



Yankton County Conservation District News

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Plant Spotlight

Douglas Fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii* var *glauca*

Description:

- ◆ Bark is yellowish-green initially, eventually becoming gray to brown
- ◆ One young stems, smooth. On mature divided into thick, reddish-brown ridges, deeply divided and thick
- ◆ Purplish-green cones ripening into brown. 204" oblong have 23 lobed bracts that extend beyond cone scale

The Facts:

- ◆ Prefers adequate moisture, but quite drought tolerant
- ◆ Slow to moderate growth of 1"/year
- ◆ Prefers slightly acidic soils but some specimens have done well on slightly alkaline sites that are heavy clay
- ◆ The Douglas Fir is native to the Rocky Mountains, Bighorns, and West to the Pacific
- ◆ The Rocky Mountain Douglas Fir is adapted to our region

Uses:

- ◆ Varieties of wildlife feed on the twigs & foliage
- ◆ Woods often used in carpentry and construction
- ◆ Popular Christmas tree due to its soft needles & needle retention
- ◆ Hardy seed sources good for windbreaks

Cons:

- ◆ Does not withstand ponding

Pros:

- ◆ Retains needles better than spruces and true firs
- ◆ Fairly disease resistant and no major pests

Find more information about the Douglas Fir and other trees well suited to our area, look on page 3.



(Information taken from Shrubs for the Northern Great Plains Landscape by NDSU Extension Service and Trees! An Illustrated Field Guide by John Ball)

Products & Services:

Tree Planting

Priced per FOOT for shrubs, \$0.50
Priced per FOOT for trees, \$0.45
(Minimum of \$400.00)

Grass Drilling

Priced per acre (10 acre minimum)

Pheasants Forever Drill Rental

Priced per day

Products:

Live Traps (prices may go up)

\$70.42w/tax - 12" x 36" long = \$75

\$79.82 w/tax - 16" x 36" long = \$85

Fabric Staples:

10¢ + tax each

Fabric

\$0.75 + tax - 3' x 3' sheets

Tree Tubes

\$3.50 + tax - 36" tall



\$4.00 + tax - 48" tall

\$4.50 + tax - 60"

\$5.00 + tax - 72" tall

Newsletter Via Email Option

We are now offering the option to receive the quarterly newsletters via email. Please email your first and last name to:

yantoncd@sdconservation.net

and include whether you wish to receive newsletters via email AND mail, or only through email.

Tree Planting Information and Requirements

Would have had to prepare the area in the spring and summer of this year and continue into fall of this year...

◇For planting in spring 2023 if planting into what was pasture, soybeans, or alfalfa

◇For planting in spring 2024 if planting into what was corn or an old shelterbelt

Contact us with any questions that you may have about YCCD doing a machine planting.

Cost-share available for some participants of FSA Farm Program or with NRCS

Seeking Grass Drill Operator

We have 2 Truax FLX II Grass Drills that require a skilled operator. Grass drillings typically take place in the spring and fall depending on what is being planted.

This is a seasonal position, with the potential for machinery and property maintenance work largely in the spring and into the fall. Flexible hours. Hourly pay dependent on experience. Must be over 16 years of age and have experience operating a tractor, preferably also experience operating a grass drill and/or planter.



Rangeland Improvement Project Approved for Yankton County by Dan Mehlhaf

South Dakota NRCS has awarded nearly \$250,000 for a grant to improve rangeland in Yankton County. The NRCS staff in the Yankton will be accepting applications for making improvements to degraded rangeland. This project will assist landowners to implement better grazing management by completing rotational/prescribed grazing and controlling and managing unwanted, invasive species. Once completed, the project will have benefited more than 4500 acres, improving the rangeland condition, providing more AUMs for grazing and additional habitat for wildlife for a sustainable future.

Practices eligible for cost share includes prescribed grazing, cross-fencing, livestock pipeline, watering facility, heavy use area protection, brush management (cedar control), prescribed burning, and wells. Applications will be ranked on the resource concerned identified and on proximity to major streams in the county.

For more information on this program or to apply, contact Dan Mehlhaf at the USDA-NRCS office in Yankton at: 605-665-2662 ext. 2.



Dr. John Ball—Diversity in the Landscape: Some Other Trees We May Want to Consider Planting

(more articles can be found at extension.sdstate.edu/tree-pest-alert)

Discontinue planting ash due to the eventual loss (within the next 15-20 years)

Autumn Splendor Buckeyes (*Aesculus x 'Autumn Splendor'*)

Height: 25-30 feet. Spread: 25-30 feet. Shape: Oval
Fall Foliage Color: A dull orange but can still be attractive.
Hardy: Zone 4, adaptable to most of the region.
Reasonable fast growth for buckeyes.
Lime green flowers in late spring, limited fruit (buckeye) production.

Northern Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*)

Height: 50-60 feet Spread: 25-30 feet.
Shape: Rounded to upright
Known for its large white flower in June and slender pods that hang from tree during winter.
Hardy: Zone 4, most of region South of Hwy 212 if careful attention to site.

Shagbark Hickory (*Carya Ovata*)

Height: 30-40 feet Spread: 20-30 feet
Shaped: Rounded to upright
Fall foliage color is a light yellow. The tree begins to produce hickory nuts around age 30.
Hardy: Zone 4, most of region South of Hwy 212 if careful attention to site.

Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triancanthos var inermis*)

Height: 30-60 feet Spread: 30-50 feet
Shape: Rounded to upright
Fall foliage color: brown, though occasionally it can be clear yellow.
Hardy: Zone 4, most of region if careful attention to site.
Best cultivar to plant is "Northern Acclaim," an introduction from North Dakota.

Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus doica*)

Height: 40-60 feet Spread: 40-60 feet
Shape: Rounded
Flowers are small but interesting.
Fall foliage color: yellow but not outstanding.
Hardy: Zone 4, adapted to most of the state. Best on moist, well-drained soils and will tolerate PH of at least 7.5. Slow start, but catches up. "True North" is a male cultivar from MN that is becoming popular.

Heritage Oak (*Quercus x macdanielli 'Clemons'*)

Height: 40 feet. Spread: 30 feet.
Shape: Open, rounded top form.
Fall Foliage color is lacking but the summer leaves are a glossy dark green,
Hardy: Zone 3, and adapted to the region.
There is a related cultivar Crimson Spire™ that has a columnar shape.

Accolade Elm (*Ulmus 'Morton'*)

Height: 50 feet Spread: 45 feet.
Shape: Arching
Fall foliage color: Yellow
Hardy: Zone 4, but trial for the Northern half of the region. This is a highly Dutch Elm disease resistant tree. Extremely fast growth rate, but not particularly drought resistant.

Reduce reliance on Colorado (Blue) spruce due to susceptibility to diseases. Consider planting Black Hills Spruce or...

Meyer's Spruce (*Picea meyeri*)

Height: 40 feet Spread: 20 feet
Shaped: Pyramidal
Foliage: Blueish-green
Hardy: Zone 3, but adapted to most of the state.
Currently relatively rare in the US but becoming increasingly popular as a replacement for the more disease prone Colorado Spruce.

Discontinue planting Austrian or Scotch Pine due to increasing losses to Pine Wilt disease. Instead, consider planting...

Siberian Larch (*Larix sibirica*)

Height: 40 feet Spread: 20 feet
Shape: Pyramidal
Foliage: Soft blueish-green and a bright yellow fall color before the needles drop.
Hardy: Zone 2! Tolerates -150°F & drought tolerant.

Rocky Mountain Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii var glauca*)

Height: 40-50 feet Spread: 20 feet
Shape: Pyramidal
Foliage : Bright green soft needles.
Hardy: Zone 4
Attractive form, adaptable to South Dakota and few pests! More disease resistant than spruce and pine.



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