

Stark and Billings
**SOIL
CONSERVATION**
District

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

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Dickinson, ND 58601
Phone: 701-495-7689

Email: bonnie.twogood@nd.nacdnet.net
Website: www.starkandbillingsgcd.com

Return Service Requested

“Assisting Residents of Stark and Billings Counties”

August 2021

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

Grass Drill for Rent



10-foot John Deere BD1110 grass drill for rent. The drill rents for \$10/acre with a \$100 deposit. The minimum charge for the rental of the drill is \$100 nonrefundable.

Please call (701) 225-3811 Ext#3 for available dates.

Payment, rental agreement and map with acres to be seeded will be needed before renting.

No-Till Drill for Rent



15-foot John Deere No-Till drill 1590 for rent. The drill rents for \$15/acre with a \$250 deposit. The minimum charge for the rental of the drill is \$250 nonrefundable.

Please call (701) 225-3811 Ext#3 for available dates.

Payment, rental agreement and map with acres to be seeded will be needed before renting.

Drought and Trees: What to Expect and What to Do

The drought that began in 2020 will likely have a number of indirect effects on trees in 2021. While trees are generally able to respond to variable rainfall, drought creates a stress that exacerbates other problems. Specifically, trees that were already stressed by some other issue, like poor soils or insect infestation, are likely to decline even more following a drought. Trees that went into the drought in good shape will be stressed and may become more susceptible to disease problems or other pests.

The simplest management approach for relieving drought stress in trees is supplemental watering. There are no hard-and-fast rules for irrigation, but instead there are broader recommendations.

- Water every 10-14 days, but only if there has been no rainfall in that time.
- A long and slow soaking at the outer edge of the drip line (the area shadowed by the tree crown) is better than multiple short doses of water.
- Water until the soil is moist, not saturated.
Do not use saline water for irrigation as it may make drought conditions even worse.

Another approach to managing drought stress in trees is to reduce competition for water. Many approaches can be taken to minimize competition:

- Mulch around the trees using 3-4" of wood chips, tree bark or other organic mulch. Go as far as you are comfortable with – even as far as the drip line. Keep mulch 3-6" away from the base of the tree.
- Weed barrier fabric can be used as non-organic mulch.
- Mow grass and other weeds around trees.
- Kill grass and weeds by cultivating to a depth of 1".
- Kill grass and weeds by applying appropriate herbicides.
Extreme care must be taken with the last two methods. Cultivating too deep can damage tree roots, causing worse problems. Cultivation is normally used only in establishing shelterbelts. For herbicides, those that can kill or damage broadleaf weeds can also kill or damage broadleaf trees if applied improperly.

Overall, supplemental watering, especially when summer conditions are hot and dry, and the use of wood chip mulch, will go a long way to helping trees remain healthy and better withstand dry conditions and common pests. Many trees have survived extreme droughts in the past. With a little help, trees can survive and thrive.

Written by Joseph Zelenik, Extension Forester

2022 TREE PLANTING

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MACHINE
PLANTING TREES NEXT SPRING
CONTACT THE OFFICE

**AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO
SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT**

CALL 701-225-3811 Ext#3
OR STOP IN ANYTIME.



Machine Tree Planting

\$22.00 per 100 linear feet. This rate includes the tree stock. The ground site needs to be prepared prior to service. A 25% nonrefundable down payment is required prior to ordering.

Fabric Weed Barrier and Application

\$45 per 100 linear foot.
25% down payment is required.

HANDPLANTS/ REPLACEMENT TREES

Need handplants for 2022 spring planting season, please fill out enclosed green tree form and return to our office by

October 1, 2021.

OR

order trees on-line at
starkandbillingscd.com





WATER TANKS

With the spring we had this year we purchased three water tank trailers, trying to get producers to water their trees after being planted and in-between rains. There is no rate on them, they are free to use. If you are interested in them give the office a call and we will get you set up with one. All we ask is if you could take pictures of them in use and return them as quickly as possible.



Animal Repellent

- Powder Concentrate
- Granular
- Spray
- Control for deer, rabbits, voles, squirrels and other herbivores.
- 100% dried blood (porcine and/or bovine). No animal parts are used. Biodegrades and adds fertilizer to your soil.



- Powder can treat over 900 plants/seedlings 1 foot high. Rainfast in 24 hours.
- Application frequency:
Growing season (2-4 weeks + spray new growth), Dormant season 3-6 months. Bulbs (spray or dip bulbs before planting). Don't spray edible parts.
- Plantskydd Granular works on flowers, perennials, fruit and vegetable gardens and bulbs. Easy to apply—just sprinkle granules liberally on ground.

PLANTSKYDD

- \$40/Box 2.2 lb
- \$22/Box 1 lb
- \$26/Jug
- \$20/Quart



NEW SERVICE "SOIL TESTING"

In the fall we will be soil testing with a pickup equipped with a in cab soil probe.

We also GPS all probe sites and return to those sites in the following years if the Cooperator so wishes. The District sends the soil to be sampled for a Small Grains test which includes Nitrogen (2 depths), Phosphorus, Potassium, pH, Salts, Sulfur, Chloride, Copper, and Organic Matter or a Row Crop test which includes Nitrogen (2 depths), Phosphorus, Potassium, pH, Salts, Sulfur, Zinc, Copper, and Organic Matter. Any additional or individual test will be provided at an additional charge. The charges for soil testing will include lab costs, are subject to change at any time and are as follows:

- 100 acres or less \$71/test
- 101-200 acres \$86/test
- 201-300 acres \$101/test
- Postage \$1.50/test
- Row Crop tests \$5/test additional
- Complete Analysis \$26/test additional



Maps brought in after October 15th will be considered for the next years fall testing.

Tree Tubes

Five feet high tree shelters. Enhance growth, protection from deer browse, rabbits & rodents, mower and herbicide spray. Tube is \$4.00 each or Tube with Stake is \$6.00 each.



"NEW"

Weed Barrier Fabric
3 x 300' Roll
\$67.50/Roll



Staples
8x1x8 - 11 gauge
10 cents per staple





Programs Update

When we thought 2020 couldn't get over soon enough well, I fear many are saying the same about 2021.

Once again, we are being tested by mother nature's lack of moisture. This adds a lot of additional stress to an already stressful occupation where so much is out of our control – weather, prices, yields.

With the lack of moisture and abundance of heat and wind, many of cash crops are short, hay quantity is very limited, pastures are running short and dugout and

creeks are drying up. Times like this makes one reevaluate their operation. What could we be doing to reduce input costs to reliable water sources.

There are programs out there that provide technical and/or financial assistance. If you are in need of water developments immediately this year make sure to check into the **Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Assistance Program** available through the State Water Commission (www.swc.nd.gov). They will continue to approve applications until they run out of money.

Otherwise, NRCS offers the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**. We accept applications throughout the year; however, the batching period for applying for 2022 funding ends **September 24, 2021**.

Assistance can be in for structural practices such as livestock water developments, cross fencing, windbreaks and grass planting as well as management practices for no-till, nutrient management – including precision application, and prescribed grazing. As soil health is constantly being talked about, cover crops are a useful tool to improve soil health and increase a cropping systems diversity. They increase organic matter and help manufacture fertilizer in the soil by scavenging for Nitrogen and “fixing” Nitrogen from the atmosphere.

If you are interested in either of the two programs feel free to call our office at 701-225-3811 ext 3 for more information.



WELCOME MARIAH

Hello, I'm Mariah Linder, Student Trainee Soil Conservationist. I was born and raised in northeastern Montana and graduated from the small town of Scobey, though I claim Flaxville as home. My father is a farmer, and my mother is a recently retired nurse. We primarily raised wheat but had a small herd of cattle when I was younger. My older brother is home working the farm now, after working as a welder on the oil rigs for a few years. My older sister and her family live in Missoula, Montana where she works for the University. I am currently a senior at Dickinson State University where I am majoring in Agricultural Science with an emphasis in Natural Resources and a minor in Soils. I'm very excited for

the opportunity to work for the ND NRCS. I look forward to learning more about the area and the programs offered by the agency, gaining new skills in conservation, and working with professionals and producers.



WELCOME BETHANY

Hello everybody! I'm Bethany Balstad, and I'm the new Soil Conservationist in the Dickinson office. I relocated here from my hometown of New Milford, Connecticut in January and started in the office in February. I am not completely new to North Dakota though, as I lived in Riverdale last summer working for the Army Corps. I graduated in 2019 from the University of New Hampshire where I majored in Environmental Science and minored in Wildlife and Conservation Biology but did my capstone project in soils science. I hope that I can learn a lot from all of you and be a great asset to the team here in the Badlands. I love to run and hike so if anyone has any favorite hikes or knows any good races in the area, I'd love to chat about them!

Looking forward to working with and getting to know all of you!