

TREE ORDER TIME!



Every year the Converse County Conservation District sells conservation grade seedling trees to the community for uses such as living snow fences, windbreaks and wildlife habitat. We offer a wide variety of trees and shrubs from which to choose. Enclosed you will find our “traditional” order form with offerings available from Colorado State Forest Service Nursery.

This year, in an effort to keep costs down and to better meet your planting needs, we are offering the opportunity to “customize” your order. We have several nursery sources at our disposal this year (with VERY high quality trees/shrubs) which will allow us to order the type, size and quantity of the tree or shrub you wish to include in your conservation planting. A quick visit with you, the customer, will give us an idea of what you want to spend and the size of tree/shrub you will need. We would love to work with you on an individual planting plan. Also, please let us know what your wish list is and we will do our best to accommodate you!

Remember, site preparation is critical to the survival of tree and shrub plantings. Proper site preparation is one of the best ways to improve the survival of your newly planted trees and shrubs. Preliminary ground work reduces competition of weeds, conserves soil moisture and makes planting easier. The soil in the site must be worked until no large or especially hard clods remain. This loosens the rooting zone, making it easier for the young plant’s roots to penetrate the soil. Also, loosening the surface soil enable greater water penetration and minimizes evaporation. Another important effect is that existing vegetation is removed and can no longer compete with the newly planted tree or shrub for water, nutrients and sunlight. The cleared area can be maintained through the use of weed barrier materials or the manual or chemical removal of undesirable species. Site preparation should be done during the fall of the year prior to planting and left fallow to accumulate moisture.

Converse County Conservation District also has a windbreak cost-share program to assist you in offsetting some of the costs of installing your planting. Program packets are available at our office and applications must be returned by March 9, 2012.



DEC. 1st is 2012 SIGNUP DEADLINE FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

December 1 has been selected as the batching date for 2012 NRCS Conservation Program applications. This includes the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP), and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). All applications received after December 1st will be deferred until the next batching date which could be in 2013.

Agricultural producers are encouraged to sign up early so that they can meet USDA program eligibility requirements, and so that NRCS personnel can meet with them to quantify applications. Applicants will be notified during the winter if accepted for funding for the 2012 program cycle. Contracts should be ready to sign in the spring of 2012 with practice implementation as early as late spring.

If you have questions concerning NRCS conservation programs be sure to contact the NRCS at 358-3050 ext.3.

Attention Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. This means you may be eligible if:

- You sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing during that period
- The loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
- You believe these actions were based on your being Hispanic or your being female. In 2011, a claims administrator will begin mailing claims packages to those who have requested one through the Call Center or website. The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.

COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

If you want to register your name to receive a claims package, access the Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Call Center or website:

Call Center: 1-888-508-4429

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

TREE SPOTLIGHT

Common Name: Rocky Mountain Juniper

Species: *Juniperus scopulorum*

Life Span: Perennial

Origin: Native

Season: Evergreen

Growth Form: dioecious shrub or small tree; crown rounded to pyramidal, irregular, branching near the ground; pollinates April to May, cones mature October to December of the second year following pollination, reproduces from seeds.

Vegetative Characteristics:

Leaves: opposite or in whorls of 3, scale-like; closely appressed, dark-to-yellowish-green.

Stems: twigs slender, scaly; flattened at first, then becoming round.

Cone Characteristics:

Cones: inconspicuous the first year, solitary at tips of branchlets; yellowish brown.

Mature Cones: berry-like; fleshy, resinous-juicy, bright blue to purplish, mostly two seeded.

Historic, Food and Medicinal Uses: American Indians ate fruits raw or cooked, used as flavorings for meat and gin, fruits and young shoots were boiled for tea, fruits were ground for mush and cakes, wax from berries used in candles; currently used as ornamental, in shelterbelts, for fence posts and fuel; reported to have insect repellent properties.

Livestock Losses: may cause abortion in livestock.

Forage Value: worthless to livestock, generally not consumed; important browse plant for pronghorn, mule deer and bighorn sheep; birds utilize fruit.

Habitat: ridges, bluffs, canyons, hillsides and wash areas; often on undeveloped, erodible soils; most abundant on calcareous and somewhat alkaline soils.

excerpted from *North American Range Plants*, Fifth Edition, Stubbendieck, Hatch, Butterfield



Rocky Mountain Juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*).

Partnering for Wyoming's Rangelands and Resources

The Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts and Society for Range Management Wyoming Section will be having the first ever joint convention in Lander during the week of November 14-17, 2011.

Chief Dave White, NRCS is expected to make an appearance and Chad Pregracke, President, Living Lands and Waters is the keynote speaker.

If you can't make it in person, be sure to join us online for the fundraising auction as it is broadcast live!

Visit www.conservewy.com for more information.

Growers Meeting

The Converse County Weed and Pest will be holding their annual Grower's Meeting on December 8, 2011 at McKibben Cafeteria, Wyoming State Fair.

Registration starts at 9 a.m. There will be vendors on site and applicator certification training will be offered in the afternoon.

For more information or to register contact Cheryl Schwartzkopf at 358-2775.

Postage Paid

Douglas, WY

Permit No. 13

**Converse County
Conservation District**

**911 S. Windriver Drive
Douglas, WY 82633**

Phone: 307-358-3050 x 4

Fax: 307-358-5719

michelle.huntington@wy.nacdnet.net

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Allison George, Soil Conservationist

ATTEND A CCCD BOARD MEETING

The Converse County Conservation District holds Board Meetings the third Thursday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m. We welcome your input, ideas, questions, and concerns regarding our projects and programs! Meetings are open to the public pursuant to Wyoming Statute 16-4-403.

DISTRICT CALENDAR:

November:

9,10: Learning at the Library-Douglas 10:30 am

10: CCCD Board Meeting -4:30 pm

11: Veteran's Day—Office Closed

15-17: Joint WACD/SRM Convention-Lander

21: Boys & Girls Club-Glenrock 3 pm

23: Boys & Girls Club-Douglas 2 pm

24: Thanksgiving

25: Employee Appreciation Day-Office Closed

December:

6,7: Learning at the Library-Douglas 10:30 am

13: Boys & Girls Club-Douglas 3:30 pm

15: CCCD Board Meeting-4:30 pm

20: Boys & Girls Club-Glenrock 3 pm

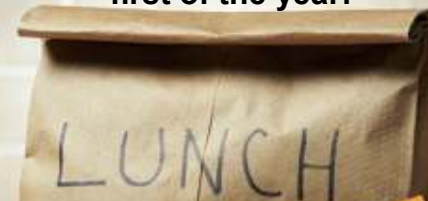
21: Learning at the Library-Douglas 10:30 am

25: Christmas

26: Christmas Holiday Observed-Office Closed

COMING IN 2012!

Converse County Conservation District will be hosting a series of noontime presentations about natural resource topics, wildlife, gardening, technology and your life, and much more after the first of the year!



Presentations will last about 30-45 minutes, allowing time for discussion during the allotted lunch hour.

If you would like to make a presentation, if you have topics of personal interest you would like us to address, or if you know someone who offers an interesting program, contact Michelle at 358-3050 ext. 109 or by email:

michelle.huntington@wy.nacdnet.net