

# *Stark and Billings* **SOIL CONSERVATION** *District*

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

Email: [bonnie.twogood@nd.nacdnet.net](mailto:bonnie.twogood@nd.nacdnet.net)

Website: [www.starkandbillingsgcd.com](http://www.starkandbillingsgcd.com)

“Assisting Residents of Stark and Billings Counties”

**August 2023**

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

## **Welcome NRCS Employee Chris Hart**



My name is Chris Hart, and I am the new Natural Resource Specialist for the Dickinson Field Office. I have just moved to North Dakota from Colorado. I have a bachelor's in Environmental Science from Cal State University Monterey Bay and a Master's in Natural Resources from Oregon State University. I have spent most

of my career with the Bureau of Land Management in California, working on their sheep and goat grazing program and coordinating university volunteers on restoration projects at Fort Ord National Monument. In Colorado, I worked with the BLM assessing grazing allotment health, and worked for a land trust to help private land owners with their conservation easements. Outside of work, I enjoy hiking and camping, and I try to spend as much time outdoors as possible. I am excited to be in North Dakota and return to federal service and serve the landowners that the NRCS works with.

## **Welcome SCD Employee Nathan Bollschweiler**



My name is Nathan Bollschweiler, and although I don't have roots in farming, I have developed a deep love for North Dakota during my 13 years of living here. Originally from Nampa, Idaho, I made the decision to call North Dakota my home state after arriving in 2010, captivated by its

beauty. In 2018, my wife and I started our family, and we now have two beautiful children. Residing in New England, ND, I bring a diverse background in concrete work, construction, employee management, and customer service. Recently, I joined Stark and Billings Soil Conservation, where I have been honored to serve the farmers and ranchers of Stark and Billings counties for the past four months. I am thrilled to be part of this important work and committed to making a positive impact in preserving our soil.

## “WE MOVED”

The new location of the SCD  
Tree Building/Shop is at

**734 8th Ave SE, Dickinson**

Our monthly board meetings,  
equipment rentals, spring tree pick-up  
will all be at this new location.

The SCD Employees are still at their  
offices with NRCS at the USDA Service  
Center at 2493 4th Ave West.



## Tree Planting for 2024

*Spring in Review by Ty Nordby:*

What an interesting spring we had! Coming off a record breaking winter, that never seemed to end, to a busy rush to get our tree orders picked up and sites ready to go. Tree planting started on May 8th with a Raab Game and Fish planting that ended up being over 85,000 feet. What a start that was! We were able to keep the ball rolling and with a few rain days ended up finishing machine planting trees by the 26th of May, to make it 315,444 feet of trees planted for 2023. Weed barrier followed right after, running two crews, we finished up 452,352 feet in 14 days which included Adams and Dunn County. Of course it cooled down right after weed barrier and has been an awesome summer so far for trees. In between all of that our two drill we constantly coming in and out with 14 producer seeding 508 acres. We are always fortunate to bring back great tree planting and weed barrier crews that help make tree season possible. The Stark and Billings Soil Conservation would like to thank our producers for their support on not only appropriately prepping their sites, but also attending our tree pick up and sell out days. We are excited to see everyone again next year and hope everyone has a safe haying and harvest season.

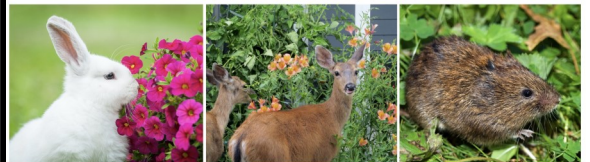


## SCOUTS PLANTING TREES

The SCD donated trees to the local girl and boy scouts. The scouts planted 200 trees (cottonwood, poplar, juniper, cedar, ponderosa and scotch pine) around the bible camp in Medora.



## How to Repel Hungry Animals with Plantskydd® Repellents



They're cute, furry and fun to watch – that is until they begin dining on your landscape. You ruled out fencing, tried scare tactics and maybe even some repellents without success. Using the right product and proper application can help you grow beautiful and productive trees & garden.





# DRILL RENTALS



**10-foot John Deere BD1110 grass drill for rent. The drill rents for \$10/acre with a \$100 deposit.**

**15-foot John Deere No-Till drill 1590 for rent. The drill rents for \$15/acre with a \$500 deposit.**

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

## Handplants/Replacement Trees

Need handplants for 2024 spring planting season, please fill out enclosed green tree form and return to our office by

**October 2, 2023**

**OR**

order trees on-line at [starkandbillingscd.com](http://starkandbillingscd.com)

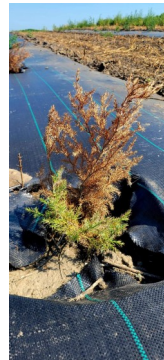
### Tree Tubes

Five feet high tree shelters will enhance growth, protection from deer browse, rabbits and rodents, mower, and herbicide spray. Tube is \$5.00 each and Tube w/ stake is \$7.00 each.



### Juniper and Cedar Trees

We often get questions about Rocky Mountain Juniper and Eastern Red Cedar during the middle of summer.



The left one is healthy, the middle is hanging on but is still alive. The right one is dead. Juniper or Cedar struggle with a transplant shock, dry soil conditions and heat.

### Soil Testing

Interested in soil testing? We will be doing Fall soil testing with a pickup equipped with an in-cab soil probe. Call 225-3811 Ext#3 if interested.



# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

**What is EQIP?** The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers technical and financial assistance for working lands, including field crops, specialty crops, organic, confined livestock and grazing, and non-industrial private forest land. Rather than take land out of production, EQIP helps farmers maintain or improve production while conserving natural resources on working landscapes.

**What are the Benefits?** EQIP may provide many benefits, including improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increasing weather extremes.

## **EQIP Signup Deadline September 22, 2023**

NRCS offers the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**. We accept applications throughout the year; however, the batching period for applying for 2024 funding ends **September 22, 2023**. If you are interested, feel free to call our office at 701-225-3811 Ext 3 for more information.



## **Two Chiefs Juniper Removal Project**

The Two Chiefs project between the US Forest Service and NRCS project for Juniper removal was reauthorized for funding earlier this year. As a result, NRCS will be moving forward to develop additional Juniper Removal contracts. The Two Chiefs project assists producers who are having issues with Juniper encroachment on their rangelands. Although Rocky Mountain Juniper is a native tree in the ND badlands the historical lack of fire has allowed Juniper to encroach upon native grasslands. The project provides financial assistance to remove the juniper trees via mechanical means. The National Wildlife Foundation is also offering to assist producers with financial assistance above and beyond what NRCS can pay through the Two Chiefs project. If you are interested in this project and would like to discuss Juniper removal further please contact the office at 701-225-3811.



**Rocky Mountain Juniper**

## **Vision West ND Natural Resources Public Meetings**

Exploring Vital Natural Resource Management: Join Our Information Sessions

Dates & Locations: October 26, 2023 in Stanley ND and November 8, 2023 in Dickinson ND

**TOPICS:** 01 Soil Health Properties: Cultivating a Sustainable Future  
02 Planning and Zoning: Balancing Progress and Preservation  
03 Soil Reclamation & Weed Control: Reclaiming Lands with Precision  
04 Standardized Language: Bridging Communities and Regulations

*Hope you join us for these educational sessions. Watch and listen for more advertising on websites, facebook, radio and newspapers.*

# Caring For a New Tree Planting

North Dakota Forest Service

## Weed Control

Controlling weeds in your tree planting is essential. Seedlings are very susceptible to competition from weeds which slow tree growth and kill young trees.

- **Mechanical weed control** means using a tiller, cultivator, or disk to disturb the soil and destroy competing weeds. During mechanical weed control, care should be taken to go no deeper than three inches. Cultivation deeper than three inches can damage the roots of the tree. Mechanical weed control should be performed several times a year (depending on weed growth.) Weed control should continue for at least three years after planting, or until the trees are well established.
- **Chemical weed control** means using herbicides to reduce competing vegetation. Chemicals can be incorporated into the soil or applied directly to the leaves of the weeds. Herbicides must be labeled for use on the tree species in your planting. Always read and follow all label directions.
- **Cover crops** of slow growing grass or a thinly seeded annual crop reduces competition from aggressive weeds. Cover crops can be seeded before or after the trees are planted.
- **Weed barrier fabric** is a synthetic material that is laid over the tree planting and the seedlings are pulled through a hole in the barrier. In addition to weed control, weed barrier fabric conserves soil moisture. The material should be checked annually to make sure the edges are secure and the fabric is not rubbing against the tree. **As the tree grows, the hole in the fabric will need to be enlarged or it will girdle and kill the tree.**

## Irrigation

- Watering immediately after planting is one of the most beneficial things you can do for your newly planted trees. Watering saturates and moves small soil particles creating good root to soil contact. This contact with the soil is essential if the tree roots are to take moisture and nutrients to survive.
- If possible, water trees once every ten days during periods of dry weather the first one to three years after planting.

## Fertilizer

- Fertilizer and other soil amendments are not recommended for newly planted trees, as most soils have adequate nutrients for tree growth. Fertilizer will stimulate top growth at a time when the tree needs to grow roots and adapt to its new location. Fertilizers will also increase the tree's need for moisture.

## Replants

- Just hold on! Young trees can take a long time to leaf out their first year, often much later than mature trees of the same species. Some species (Rocky Mountain juniper, for example) can turn entirely brown within the first month after planting. Don't rush to replace young trees right away—they may be putting their energy into establishing a solid root structure. However, individual tree seedlings can die for any number of reasons and losing several adjacent trees can reduce the effectiveness of your tree planting. Wait until late summer or early fall to determine your true replant needs, and plant the replacements in the spring.



# Caring For a New Tree Planting, cont.

## Actions to Avoid Around New Tree Plantings

- **Herbicide Drift:** Seedlings are particularly sensitive to herbicides and their small size can put them directly in the path of accidental spray damage. When applying herbicides around tree plantings, care should be taken to avoid herbicide drift and the use of granular herbicide products can be a good option.
- **Mechanical Damage:** Protect your tree planting from accidental damage from farm equipment. It is not unheard of for small trees to be accidentally tilled under or mowed off by unknowing equipment operators. Use stakes, flags or posts to identify the perimeter of your tree planting.

## Keep in mind...

- North Dakota's climate and physiography are at the edge of what many tree species will tolerate. Hang in there! Your efforts to establish a new tree planting show that you have a long-term commitment to conservation.
- No amount of TLC can completely make up for unsuitable planting sites or inappropriate species selections.

**Bottom Line—** New tree plantings require extra care to get them off to a good start—but the results are worth it!

## Tree Planting Site Preparation

- ❑ Sod-covered Sites: Till to kill the sod and keep maintained for ONE growing season prior to planting
- ❑ Cropland sites: Till immediately prior to removing sprouted annual weeds and grasses as needed
- ❑ No weeds present= no need to till!

### GOOD Site Prep



- ❑ To minimize compaction, avoid tilling soils that are wet

- ❑ Be alert to potential wind and water erosion during the fallow period
- ❑ Consider seeding an annual cover crop (like oats or spring grains)
- ❑ Avoid deep tillage (greater than 2in deep) immediately prior to planting to prevent drying the seed bed

### BAD Site Prep

