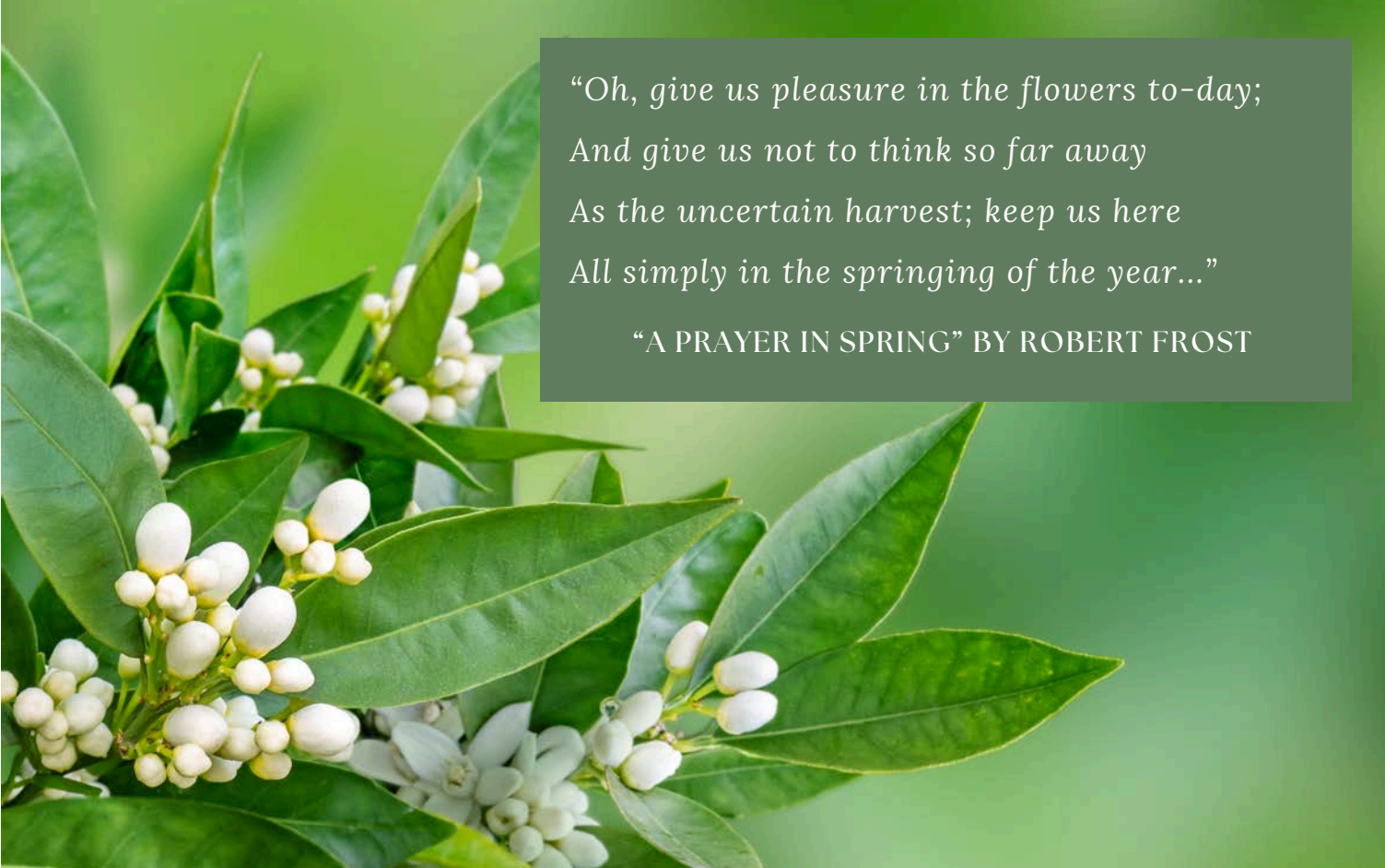


A WARD OF WISDOM

Ward County Soil Conservation District

Certainly you have found spring is on our doorstep, waiting to greet you with blooms, blue skies, and pollen. Is there a greater contrast between seasons than winter and spring? Each season holds a critical purpose in our life: maybe it is to rest, or perhaps productivity, or even a challenge that may change you. What did the seasons of 2024 ask of you? What did these seasons provide?

We are pleased to share with you our SCD's 2024 results, and what we are planning for this 2025. Happy spring!



*"Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year..."*

"A PRAYER IN SPRING" BY ROBERT FROST

All programs and services of the Ward County Soil Conservation District are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or handicap. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2024

By The Numbers

By being a part of our county,
you are a part of our
accomplishments.

The 2024 planting year was full of rain and new trees! We covered a large part of Ward county, with our furthest planting from the shed in Douglas. Our rentals saw great use with grass seedings, water pipeline improvements, and 11 aerial drone photography sessions. We also facilitated the Alliance program for climate-smart agriculture where our participants received two out of their three payments in 2024. Our staff attended trainings and courses to develop professionally and better serve our county's producers. You'll see in this newsletter the events and involvement WSCD had conducted throughout the year. We thank you for a great 2024 and we are preparing for a just as great 2025!



Total planting sites:
25

Feet of trees planted:
47,561

Feet of weed barrier
fabric installed:
35,852

Handplants sold:
~3,778

Total Trees planted:
6,724

Acres seeded with
no-till drill:
644 acres

Feet of pipeline
installed:
6,279

2024 Alliance
participants:
34

2024 funds awarded to
Alliance producers:
\$736,739.07

Site preparation is the first step to site success.

Are your trees prepared for success?

Preparing a site allows the soil to become more habitable for the incoming trees. Bare-root trees are already up against drought, heat, and the stress of being introduced to a new environment.

Freshly tilled soil eases the stress of the planting by reducing soil compaction, allowing the trees' roots to anchor in. The tree can establish itself far quicker when they can allow their roots to stabilize vertically. Every tree starts its growth with a tap root.

Tilling also introduces increased moisture due to the increased porosity. The trees severely need moisture as they are planted. We always encourage new tree owners to water their trees immediately after the crew has completed the planting.

Similarly, if water can now be absorbed deeper into the ground after the tilling, the same can be true

for nutrients and air. The tree roots can now access the reintroduced elements within the soil.

A properly prepared site will disrupt what is presently growing, such as unwanted weeds, decreasing competition. Of course, maintenance is required to keep weeds at bay.

The tilling does temporarily damage microorganisms and mycorrhizal structures. However, the biome will recover and the trees will incorporate themselves in this underground ecosystem to increase the soil health overall.

A site ready for success looks like:

1. Till in the fall before the ground freezes, allowing for large chunks of soil. These will break down over the winter and prevent erosion.
2. Till in the spring prior to the estimated planting week. Ensure that any remaining clumps are broken down.



Services

Conservation:

Tree Planting

New rates as of March 2026*:

- \$0.60/ft machine tree planting
- \$0.90/ft weed barrier fabric installation
 - \$1.50/ft for trees and fabric

***Planting contracts created after March 2025 will begin using the new rates.

Drone Aerial Photography

- \$50/hour
 - 3 hour booking minimum

Tilling

- \$75/hour (includes equipment and operator)
 - \$150 booking cost minimum

Handplant Trees

- \$2/tree
 - Pre-order now and pickup in April
 - Surplus sale at end of season (June)

Rentals:

*Equipment rentals do not come with an operator;
no delivery service - renters pickup and drop off.*

Grass Drill Seeder

- \$25/day + \$10/acre
 - \$12/ac for out of county

Pipeline Plow

- \$1.15/linear foot (price includes pipe)

Tree Dibble

- \$30 deposit while borrowed.
 - Deposit goes back to renter upon return of dibble.

Board of Supervisors:

Mark Schumaker; Chair

Gail Yuly

Mike Aamot

Kelly Lozensky

Dave Colby

NRCS Staff:

Jerry Wingenbach

Jared Andrist

Jordan Robinson

Daniel Julson

Darrick Ystaas

Contact

Office: 701-852-5434, ext 3

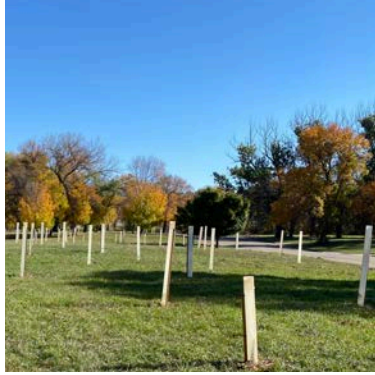
Email: WardSoil@srt.com

Tree planting/ordering
(Macy): 701-833-1220

Equipment rentals,
Alliance (Kyla):
701-833-1221

Board minutes,
bookkeeping (Justine):
701-833-5434, ext. 127

Involvement



2,000 Trees for Minot

In September, we teamed up with local community leader Tim Baumann to assist in facilitating and instructing the planting of 200 trees in town.



Girl Scouts "BIG Event"

We answered the call to inspire Girl Scouts about their future in natural resource conservation and science. This was also in September.



Eco-Ed

At our annual Eco Ed, we welcomed over 400 kids to conservation stations from soil to water learning activities. Being outdoors and seeing a variety of topics makes this event special.



Plum River

In an ongoing collaborative effort with MSU, WSCD has served as a consultant and aid in their project to return a previous school yard to native prairie grassland.



Envirothon

Our annual one-day event of education, competition, and presentation! Kenmare took first place, and Minot came in second for the 2024 year.



AgShow

We attended the AgShow, presenting to over 40 groups of students the process of photosynthesis in crops. It was great to see the involvement and enthusiasm to learn from this presentation.



Royalty Coming Through!

Do you usually see monarchs in the spring and summer? Have a look at their great journey through Mexico to Canada (and then back!). Maybe you will be inspired to add milkweeds to your garden this year!

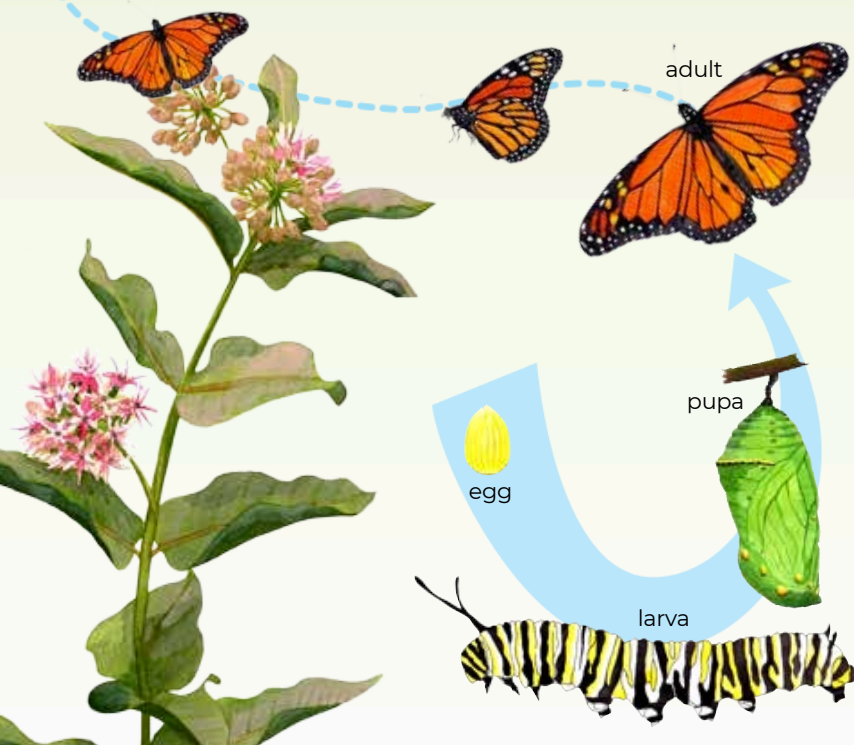


Monarch Butterflies

Northern Great Plains

During spring and summer, monarchs breed throughout the U.S. and southern Canada. In the fall, adults of an eastern population migrate to Mexico, flying up to 3,000 miles. In the western U.S., monarchs migrate to scattered groves along the coast of California. The following spring, these butterflies leave their overwintering sites and fly northward in search of host plants on which to lay their eggs. Female monarchs lay eggs on milkweeds and a few other plants in the dogbane family. As monarchs spread across North America, several generations of butterflies are produced. In Florida, some non-migratory individuals remain and breed year-round.

Sadly, population monitoring at overwintering sites in Mexico and California has documented a steady decline. Monarchs are threatened by loss and degradation of habitat, natural disease and predation, adverse weather and the ongoing decline of native milkweeds. Because of the monarch's migratory lifecycle, effective conservation strategies need to protect and restore habitat across their entire range.



FLORIDA MUSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA



BFCI

This educational resource was developed by the Florida Museum of Natural History in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (www.fs.fed.us), Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation (www.xerces.org) and Butterfly Conservation Initiative (www.butterflyrecovery.com).

THE XERCES SOCIETY
FOR INVERTEBRATE CONSERVATION

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Milkweeds

Asclepias speciosa

Showy Milkweed

Habitat: Dry to moist, well-drained soils: open woodlands, prairies, fields, roadsides, waste areas
Larval host plant, adult nectar source. Seed available from several vendors.



Asclepias incarnata

Swamp Milkweed

Habitat: Moist to wet soils: swamps, marshes, wet prairies, pond margins, roadside ditches
Larval host plant, adult nectar source. Plants and seeds available from several vendors.

Asclepias syriaca Common Milkweed

Habitat: Well-drained soils: fields, roadsides, prairies, pastures, waste areas
Larval host plant, adult nectar source. Plants and seeds available from limited vendors.



Asclepias pumila
Plains Milkweed

Habitat: Dry, well-drained sandy to rocky soils: prairies, grasslands Larval host plant, adult nectar source. Plants and seeds not currently available.



Monarchs & Milkweeds



In addition to providing a food source for monarch larvae, the showy flowers of milkweeds offer abundant, high quality nectar to many pollinators including bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. The handsome plants can also add interest and beauty to any landscape. Milkweeds are named for their milky latex sap, which contains alkaloids and cardenolides, complex chemicals that make the plants unpalatable to most animals. Milkweeds have fleshy, pod-like fruits that split when mature, releasing seeds. Each milkweed seed is attached to fluffy hairs, known as pappus, silk, or floss, that aid in wind dispersal.

Intensifying agriculture, development of rural lands and the use of mowing and herbicides to control vegetation have all reduced the abundance of naturally occurring milkweeds. This has resulted in a substantial loss of critical resources available for monarchs throughout much of the United States. As a result, the North

American Monarch Conservation Plan recommends planting native milkweed species to help restore breeding habitat. Sites of any size or location can help, from urban parks, schools and home gardens to commercial developments, municipalities and rural roadsides.

While native milkweeds are crucial for monarchs, commercial sources of plants and seeds remain limited. The Florida Museum of Natural History, the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Butterfly Conservation Initiative and the Monarch Joint Venture are working to help raise awareness and produce reliable sources of native milkweed. Inventory is expected to increase steadily over the next several years, to meet demand for home gardens and habitat restoration projects across the region.

Ask for native milkweeds at your local retail garden center! Be sure to ask for plants that have not been treated with pesticides, which may make them toxic to monarchs and other insects.

Asclepias viridiflora
Green Comet Milkweed

Habitat: Dry to moist, well-drained soils: roadsides, thickets, open woods, woodland margins, prairie openings Larval host plant, adult nectar source. Plants and seeds available from limited vendors.



Asclepias verticillata
Whorled Milkweed

Habitat: Dry to moist soils: prairies, pastures, roadsides, fields, open woods Larval host plant, adult nectar source. Plants and seeds available from limited vendors.



WSCD has several "tree dibbles" available to borrow to plant your own trees and plants. These would be great for transplanting container plants to your garden, or for plug trees. You can borrow one at no cost, just leave a \$30 deposit with us while you use it. Return the dibble and receive your deposit back!

To borrow or rent our other equipment, call or text:
701-833-1221



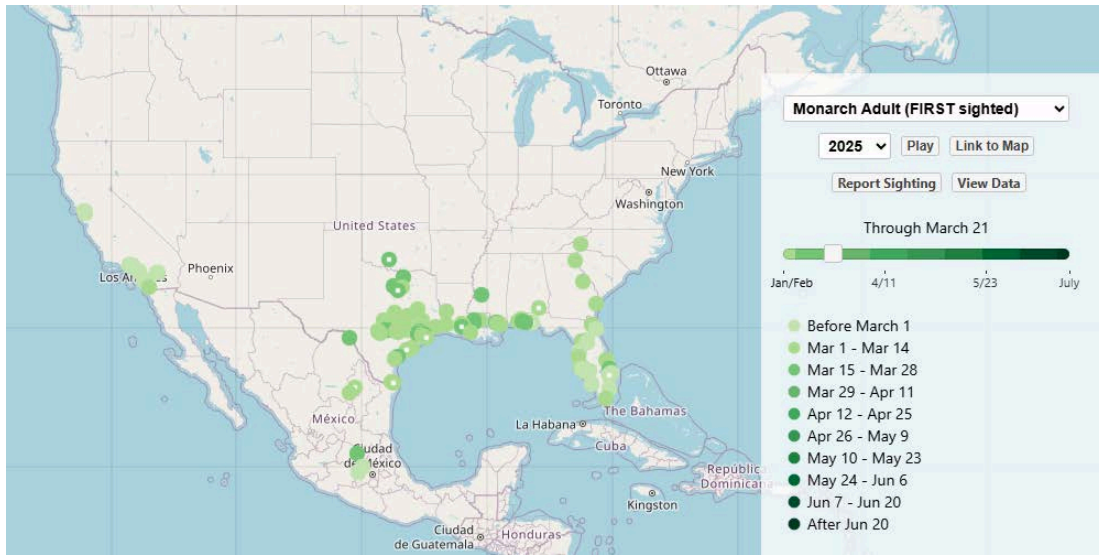
Kid's Corner



Visit **journeynorth.org** to see maps of migrating animal sightings, including Monarch butterflies!

You can track their progress and report any sightings yourself! You can see their location sightings below as of March 20th...

Where do you think they'll go next?



2025 Tree Hand-plant Order Form

Ward Soil Conservation District
1920 13th St SE Minot, ND 58701
701-852-5438 ext. 3 wardsoil@srt.com

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Listed below are the trees that are anticipated to be available through the Ward Soil District for conservation and windbreak plantings. Species may change depending on nursery availability. All trees listed are conservation stock. (8"-15") for \$2.00. We require a minimum order of 5 per species.

Orders can be done by email, mail, over the phone, stopping by our office or online through our website. Payment is not needed until you pick up your trees. We accept cash or check. Credit or debit card payments will incur a 3% transaction fee, whereas cash and check have no fee. If you need help with ordering trees, please contact the us for more information.

WSCD Office: 701-852-5434, ext. 3
Tree Planting Technician Cell:
701-833-1220
wardsoil@srt.com

Payment is due when trees are picked up.

**WARD SCD ACCEPTS NO RESPONSIBILITY IN REGARD TO SURVIVAL OF PLANTING STOCK AND
MAKES NO PROVISIONS FOR REPLACEMENTS.**

Tree Species	Quantity	Potential Height	Growth Rate	Wildlife Value	Drought Tolerant	Life Span	Comments
Shrubs							
Almond, Russian	SOLD OUT	3-5 ft	Slow	Excellent	Fair	Short	Pink flowers, suckering, nuts
Buffaloberry, Silver		6-14 ft	Medium	Excellent	Good	Medium	Native, berries used for jelly
Caragana		6-12 ft	Medium	Fair	Good	Long	Yellow flowers, extremely hardy
Cherry, Nanking		6-10 ft	Medium	Excellent	Fair	Short	Flowers, fruit for jelly, & wine
Currant, Golden		3-6 ft	Medium	Fair	Good	Short	Yellow flowers, edible, tart berry
Dogwood, Redosier		7-10 ft	Fast	Excellent	Poor	Medium	Tolerates wetness, red bark
Juneberry		6-15 ft	Slow	Excellent	Poor	Medium	Native, highly prized fruits
Lilac, Common		8-12 ft	Medium	Fair	Good	Long	Fragrant purple or white flowers
Rose, Hansen Hedge		4-6 ft	Medium	Excellent	Good	Medium	Showy pink flowers, rose hips
Sumac, Smooth	SOLD OUT	5-15 ft	Slow	Excellent	Fair	Medium	Suckering, red fall colors
Viburnum, Nannyberry		10-14 ft	Slow	Excellent	Fair	Long	Red in fall, good for wildlife
Willow, Sandbar		6-10 ft	Fast	Fair	Poor	Medium	Moist sites, survives flooding
Tree Species	Quantity	Potential Height	Growth Rate	Wildlife Value	Drought Tolerant	Life Span	Comments
Low Deciduous Trees							
Apricot, Hardy	SOLD OUT	10-15 ft	Medium	Fair	Fair	Medium	Flowers, edible fruit
Chokecherry, Common		12-25 ft	Medium	Excellent	Good	Medium	Suckering, edible fruit for jelly
Chokecherry, Shubert		12-25 ft	Medium	Excellent	Good	Medium	Purple foliage, edible fruit
Crabapple, Midwest		10-25 ft	Medium	Excellent	Good	Long	Fire blight resistant, small fruit
Crabapple, Siberian		15-25 ft	Medium	Excellent	Good	Long	Rabbits & rodents may damage
Maple, Amur	LIMITED	15-20 ft	Medium	Good	Good	Medium	Bright leaves in fall
Pear, McDermid		15-30 ft	Medium	Good	Fair	Long	White flowers, small edible fruit
Plum, American		8-12 ft	Medium	Excellent	Good	Short	Edible fruit, thicket forming

Tree Species	Quantity	Potential Height	Growth Rate	Wildlife Value	Drought Tolerant	Life Span	Comments
Medium to Tall Trees							
Buckeye, Ohio		25-40 ft	Medium	Fair	Poor	Medium	Attractive flowers and colors
Cherry, Black		30-45 ft	Fast	Fair	Fair	Long	Fruit, like chokecherry
Cottonwood, Native	SOLD OUT	50-100 ft	Fast	Fair	Fair	Long	Produces cotton
Cottonwood, Siouxland		40-60 ft	Fast	Fair	Fair	Long	Cotton-less, fast growing
Ash, Green		40-70 ft	Fast	Fair	High	Long	Susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease
Hackberry, Common		40-60 ft	Medium	Good	Fair	Long	Replacement for Elm and Ash
Hackberry, Oahe		40-60 ft	Medium	Good	Fair	Long	May do better than N. Hackberry
Linden, Little Leaf		30-45 ft	Medium	Fair	Poor	Long	Fragrant flowers
Maple, Silver		40-65 ft	Fast	Good	Poor	Medium	Prone to limb breakage
Oak, Bur		40-70 ft	Slow	Excellent	Fair	Long	Large crown, acorns
Poplar, Hybrid		40-60 ft	Fast	Fair	Fair	Medium	Fast growing, needs moist site
Poplar, Prairie Sky	SOLD OUT	60-90 ft	Medium	Fair	Fair	Long	Upright growing spread 6-8ft
Walnut, Black		35-60 ft	Medium	Fair	Poor	Long	Edible nuts, valuable for timber
Willow, Golden		40-55 ft	Medium	Fair	Poor	Medium	Tolerates wetness
Willow, Peachleaf		25-40 ft	Fast	Fair	Poor	Medium	Needs full sun, adapted to cold
Conifers							
Cedar, Eastern Red	SOLD OUT	30-35ft	Medium	Excellent	Good	Long	Alkali tolerant, reddish in winter
Juniper, Rocky Mountain		20-30ft	Slow	Excellent	Fair	Long	Dense pyramidal shape
Pine, Ponderosa		50-70ft	Medium	Good	Fair	Long	4-7" Long needles
Pine, Scotch		25-50ft	Medium	Good	Fair	Long	Scotch colored bark
Spruce, Black Hills	SOLD OUT	30-60ft	Medium	Fair	Fair	Long	Winter hardy, dense pyramidal
Spruce, Colorado Blue	SOLD OUT	30-65ft	Medium Fair	Fair	Fair	Long	Blue-green needles
Vines							
Riverbank Grape		Climbing	Fast	Excellent	Fair	Long	Edible Fruit for jelly and wine