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Dickinson, ND 58601
Phone: 701-225-3811 EXT #3
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Email: bonnie.twogood@nd.nacdnet.net

“Assisting Residents of Stark and Billings Counties”

August 2016

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

THANK YOU

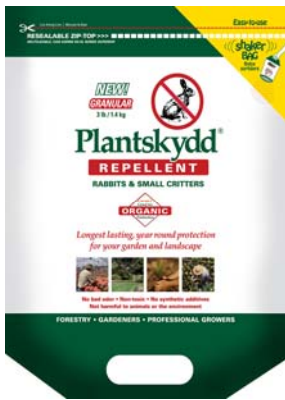
We would like to thank the people of Stark and Billings County for voting to consolidate the Districts.

The Central Stark and Western Soil Conservation Districts are legally consolidated into one soil conservation district under the new name

Stark and Billings Soil Conservation District.

Supervisors for the newly formed district will be elected in the November general election. Nominating petitions must be submitted by 4:00 pm September 6, 2016 to the county auditor for anyone interested in running.

Any questions contact the office at (701) 225-3811 Ext #3.



Plantskydd® Repellents are considered the most cost-effective, and environmentally safe, animal repellents available. Proven the #1 most tested, #1 most effective, and #1 longest lasting animal repellents you can buy. Plantskydd offers superior plant protection against: Deer, Elk, Moose, Rabbit, Voles, Squirrels, Chipmunks, Beaver and other herbivores.

Plantskydd works by emitting an odor that animals associate with predator activity. Research has proven that odor-based repellents (Plantskydd) are more effective than other repellent systems; where the animal needs to taste treated plants before being repelled. Animals avoid plants before they bite—not after!

Its long-term effectiveness is attributable to the tenacity of its 100% natural, vegetable oil binder in sticking to plants — even under severe snow/rainfall conditions: up to 6 months over winter, 3-4 months in summer.

PLANTSKYDD AVAILABLE IN OUR OFFICE:

1 lb Powder Box for \$22 or 2 lb Powder Box for \$40

3 lb Granular Shaker Bag for \$26

(For Voles, Rabbits and other small critters)

1 lb Granular Canister for \$13



Need handplants for 2017 spring planting season, please fill out enclosed green tree form and return to our office by **October 3, 2016.**

2017 TREE PLANTING

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PLANTING NEXT SPRING



**CONTACT THE OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT
CALL 701-225-3811 EXT 3 OR STOP IN ANYTIME.**

CONSERVATION CLIENT GATEWAY

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has developed Conservation Client Gateway to streamline portions of our conservation delivery. Conservation Client Gateway is a NRCS secure web application that allows clients to electronically complete tasks associated with NRCS's conservation technical and financial assistance delivery.

Some features of this technology include:

- Requesting assistance for a natural resource issue on your property.
- Documenting and reporting completed conservation practices and contract items.
- Reviewing and electronically signing key documents such as modifications and payment, applications for conservation contracts associated with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

If you would like more information on this web-based system, please contact our office.



Attention All EQIP and CSP Contract Holders

Another summer is nearly gone and harvest is in full swing. However, if you are a current EQIP 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.



2017 CONSERVATION PROGRAM CONTINUOUS SIGNUP

Technical and Financial Assistance is available for Conservation Practices such as:

- § No Till / Nutrient Management
- § Tree Renovation / Tree Planting
- § Water Well / Tank / Solar Pump
- § Cross Fencing
- § Grass Seeding
- § Cover Crops



EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

ACEP (Agricultural Conservation Easement Programs)

**APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE NRCS OFFICE.
SIGN-UP NOW FOR 2017 PROGRAMS.
EQIP APPLICATIONS DUE
OCTOBER 21, 2016.**

Ground Preparation for Tree Planting

Ground preparation is very important and should be started this fall. It is especially important if trees are to be planted in what is now grassland. Getting the old growth off and worked up this fall is essential. If needed, an application of Roundup on re-growth this fall is a good idea. Next spring, a second application of Roundup and/or another round of working up the ground may be needed. Clean small grain stubble is fine for planting. If weeds are coming in the spring, spray with Roundup. Corn and sunflower stubble should be worked to break down the stalks, especially for fabric laying. As you are spraying your ground this fall with various herbicides, keep in mind the possibility of chemical residue next spring on your tree site. One of the major causes of tree failure is air pockets in the soil which causes poor root to soil contact. The more sod clumps on the tree site, the higher the probability of tree failure. Tree seedlings planted on a well prepared site will have a higher growth and survival rate than a site with little or no preparation.

If you planted trees and installed weed barrier fabric in the past 3 - 5 years, you need to check these trees to see if the hole in the fabric where the tree was planted needs to be enlarged. This prevents girdling of the trees or shrubs. A utility knife taped to a broom handle works very well for this and keeps you off your hands and knees!

Be sure to check the planting for survival and order the necessary replacements by October 3, 2016!

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 Plantskydd prevent 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.