto:wardsoil@srt.com)

[wardcountyscd.org](http://wardcountyscd.org)

---

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons requiring special accommodations or materials in an alternative format or language should contact Tanya Koch, Public Affairs Specialist. (701) 530-2096.

**Check out our website for  
tree orders, past newsletters  
and so much more!**

**<https://www.wardcountyscd.org>**

### **Office will be closed:**

Monday, January 16th

Monday, February 20th

Monday, May 29th

Monday, June 19th

Tuesday, July 4th

Monday, September 4th

Monday, October 9th

Friday, November 10th

Thursday, November 23rd

Monday, December 25th