



Lincoln Conservation District

801 E 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2

Canton, SD 57013

Phone: 605-987-2624 extension 3159

## Conservation In Our Hands

October 2017

### Planting a New Tree Site Next Spring

Proper site preparation is one of the best ways to improve the survival growth rate of newly planted trees and shrubs. Check chemical carryover characteristics and waiting period restrictions pesticides applied to the planting site within the previous two years. Atrazine, Ally, and Tordon applied to corn have a two year carryover and will harm your new seedling trees. Spring tillage of the site is necessary to allow good root to soil contact and also good fabric installation. Sites that were grass or alfalfa last year will need sufficient tillage to eliminate the sod clumps. Planting into clumpy sod makes it very difficult to prevent air pockets around the tree roots, allowing them to dry out and die.

If you plan on rototill strips for the tree rows, and you are having fabric installed, each tree row needs to be tilled nine feet wide. The extra footage will help the fabric machine correctly place the soil over top of the fabric edges. Rows not tilled up wide enough result in very poor installation of the fabric and will only be installed upon the fabric's crew discretion. You are expected to flag the first and last tree of the first row in your planting. All sites must be fully prepared, (tilled, sprayed and flagged by May 5<sup>th</sup>). The planting crew will contact you a few days prior to the planting. Please call the office to ask for more guidance if needed.

Immediately after the fabric is applied-our fabric crews drives the tractor on the edge that is created on both sides of the tree row. This helps insure that the soil is packed around the roots and also reduces the chances of the fabric lifting. After a heavy rainfall or strong wind, the fabric should be checked. Any loose areas should be immediately secured. The Conservation District office has extra staples to purchase.

### Weed Barrier Inspection

Weed barrier fabric is designed to disintegrate from sun light. As trees grow larger they shade the weed barrier fabric, thus slowing down the disintegration process.

It is important to check your windbreaks or tree plantings if you have used weed barrier fabric. If the fabric is not disintegrating, the hole that was cut for the tree needs to be large enough that the fabric is not girdling the tree trunk.

It is important to make the holes larger, so there is enough space for the tree trunk to expand in. Making the holes larger can be accomplished by using a sharp knife such as a utility knife. The fabric could be cut at four 90 degree angles, laid back on the ground so that the fabric doesn't touch the tree trunk, and then stapled or some how else to fasten the fabric, so it does not move.

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# Survival Checks

In September all machine plantings were looked at for survival. With the struggles with the weather this spring and summer overall the sites looked good. Customers were sent a copy of replacements that are needed. Please be sure and return it to the office.

## Five Steps to Better Soil Health:

**Limit soil disturbance**-Use a minimum amount of tillage. The micro and macro organisms in the soil will help increase infiltration. Using a diverse mix of cover crops can help break up hardpans.

**Keep the soil covered**-An increased amount of crop residues will help slow down erosion and increase infiltration.

**Keep a living root as long as possible**-Helps to increase organic matter levels in the soil (which help increase amount of water held in the soil). Lengthening the growing season also helps to keep microorganisms in the soil healthy and happy.

**Increase diversity**-Increasing diversity above the ground increases diversity of microorganisms below ground. These bugs help improve soil structure (better infiltration) increases nutrient cycling (less \$\$ on inputs), and increase organic matter.

**Integrate livestock**-Livestock help recycle nutrients faster than microorganisms can. This can decrease input costs for the next year!

## 57th Resource Conservation Speech Contest

Any student attending high school (public, private, or home school), grades 9-12 in South Dakota, is eligible to participate.

### The topic for 2018 is "How Does Your Watershed?"

For More information please visit our website: [lincolnconservationdistrict.com](http://lincolnconservationdistrict.com)

State Champion will receive \$1,100.00

Second Place \$750.00

Third Place \$450.00

Deadline for completing the contest is March 31, 2018.

### 2016 Accomplishments

Verify Trees ordered	Meet With County Commissioners
Canton Chamber Annual Banquet	SDACD Area Meeting
Grant Training in Mitchell	Installed Fabric Weed barrier 6.40 miles
Legislative Cracker Barrel Session	SDACDE Area Meeting
Sioux Empire Water Festival	Local Work Group Meeting
Canton Farm and Home Show	Booth at Lincoln County Achievement Days
Pattee Creek Watershed Meeting	Area Work Group Meeting
Leadership training in Pierre	SDACD Convention in Deadwood
Arbor Day observed	Annual Plan of Work
NRCS Area meeting	Attended Safety Conference in Pierre
Pattee Creek structures inspected	Junior Achievement for class presentation
Machine planted 12.5 acres of trees	Mentoring during school year



## SDACDE KARST SCHOLARSHIP

The South Dakota Association of Conservation District employees (SDACDE) set up the Karst Memorial Scholarship in 1995 in memory of a fellow employee, David Karst, who passed away in 1992.

David Karst was employed with the Edmunds County Conservation District as District Manager from October 1972 until the time of his death on September 16, 1992. He was very active in the soil and water conservation movement and dedicated to educating our youth on the benefits of conserving our natural resources. David was named 1981 Outstanding Employee of the South Dakota Association of Conservation District Employees and also Honorary Chapter Farmer by the Bowdle Vocational FFA. In 1983 he was recognized for his service to the South Dakota Association of Conservation District Employees. In 1984 he was named Outstanding Alumni Member of Vocational FFA and in 1991 he received the Honorary State FFA Degree.

The SDACDE is offering three (3) - \$500 scholarships. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage those students concerned with conserving their natural resources by furthering their education in an agricultural related field. The scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors who will be attending a 4-year college or a vocational school.

Applications are available on our website: [lincolnconservationdistrict.com](http://lincolnconservationdistrict.com). For any more information please call our office at 605-987-2624 extension 3159.

### Caring for Your Real Christmas Tree

*By Dr. John Ball, assistant professor, Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape and Parks Department, and Dr. David Graper, Extension horticulturist*

During the holiday season, thousands of South Dakotans will continue the tradition of decorating a real Christmas tree. Gifts displayed beneath a fresh, fragrant, well-lit tree are a key part of many holiday memories.

Sometimes people decide not to have a real Christmas tree and purchase an artificial tree instead. Often this is done because of a concern about fire safety. Real Christmas trees are not the fire risk that many believe.

**The key to having a safe tree is to buy a fresh tree and keep it fresh.** According to the U.S. Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory, fresh Christmas trees that are kept watered are not easily combustible. Christmas tree buyers should realize that artificial trees also can pose a fire risk.

The other concern sometimes mentioned is cutting trees for Christmas. Today, **most Christmas trees are grown on farms as a crop** rather than being harvested from forests. Sometimes, however, trees are harvested from natural forest stands. Ponderosa pine may be harvested from crowded natural stands in the Black Hills. This harvesting gives the remaining trees more space and encourages better growth.

### Picking out the Tree

Not all Christmas trees are the same. Some species retain their needles longer than other species. For a list of the characteristics of the most common Christmas trees and how to identify the trees, see Extension Extra 6013, Christmas Tree Selection.

#### Pre-cut Christmas Trees

Pre-cut trees may be shipped in to South Dakota from many areas of the Midwest and sold in Christmas tree lots across the state. The secret of having a long-lasting tree begins with buying fresh. Christmas trees begin losing moisture as soon as they are cut. If you are shopping at a retail stand, **look for trees that have been properly stored.** Cut trees maintain their freshness best if stored in a cool, shaded area. The trees also should not be stacked so tight that branches might be broken.

**Once you have picked out the pre-cut tree you like, examine it for freshness,** since some trees may have been cut months ago. Gently shake the tree. If the tree is fresh, very few exterior needles will fall off. Do not be concerned if some of the older, interior needles fall. This is normal. Also check individual needles for freshness. Break off a needle near the tip of a branch and bend it. The needle should bend slightly without breaking. If the needle snaps, the tree is dry.

Most pine trees sold in our state have been tinted. This green colorant masks the normal winter yellowing that occurs on some of the pines. The colorant also helps hold moisture in the tree, which helps maintain the freshness of the tree.

#### Choose-and-cut Christmas Trees

One of the best and most enjoyable ways to assure you a fresh, long-lasting Christmas tree is to go to one of the many choose-and-cut Christmas tree farms throughout South Dakota. **Selecting and cutting your own tree at a Christmas tree farm guarantees that you will be getting a fresh tree.** Many families have made cutting their own tree each Christmas a tradition.

If you are not going to set the tree up immediately in the house, store it in a cool, dark place, such as a garage. If the storage room is above freezing, placing the base of the tree in water will prolong its freshness. Cut the base of the tree at a slight angle about 1 inch above the old cut, and then place the base in the water.

Before you bring the tree into the house, **select the display location carefully.** Do not set the tree over or under a heat vent, nor near a fireplace. A location away from a window also is preferred. Keeping the tree in a cool location will reduce water loss and extend the freshness of the tree.

Another important consideration is to have a good tree stand. **Tree stands should hold at least a gallon of water to prevent the tree from drying out.** It is not uncommon for a fresh cut tree to take up to ¼ to ½ gallon of water a day during the first week and perhaps a total of 3 to 7 gallons over a four-week period.

When the tree is brought in, cut the base of the tree about one inch above the original cut. The original cut is usually filled with pitch and will not readily absorb water. The new cut will open the pores and quickly allow water to be carried up to the needles.

Once the tree is securely set in the stand, add water. The temperature of the water is not important. People once believed that warm water would be taken up quicker into the stem, however, studies have shown that **there is no difference in uptake between cold, cool, warm, and hot water.**

**Maintaining a supply of water to the tree's base is the most important way to keep the tree fresh.** Studies have shown that a tree left without water will dry out in 8 to 14 days, while a tree with constant supply of water can maintain fresh needles 30 days or more. However, certain tree, like spruce, may begin to drop needles after 3 weeks, even with good care.



2018 Lincoln Conservation District

Order Form

Prices are \$12.50 each and are in a #300 pot

SHRUBS

- \_\_\_\_\_ Aronia
- \_\_\_\_\_ Common Lilac
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cotoneaster
- \_\_\_\_\_ Elderberry
- \_\_\_\_\_ False Indigo
- \_\_\_\_\_ Black Currant
- \_\_\_\_\_ High Bush Cranberry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Honeysuckle
- \_\_\_\_\_ Juneberry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mongolian Cherry

- \_\_\_\_\_ Nanking Cherry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plum
- \_\_\_\_\_ Redosier Dogwood
- \_\_\_\_\_ Russian Almond
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sand Cherry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sandbar Willow
- \_\_\_\_\_ Skunkbush Sumac
- \_\_\_\_\_ Smooth Sumac
- \_\_\_\_\_ Villosa Lilac
- \_\_\_\_\_ White Lilac

STYRO PLUGS CONIFERS

- \_\_\_\_\_ Austrian Pine
- \_\_\_\_\_ Black Hills Spruce
- \_\_\_\_\_ Colorado Blue Spruce
- \_\_\_\_\_ Eastern Red Cedar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Norway Spruce
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ponderosa Pine
- \_\_\_\_\_ Scotch Pine

BAREROOT CONIFERS

- \_\_\_\_\_ Black Hills Spruce
- \_\_\_\_\_ Colorado Blue Spruce
- \_\_\_\_\_ Eastern Red Cedar
- \_\_\_\_\_ Norway Spruce
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rocky Mountain Juniper
- \_\_\_\_\_ Laurel Leaf Willow
- \_\_\_\_\_ Linden, American
- \_\_\_\_\_ Linden, Little Leaf
- \_\_\_\_\_ Red Oak
- \_\_\_\_\_ Red Rum Maple
- \_\_\_\_\_ Silver Maple
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sugar Maple
- \_\_\_\_\_ Quacking Aspen

MID-SIZED TREES

- \_\_\_\_\_ Amur Chokecherry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Amur Maple
- \_\_\_\_\_ Apricot
- \_\_\_\_\_ Common Chokecherry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Eastern Red Bud
- \_\_\_\_\_ Midwest Crabapple
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mulberry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tatarian Maple

TALL TREES

- \_\_\_\_\_ Bur Oak
- \_\_\_\_\_ Black Walnut
- \_\_\_\_\_ Black Cherry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cottonwood
- \_\_\_\_\_ Freeman Maple
- \_\_\_\_\_ Golden Willow
- \_\_\_\_\_ Green Ash
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hackberry

Native Grasses

- \_\_\_\_\_ Big Bonilla Bluestem
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tomahawk Indian Grass
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dacotah Switchgrass

Garden Perennials

- \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Ribbon Daylily
- \_\_\_\_\_ Exotic Candy Daylily
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pizza Crust Daylily
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prairie Wildflower Daylily
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pink Abundance Daylily
- \_\_\_\_\_ Raspberry Suedo Daylily
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chicago Apache Daylily
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bleeding Heart
- \_\_\_\_\_ Blue Butterfly Delphinium
- \_\_\_\_\_ Frances William Hosta
- \_\_\_\_\_ Feather Reed Grass
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pasque Flower
- \_\_\_\_\_ Arizona Sun Gaillardia

Native Perennials

- \_\_\_\_\_ Black Eyed Susan
- \_\_\_\_\_ Purple Coneflower
- \_\_\_\_\_ Yellow Coneflower
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maximilian Sunflower
- \_\_\_\_\_ American Columbine
- \_\_\_\_\_ Neon Sedum
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prairie Smoke

Fruit Trees \$40.00 each 4-5'

- \_\_\_\_\_ Cortland Apple
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fireside Apple
- \_\_\_\_\_ Honey Crisp Apple
- \_\_\_\_\_ Liberty Apple
- \_\_\_\_\_ Honey Gold Apple
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sweet Cherry Pie
- \_\_\_\_\_ Patten Pear
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parker Pear
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cotendor Peach

Grape Vine-Rhubarb \$12.50 each

- \_\_\_\_\_ King of the North Grape
- \_\_\_\_\_ Victoria Rhubarb

Strawberries 25/bundle \$25.00 bundle

- \_\_\_\_\_ Fragaria Strawberry

\$25.00

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 GALLON BLACK HILLS SPRUCE

Bareroot Stock \$ 3.72 each  
Potted Stock \$5.50 each  
Plus 6.5% sales tax

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
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CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
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RETURN TO: Lincoln Conservation District

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\*\*ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

E-mail address: lynda.johnson@sd.nacdnet.net

Website: lincolnconservationdistrict.com

To view pictures of trees: <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/trees/handbook.htm>

\*\*Orders of 100 or more trees require 100% down payment

\*\*\*Special orders require a minimum of 25 trees ordered.

\*\*\* There is a \$400.00 minimum charge on machine plantings. We require 50% down payment on all machine and fabric orders, refundable up to February 1st of the planting year. All sales are final, there is no guarantee on orders

Larger Stock

- \_\_\_\_\_ Autumn Blaze Maple 6' \$45.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sienna Glen Maple 7' \$60.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ White Oak 6-7" \$80.00



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