



Sand & Soapweed

Newsletter of the *Middle Niobrara Natural Resources District*
“*Protecting Lives, Protecting Property, Protecting the Future*”

DECEMBER 2010

Tree Order Form

Included in this newsletter is the tree order form for persons interested in planting trees next spring. This form should be completed and returned to the NRD office in Valentine by January 31, 2010. When your order is confirmed, you will be billed a 50% deposit for the cost of the trees. If there is a shortage of species, the orders will be filled on a first come first serve basis. The last day to cancel an order is December 30th. If orders are cancelled after the deadline, your deposit will not be refunded. Please complete the name, mailing address and phone number sections so we can contact you when the trees arrive in early April. Also, indicate in the appropriate box where you would like to pick your trees up. Pick up days will be scheduled for the Ainsworth and Valentine areas. The NRD can special order trees that are not on the list provided, but the cost may be higher due to shipping and which nursery they are ordered from. We encourage you to place all orders by the January 31 deadline.

Planting Designs with Wildlife in Mind

Windbreaks are planted to protect farmsteads, livestock, roads, or crops. The additional goal of providing wildlife benefits can be added without compromising the primary purpose. In developing a plan, select a design, plant materials, and location that meet your specific windbreak needs but include factors that benefit wildlife. Choose trees and shrubs that have wildlife benefits, but that are adapted to the local climate and soils types. Generally, native species are the best bet because they are adapted and familiar to wildlife. See the table for overall wildlife value.

DRIP IRRIGATION AVAILABLE AT NRD

Consider drip irrigation for this coming springs plantings. Drip irrigation applies water slowly and directly to the roots of plants through small flexible pipes and flow control devices called emitters. Drip irrigation uses 30 to 50 percent less water than sprinkler irrigation and usually costs less to install. Since water is applied directly to the root zone, evaporation and runoff are minimized. Drip irrigation is recommended for use on trees, shrubs, and flowers in the high and moderate water use zones of the landscape to maximize efficiency. For trees and shrubs, it is generally best to use a system that allows you to insert emitters wherever water is needed. The appropriate number of emitters per plant and flow rate per emitter depends on the size and type of plant. Generally, the larger the plant, the more water it requires. During very dry weather, an emitter system needs to run about three times per week for 4 hours each time to meet the optimum water needs of the plant. Keep in mind that some species require more water than others. The Middle Niobrara NRD has available all the components for drip irrigation. Call the office for more information @ 402-376-3241.

TREES-TREES-TREES

The 2010 survival checks are completed for this past springs tree plantings. Overall there was an average survival rate of 76%. Some survival rates were as high as 97% this year due to the abundant rain in areas across the district. The Middle Niobrara is still taking hand plant orders for the spring of 2011. Come in and sign up for your trees. If there are special order species that you want that are not on the list, stop by the office or call and we will see if we can get them for you.

Water Quality Cost-Share Changes Approved for 2011

The Middle Niobrara NRD Board of Directors approved a higher limit on water quality cost-share for 2011. Approved practices are now eligible for 50% cost-share up to \$2,500. The previous limit was set at 50% up to \$2,000. This increase in cost-share limit is due primarily to the increasing cost of gated pipe and other materials needed for irrigation efficiency enhancement projects. This also means that fewer projects will likely be approved, however, in the past few years cost-share monies have been available after the sign up period. Practices eligible for cost-share include open ditch to gated pipe conversions, surge valve installation, and high to low pressure nozzle conversions on center pivots. Official sign-up is from November through December. Please contact Tim Storm at the Valentine office if interested.

From:

Middle Niobrara Directors

Wade Andrews, Chairman, Nenzel
Dean Jochem, Vice Chair, Ainsworth
Marty Graff, Secretary/Treasurer, Ainsworth
Cherryl Lovejoy, Valentine
Bill Mulligan, Valentine
Gregg Wilke, Ainsworth
Leonard Danielski, Valentine

And the Staff

Mike Murphy, Manager
Tim Storm, Programs Coordinator
Jeff Mattson, Natural Resources Coordinator
Casey Foster, Administrative Assistant
Jenny Suhr, Valentine NRCS Clerk
Laurie Delimont, Ainsworth NRCS Clerk

Plants ^{1,2}	Overall wildlife value	Nesting	Songbirds		Gamebirds		Fur & game mammals	
			Food	Cover	Food	Cover	Food	Cover
Conifers (Excellent winter cover, food, and nesting sites)								
Eastern redcedar	Excellent	•	W	SW	W	SW	B	SW
Rocky Mtn. juniper	Excellent	•	W	SW	W	SW	B	SW
Arborvitae	Good -Excel	•		SW		SW	B	SW
Spruce	Good	•		SW		SW		SW
Pine	Good - Excel	••	S	SW	S	SW	B	SW
Fir	Fair	•		SW		SW		SW
Deciduous trees (Nesting and foraging sites, food, canopy and habitat structure)								
Oaks	Excellent	•	W	S	W	S	WB	S
Osageorange	Excellent	••		S		S		S
Hackberry	Excellent	••	SW	S	W	S	B	S
Pecan	Fair		W	S	W	S	W	S
Black walnut	Fair		W	S		S	W	S
Mulberry	Fair	•	S	S	S	S	S	S
Ash	Good	•	W	S	W	S	B	S
Maple	Good	•	S	S	S	S	B	S
Siberian elm	Excellent	••	S	S		S		S
Cottonwood/poplar	Fair	•		S		S	B	S
Black cherry	Excellent	•	S	S	S	S	SB	S
Flowering crabapples	Excellent	••	W	S	W	S	WB	S
Hickory	Fair		W	S	W	S	W	S
Hawthorn	Good	••	W	S	W	S	B	S
Serviceberry	Good	•	S	S	S	S	B	S
Tall shrubs (Nesting sites, food, cover near ground)								
Russian olive	Good	•	W	S	W	S	W	S
Autumn olive	Excellent	•	W	SW	W	SW	W	SW
Honeysuckles	Excellent	••	W	SW	W	SW	WB	SW
Viburnums	Excellent	•	W	SW	W	SW	WB	SW
Shrub dogwoods	Excellent	•	S	SW	S	SW	B	S
Buffaloberry	Good		W	SW	W	SW		SW
Staghorn & smooth sumacs	Good		W	S	W	S	B	S
Short shrubs (Nesting sites, food, cover near ground)								
Fragrant sumac	Excellent	•	W	SW	W	SW	B	SW
American plum	Excellent	••	S	SW	S	SW	S	SW
Common chokecherry	Excellent	••	S	SW	S	SW	SB	SW
Chickasaw plum	Excellent	•	S	SW	S	SW	S	SW
Sargent crabapple	Excellent	•	W	S	W	S	WB	S
Cotoneaster	Good		S	S	S	S	S	S
Amur maple	Excellent	•	S	S	S	S	B	S
Coralberry & snowberries	Good - Excel		W	SW	W	SW	B	SW

¹Bold letters or two dots indicate an especially good wildlife feature.

²Several plants in this list have a variety of species or cultivars, and some may have features that differ from those indicated. Also, there may be good plant selections for your area that are not included.