



# Yankton County Conservation District Newsletter

## Seeking Grass Drill Operator

We have a Truax FLX II Grass Drill grass drill that requires a skilled operator. Grass drillings typically take place in the spring and fall depending on what is being planted. This is a seasonal, on call position. Flexible availability is appreciated. Hourly pay dependent on experience. This would be a great position for a retired farmer who'd like to occasionally make some extra money.



### District Board

- Bob Diede-----Chairman
- Dennis Klimisch-----Board Member
- Judy Merchen-----Board Member
- Allen Sinclair-----Board Member
- Gary Sylliaasen-----Board Member

### District Employee

- Sarah Ruml -----District Manager

### NRCS Staff

- Dan Mehlhaf -----District Conservationist
- Megan Brown-----Soil Conservationist
- Kenton Asao-----Wetland Specialist

## Hand Plants Ordered in 2021

Since March we have completed 2 tree plantings and 2 grass drillings. The smaller Pheasants Forever drill has been rented out several times as well. We ordered in 2365 plants, including those used in tree plantings.

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## 2021 District Winter/ Spring Prices & Services

### Hand Plants (available to order November-February only)

#### **Bareroot Conifers**

\$2.00 + tax/ bundle of 25

#### **Styro**

\$2.25 + tax/ #10 plug

\$2.50 + tax/ #20 plug

#### **Tall**

\$4.00 + tax/ 3-4' tree

\$4.50 + tax/ 4-5' tree

\$5.00 + tax/ 5' tree

#### **Pot**

\$2.00 + tax/tree for 2.5"x3.5"

#### **Potted**

\$7.50 + tax/ #300 pot (1 gal)

\$9.00 + tax/#400 pot (1.5 gal)

#### **Fruits, Vines, & Shade Trees**

Anywhere from a \$1.00 to \$45.00 +  
tax depending on the species.

#### **Tree Planting**

\$5.00/rod row for shrubs

\$4.50/rod row for trees

(Minimum of \$300.00)

#### **Cultivation/Chemical Application**

\$300.00/acre (includes chemical)

(Minimum of \$300.00)

#### **Grass Drilling**

\$25.00/acre

(10 acre/\$250 minimum)

#### **Pheasants Forever Drill Rental**

\$20.00/day for Members

\$80.00/day for Non-Members

#### **Products:**

##### **Live Traps**

\$61.77 w/tax - 12" x 36" long

\$67.10 w/tax - 16" x 36" long

##### **Fabric Staples**

10¢ + tax each

##### **Fabric**

60¢ + tax - 3' x 3' sheets

\$60.00 + tax - 3' x 300' roll (S/O)

\$105.00 + tax - 3' x 500' roll (S/O)

##### **Tree Tubes**

\$3.50 + tax - 36" tall

\$4.50 + tax - 48" tall

##### **Marking Flags**

\$6.00 + tax - Bundle of 100

## For Students

### 2021 NACD Poster Contest

### Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities

Trees and forests are critical to providing clean air and water, healthy soil, abundant wildlife habitat, and valuable products we use every day. It is important that each of us does our part to care for trees.

The poster contest is open to all public, private and home-schooled students in grades K-12.

All poster entries should be sent

to or dropped off at the Yankton County Conservation District office by Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. The state competition takes place in September and the National Competition is

PRIZES: State awards and recognition will be given. State winners will be eligible for NACD's National Poster Contest and monetary prizes. Only state winning entries are eligible to enter the national competition, where one winner will be selected in each category (K-1; 2-3; 4-6; 7-9; 10-12). The monetary prizes will be awarded to the 1st - 3rd place winners in each category.

More information for the poster contest can be found at [www.sdconservation.org/yanktoncd](http://www.sdconservation.org/yanktoncd) or by contacting Sarah at the Yankton County Conservation Office.

## Live Traps for Sale

The district sells live traps made by the state prison. They are well built, easy to use, and come in two sizes. Look to the left for sizes and prices.



## John Ball Articles *(more articles by John Ball can be found on our website)*



### **Why are these trees losing their lower branches?**

This Colorado blue spruce and about 15 others were transplanted last fall. Now the lower branches have shed their needles. Once lost, the needles will not return to these lower branches.

Stress is usually the reason young trees lose the needle on the lower branches. A significant stress is planting. The tree is left with fewer roots, so some moisture stress will occur. The planting depth is sometimes set too deep, and this just adds to the stress. However, this cannot be determined from a picture.

The trees should be watered on a regular basis this spring and summer. A shredded wood chip mulch extending out a radius about half the height of the trees and about 6 inches deep will also improve the rooting environment.



### **Drought-stressed spruce**

I received a great picture from Spink County. This appears to be a drought-stressed Black Hills spruce. The typical symptoms of drought stress on spruce are reduced shoot growth, stunted needles, drooping branches, and excessive cone production. While these symptoms can appear with other diseases and disorders, drought is a common cause for them.

Spruces are not well adapted to hot, dry weather. I expect to see a lot of spruce pictures this summer with the question; "What do I spray?" The answer is simple, water (on the soil).



### **Cutting tree roots**

The picture came with a concern about new curbing and a sidewalk installation near the mature silver maple. The curbing and sidewalk are not replacing old ones but is new construction.

The new sidewalk will be placed within a foot or two from the tree's base and about 8 inches of soil will be excavated in the process. This is a little closer than we like to see for mature trees. A more acceptable distance would be to stay off the root plate, a distance about 9 to 12 feet out from the trunk. While roots can be severed closer, this may result in significant root decay. The damage will not appear right away, the decline, and possible tree failure, might take more than a decade.

## **New Rates for CRP and Sign-up Extension**

The General CRP sign-up has been extended indefinitely. CRP rental and cost-share rates are going up and will be released soon. Contact Mike Reifenrath (605.665.3504) to get an estimate of what your rates may be.

# NRCS Article

## Control of Cedar in Rangeland by Dan Mehlhaf

The best time to remove red cedar is before you ever see it. In other words, using grassland management that includes prescribed fire will effectively prevent redcedar establishment. The next best time is when you first begin to notice them. On areas that are actively grazed, they will be visible when they are still quite small. However, on CRP or other lands where vegetation is left to grow, red cedar may go unnoticed until it is a foot or more tall. As with all woody weeds, the larger they are, the more difficult (and expensive) they are to remove.

Prescribed fire is perhaps the most effective means of control when the trees are small (< 6'). It is consistent with natural ecosystem processes in grasslands, and generally less expensive than other control methods. While fire is often still effective with larger trees, as the trees increase in size more fuel is required to burn through the crowns and kill the trees, increasing the chances for unintended consequences. Prescribed fire takes planning, site preparation and resources to effectively and safely complete

Mechanical methods are available for removing all sizes of eastern red cedar. Hand tools, such as loppers, pruning saws and axes work well for small trees (1" diameter or less) in a fencerow or scattered over small areas. Large areas with small trees would best be treated with a heavy-duty mower, such as a brush hog. As the trees increase in size it becomes necessary to use equipment designed to cut trees or pull them from the soil. A chainsaw might be appropriate for small areas with limited numbers of cedar, but it is not an efficient method to treat a large number of trees and/or larger areas. In these situations, large equipment such as bulldozers or mechanical tree harvesters (often a skidsteer with a shear or cutting attachment) is required. With all mechanical methods it is critical that the cuts are made below the lowest green branch. Eastern redcedar will not sprout from the cut stump, so additional chemical treatment is not necessary.

Several herbicides are registered for control of eastern red cedar, with Tordon and Velpar most commonly used. These are generally applied as a soil treatment, although Tordon can also be applied as a foliar spray. As with the previous methods, small trees are much more easily killed than large trees.

While eastern red cedar remains an important tree for windbreak, wildlife and ornamental plantings, it is also important to keep it in its place. Be on the lookout for this potential invasive plant and try to take steps early to remove it before it becomes a larger problem.



*Young eastern red cedars in range land.*



# 2022 Tree Plantings

If you are interested in or have questions about scheduling a tree planting for 2022, please contact Sarah or mail in the completed form.

**Tree Planting Inquiry**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Tree Planting Site Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Legal Description \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the area where tree plantings are desired. Rural or urban area; near roads, power lines, or structures, etc.?  
Currently a shelter belt, cropland, cleared, etc.?

Has the area where tree plantings are desired been cleared, and tilled repeatedly the previous year so that the soil is a fine consistency and free of debris, and/or has it been cropland for more than a year? Y N

If cropland, were beans, corn, or another crop planted most recently? Any herbicides used in the last 4 years?

What is the purpose of the desired tree planting? Snow management, wildlife habitat, aesthetics, privacy, windbreak for building or livestock...?

Are you currently a participant in the Farm Program with FSA? Y N

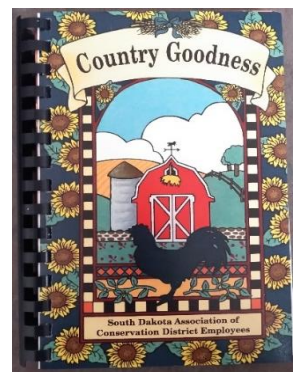
## Country Goodness Recipe

### Broccoli Delight Salad

by Shannon Lensegrav, former Elk Creek CD District Manger

- |                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 5 cups fresh broccoli, chopped       | 2 TBSN sugar          |
| ½ cup raisins                        | 3 TBSN vinegar        |
| ¼ cup red onion, chopped             | 1 cup Mayonnaise      |
| 10 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled | 1 cup sunflower seeds |

In a large bowl combine the broccoli, raisins, and onion. Set aside. In a small bowl combine the sugar, vinegar, and mayonnaise. Pour this mixture over the broccoli mixture. Toss to coat. Refrigerate. Just before serving, sprinkle with bacon and seeds. Toss and serve.



This and other recipes can be found in the 2009 "Country Goodness" recipe book, filled with delicious ideas from South Dakota Association of Conservation District Employees. The book is \$10 and a few copies are available from our office.



**Yankton County Conservation District**

**2914 Broadway Ave**

**Yankton, SD 57078**

**Phone: 605-665-6704**

**E-mail: [yanktoncd@sdconservation.net](mailto:yanktoncd@sdconservation.net)**

**On Facebook as Yankton County Conservation District**

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 YCCD office for more  
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