

Central Stark & Western
SOIL CONSERVATION
Districts

U.S. Postage
PAID
Non-profit
Organization
Permit #12
Dickinson, ND

Return Service Requested

2493 4th Ave West, Room C
Dickinson, ND 58601
Phone: 701-225-3811 EXT #3
Fax: 701-225-1353

“Assisting Residents of Stark and Billings Counties”

SEPTEMBER 2013

Assistance is available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

It is TIME 
to order your
Trees for 2014
And
Get ground worked properly for
planting trees!
The deadline for ordering trees is
October 1, 2013.

“Trees are much like
human beings
and enjoy each
other's company.
Only a
few love to be alone.”

~Jens Jensen, 1939



Check out our Web-Site at:

www.eswsed.com

Tree Plan Design for conservation tree plantings is a free service to residents of the county. Our technicians will assist you in selecting appropriate trees for your soil and needs. Windbreaks for fields, farmsteads, feedlots, and rural homes are effective tools for energy conservation, sound barriers, and for protection from wind, dust, and snow.

Site Preparation (tilling and/or disking) is the key to a successful planting. We recommend the ground is summer fallowed for one growing season prior to planting. This reduces problems with weeds and grasses that can compete with new tree plantings.



Tree fabric is a great way to manage weeds while establishing trees! It is low maintenance and assists greatly with tree establishment and growth. However, low maintenance does not mean no maintenance. Tree fabric breaks down very slowly in our arid climate.

We recommend inspecting your fabric once a year after snowmelt and before tree growth. Every 5 years you should create relief cuts with a box cutter on two or four sides of the tree trunk as needed. Care should be taken not to damage the tree. If the tree becomes girdled by the fabric (or other tree roots) and doesn't have room to grow the tree will suffer limited growth and may die alto-

gether. A tree that becomes stressed due to girdling can grow around the fabric edge. This creates instability/weakness in the trunk and can result in premature death from winds and imbalanced weight.

If you have had trees planted with fabric five or more years ago and haven't taken a look, it may be a good time to check them this year and cut slits as needed.



Tree Fabric Management



Now that the trees are in the ground, here are a few pointers to keep your trees in good condition.

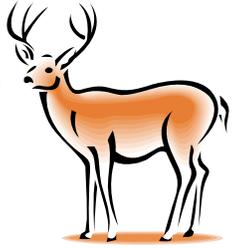
- Trees need “water”, a good schedule for watering trees in once every 10 days if we have received no rain. Don't be afraid to water your trees after their leaves have fallen off also. Keep watering trees and especially your young spruce trees until the ground is frozen.
- When possible water the entire root zone as much as possible. Do not just water the base of the tree that can cause damage as well. When possible a slow trickle seems to work best on the perimeter of the root zone, which for young trees is usually pretty close.
- Controlling weeds can give your little trees a better chance of establishing. Weeds can compete at alarming rates with trees for sunlight and water. Customers with fabric and tubes are not an exception to this. Weeds will still grow right around the trees when there at a young age, so they will need to be watched also.
- Mulch can be used to buffer from hot and cold temperatures while also preventing weeds from growing. Just remember to keep mulch away from the trunk of the tree.
- If you plan on moving trees or pruning trees it is always best to do that in the early spring while the tree is still dormant.
- Prevent any damage when possible which includes animal and weather. Tree tubes are one way to protect your trees from weather and animals. If you don't have tree tubes products like Plantskdd prevents from animal browse.

There are a few tips to help ensure a healthy and happy tree. Feel free to give us a call with any further questions you have.



Animal Repellent

Having problems with deer and rabbits eating your trees? You may want to consider using this product. It is not a "chemical", but an organic mixture that is nontoxic.



Plantskydd Information:

APPLY ON DRY PLANTS - Rainfast in 24 hours

- For Deer/Elk control- Spray or dip main top of plant, until wet.
- For Rabbits - Spray stem and lower leaves.
- Ornamentals - Spray mainly leaves of plants and avoid blossoms
- ALWAYS TREAT NEW GROWTH!
- Test sample plants to determine sensitivity.
- Needles/ leaves darken temporarily after treatment - original color returns in 18-36 hours.
- Apply above freezing temperature.
- Avoid application in direct hot sunlight - for best results, apply in early morning or late afternoon. Expect some reduction in efficacy in sunny climates
- Treating Pine needles during bud flush is not recommended. Treat before or after bud flush.



Granular

1 lb shaker can \$13/can

3 lb shaker bag \$26/bag



1 lb Powder Box \$22/Box

2 lb Powder Box \$40/Box



Key Benefits

- Create a "green house" climate for newly planted trees
- Increase growth rates
- Protection from rabbit browse
- Protection from mower blight
- Holds moisture for use by the tree in heat of the summer
- Protection from the wind for quicker establishment
- Provides some protection from chemical herbicide drift while trees are young and more vulnerable
- Encourages tree to grow straight.

TREE TUBES

5 foot tree tubes \$4.00/each



NOXIOUS WEEDS

North Dakota Law (NDCC § 4.1-47-02) requires every person to do all things necessary and proper to control the spread of noxious weeds. The ND Noxious Weed Team coordinates the efforts of county and state and federal land managers to implement integrated weed management programs. Currently, there are weed boards in all of North Dakota's 53 counties.

North Dakota's noxious weed list includes:

Absinth wormwood
Musk thistle
Yellow toadflax

Canada thistle
Purple loosestrife
Dalmatian toadflax

Diffuse knapweed
Russian knapweed
Saltcedar

Leafy spurge
Spotted knapweed

Stark County Additional noxious weeds:

Black Henbane
Hoary Cress

County and city weed boards may develop and compile their own list of noxious weeds, provided the list includes all weeds determined to be noxious by the North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner.

The ND Noxious Weed Team distributes funding through two programs, TAG and LAP. These funds are available to weed boards and landowners for controlling weeds on the state and county weed lists.

The Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) provides weed boards with cost-share assistance for noxious weed control. County Weed boards must levy at least 3 mills for noxious weed control, or budget an amount equal to the revenue that could be raised by a levy of three mills to be eligible to receive LAP funds. Historically a majority of weed boards have provided landowners with herbicide cost-share assistance with these funds

The Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG) Program targets noxious weed control needs and provides a cost-share opportunity to county weed boards to meet those needs. TAG proposals describe a noxious weed problem within the county weed board's jurisdiction and proposes a management strategy.

WEB SITE : <http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/invasiveweeds/index.htm>

Attention All EQIP, WHIP and CSP Contract Holders

Another summer is nearly gone as harvest is going strong. However, if you are a current EQIP, WHIP or CSP contract holder, you need to keep in mind that you must get your practice(s) installed by the schedule noted in your contract to remain in compliance with your contract obligations. There are a lot of practices that still need to be installed prior to freeze up. Please notify the NRCS office at 225-3811 ext 3 prior to the installation of any practice. We want to make sure the practice(s) will be installed to meet our NRCS standards and specification and to make sure all necessary field visits and paperwork is completed prior to installation. Feel free to contact the office if you have any questions and/or changes in your operation.

FALL EQIP SIGNUP

As harvest is in full swing for many, you probably have had a lot of window time to do some thinking of what you would like to do to enhance your farm and/or ranching operation. Now may be the time to sign up for EQIP to see what the program has to offer. Assistance can be in the form of technical and financial assistance for structural practices such as livestock water developments, cross fencing, windbreaks, grass plantings, fabricated windbreaks etc. Management practice payments for proper management to achieve environmental benefits are available for no-till, nutrient and pest management, soil salinity management, and prescribed grazing. Precision Application Technology to apply nutrients is also available for payment. Cover crops are a useful tool to improve soil health and increase a cropping system's diversity. In addition, they increase organic matter and help manufacture fertilizer in the soil by scavenging for Nitrogen and "fixing" Nitrogen from the atmosphere.

Interested producers should either stop by the Dickinson Field Office or contact the office at 225-3811 ext 3 for more information.