

# Newsletter



March 2025

Winter/Spring Newsletter

Brown County Conservation District: 524 Enterprise St S, Suite 300, Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Tree Shed: 3125 8th Ave NE, Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Office: (605) 226-3360 ext 3 Cell: (605) 290-3596  
BrownCD@sdconservation.net

## Are You Having Trees Planted This Spring?

### Tips For A Successful Planting

- ◆ Make sure the site is properly prepared! If the site is not going into crop ground, make sure it has been disked/cultivated several times. The machine will need a minimum of 8—12 inches deep of loose ground to plant the seedlings & to be rid of trash (stalks). This is important for root growth and lessening the chance of air pockets that dry out roots.
- ◆ It also needs to be worked a minimum of 8 feet wide. This is needed for planting trees and applying weed barrier fabric. Loosening the soil helps to cover the sides of the weed barrier fabric when that is applied. Covering the sides of the fabric helps to hold it tight. Please keep soil loose until weed barrier fabric can be applied.
- ◆ The beginning and ending of each row needs to be flagged prior to planting.
- ◆ It is highly recommended to use an SDSU approved preplant herbicide for weed control.

### Tips For After Planting

- ◆ Make sure all trees are stepped in and that all ridges from the equipment are packed down prior to laying fabric. This ensures good soil to tree contact and allows the fabric to lay evenly around the trees.
- ◆ Please keep all weeds controlled and away from your new trees for a minimum of 3 years. This is one of the major causes of trees failing and not growing at the expected rate. The weeds compete with the trees for moisture and nutrients.
- ◆ Water, Water, Water.....this is especially important the first two weeks after planting and especially if the trees do not get the moisture from mother nature in a timely manner. A slow steady stream of water at the base of the tree is recommended. An inch a week is recommended for the first growing season.
- ◆ Protect your new trees from wildlife, livestock, and chemical applications. Tree Tubes, fences, and cages are great examples of protection that still allow the sunlight and moisture to reach your trees.

### **Hand Plant Bare-Root Tree Planting Tips**

- \* Call 811 before you dig and keep in mind the full-grown size of the tree.
- \* Plant as soon as possible and keep roots moist.
- \* Dig a hole which is large enough to accommodate the root structure.
- \* Next place the tree in the hole and spread out the roots. Do not allow the roots to bend up or curl around the tree.
- \* Replace the soil from the hole up to the root collar of the tree. Make sure all of the roots are covered and there are no air pockets in the planting hole.
- \* Water thoroughly, continue to water about one gallon or the equivalent of one inch a week.
- \* Mulch may be added around the tree. Keep the mulch an inch away from the trunk.

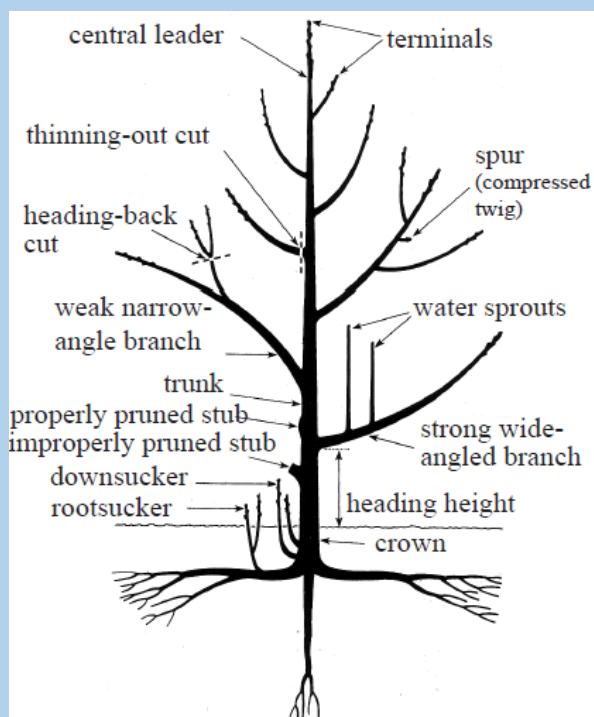


**We are looking for seasonal crew members to help with tree planting, laying fabric, and installing tree protector tubes.**  
**Please contact the office for more information.**

## Pruning Fruit Trees—SDSU Extension

February is a good time to start pruning your fruit crops. Pruning is one of the most important cultural practices in growing apples and other fruit crops. It is important to prune your fruit trees at the right time to avoid the risk of damage to the crop. The ideal time to prune most fruit trees is anytime between February and April. Avoid pruning early in the winter because this may cause severe winter injury to the trees. To avoid injury if the extended weather forecast is calling for temperatures below 0°F, stop pruning the trees for three to four days before the cold spell. Wait two to three days after the temperature is above 10°F to resume pruning.

Proper training and pruning are essential for the development of productive fruit trees. The main objective of pruning is to open up the tree canopy to maximize light penetration and allow air movement through the tree. Light penetration is important because flower buds for the current season's crop are formed the previous summer. Light is essential for flower bud formation and also affects fruit set and fruit quality. Fruits should be exposed to bright light every day during the growing season. Heavily shaded fruit is small, less-colored and not as sweet as the same fruit exposed to light. Opening up the tree canopy is important because it permits adequate air movement, which promotes rapid drying after rains to minimize disease infection and also allows thorough pesticide penetration.



Pruning helps to maintain the structure and form of the tree and also helps to maintain the size of the tree. Severe pruning upsets the tree balance and results in over-stimulating the growth of water sprouts or suckers, which cause excessive shading and affect fruit color and delay maturity. It is best to prune lightly or moderately every year. Do not remove more than 30% (or 1/3) of the wood in any given year. With proper annual pruning you can avoid excessive pruning and cuts of more than 2 inches in diameter.

When you prune, make clean cuts at the outer edge of the collar that forms where the branch joins the parent limb. This will minimize healing time for the pruning wounds. When reducing a branch length make thinning cuts and not heading cuts. Thinning cut is the removal of the entire shoot back to a side shoot. Heading cutting is the removal of only a terminal portion of the shoot. This encourages excessive growth behind the pruning cut. If you have dead or cankered branches on your trees, disinfect pruning tools between cuts to prevent chances of spreading fire bacteria from infected trees.

### PRUNING STEPS

1. Remove dead, broken, or diseased branches.
2. If the tree is taller than you want, reduce the height by cutting the leader (if you have central leader or modified leader-trained trees) back moderately to a well-developed horizontal branch.
3. Remove fast growing upright branches (water sprouts) and branches that cross and rub.
4. Prune branches that hang down or grow upright.
5. Eliminate branches that make narrow crotch angles to prevent splitting under heavy crop load.
6. Reduce the spread of the upper limbs to allow more sunlight penetration to reach the lower limbs for more fruitfulness.
7. Prune moderately annually and do not remove a branch unless there is a good reason for doing so.



Proper cut outside the edge of the collar.

# 2025 Hand Plant Order Form

Prices Subject to Change



**Brown County Conservation District**

**Office:** 524 Enterprise St S, Suite 300  
Aberdeen, SD 57401

**Tree Shed:** 3125 8th Ave NE  
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**Office:** 605-226-3360 x 3

**Cell:** 605-290-3596

**Email:** BrownCD@sdconservation.net

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Tree Stock and Pricing are not Guaranteed by the District for 2025\*\*\*

Shrubs - Conservation Size (3'-6' spacing) (25 per Bundle)	# Ordered	Price per Tree	Tall Trees - Conservation Size (8'-12' Spacing) (25 per Bundle)	# Ordered	Price per Tree	Conifers (6' -18' Spacing) (Mature Height 20' - 60')	# Ordered	Tree HT	Price per Tree
Almond, Russian		\$3.00	Aspen, Quaking		\$3.00	Cedar, Eastern Red*		8-15"	\$3.25
Aronia, Black		3.00	Birch, River		3.00	Juniper, Rocky Mountain* (Silver Cedar)		8-15"	3.25
Buffaloberry		3.00	Cherry, Black		3.00	Pine, Ponderosa*		6-15"	3.25
Caragana		3.00	<del>Cottonwood, Native</del>		<del>3.00</del>	Pine, Scotch*		6-15"	3.25
Cherry, Nanking		3.00	Cottonwood, Siouxland (Cottonless)		3.00	Spruce, Black Hills*		6-12"	3.25
Chokecherry, Common		3.00	Hackberry		3.00	Spruce, Colorado Blue*		6-12"	3.25
Chokecherry, Schubert		3.00	Hawthorn, Homestead		3.00	<b>Potted Conifers</b>			
Cotoneaster, Centennial		3.00	Honeylocust, Thornless		3.00	Cedar, Eastern Red - 1 Gal		15-18"	25.00
Cranberry, American Highbush		3.00	Kentucky Coffee		3.00	Pine, Ponderosa - 1 Gal		15-18"	25.00
Cranberrybush		3.00	Linden, American		3.00	Pine, Ponderosa - 3 Gal		24-30"	35.00
Currant, Golden		3.00	Linden, Little Leaf		3.00	Spruce, Black Hills - 1 Gal		15-18"	25.00
Dogwood, Redosier		3.00	Maple, Silver		3.00	Spruce, Black Hills - 3 Gal		24-30"	35.00
Elderberry, Common		3.00	Oak, Bur		3.00	Spruce, Colorado Blue - 1 Gal		15-18"	25.00
Hazelnut, American		3.00	Oak, Swamp White		3.00	<del>Spruce, Colorado Blue - 3 Gal</del>		24-30"	<del>35.00</del>
Indigo, False		3.00	Oak, Red		3.00	Spruce, Meyer - 3 Gal		24-30"	35.00
Lilac, Common		3.00	Poplar, White		3.00				
Nannyberry		3.00	<del>Walnut, Black</del>		<del>3.00</del>	<b>TALL BAREROOT</b>	# Ordered	Tree HT	Price per Tree
Plum, American		3.00	Willow, Golden		3.00	Aspen, Quaking TALL		2-3'	\$5.00
Sumac, Smooth		3.00	Willow, Laurel Leaf		3.00	Birch, Paper TALL		2-3'	5.00
Willow, Flame		3.00	<b>Specialty Fruit/Yard Trees</b>	# Ordered	Price per Tree	Cottonwood, Native TALL		3-4'	5.00
Willow, Sandbar		3.00	Apple, Connell Red		\$50.00	Cottonwood, Siouxland TALL		3-5'	5.00
<b>Small to Midsize - Conservation Size (6'-12' spacing)(25 per bundle)</b>	# Ordered	Price per Tree	Apple, Haralred		50.00	Dogwood, Redosier TALL		3-4'	5.00
Apricot		\$3.00	Apple, Honeycrisp		50.00	<del>Lilac, Common TALL</del>		2-3'	<del>5.00</del>
Buckeye, Ohio		3.00	Apple, Sweet Sixteen		50.00	Linden, American TALL		3-4'	5.00
Chokecherry, Amur		3.00	Sweet Cherry Pie		50.00	Maple, Amur TALL		18"-24"	4.00
Crabapple, Red Splendor		3.00	<del>Peach, Contender</del>		<del>50.00</del>	Maple, Silver TALL		3-4'	5.00
Crabapple, Midwest		3.00	<del>Pear, Luscious</del>		<del>50.00</del>	<del>Oak, Bur TALL</del>		2-3'	<del>5.00</del>
Honeysuckle, Freedom		3.00	Pear, Parker		50.00	<b>Fabric Staples</b>			
Maple, Amur		3.00	<del>Pear, Summercrisp</del>		<del>50.00</del>	10x2 8 ga			\$0.27 ea
Olive, Russian		3.00	<del>Plum, Black Ice</del>		<del>50.00</del>	8x2 8 ga	Box of 500: \$100		\$0.22 ea
Pear, McDermand		3.00	Plum, Superior		50.00	<b>Weed Barrier Fabric</b>			Per Roll
Plum, Prairie Red		3.00	Plum, Waneta		50.00	3'x300'	\$0.32/foot		\$80.00
			Birch, Parkland Pillar 5'		50.00	4'x300'	\$0.42/foot		\$110.00
			Cherry, Canada Red Select 5'		50.00	6'x500'	\$0.43/foot		\$200.00
<b>*Office Use Only*</b>			Elm, Prairie Expedition Wh 6'		50.00	<b>Tree Rings</b>			Per Ring
<b>Pick - Up Date:</b>			Elm, St Croix Wh 4'		50.00	36" Rubber Tree Ring			\$25.00
<b>Sub Total:</b> _____			Hydrangea, Berry White Tree		50.00	<b>Tree Protector Tubes</b>			Per Tube
<b>Tax (6.2%):</b> _____			Lilac, Ivory Silk Japanese 5'		50.00	58" Tube			\$4.34
			Linden, Greenspire 5'		50.00	58" Tube System (Tube, Stake, Tie)			\$8.50
			Linden, Harvest Gold 5'		50.00				
<b>Total:</b> _____			<del>Maple, Celebration 5'</del>		<del>50.00</del>				
			Maple, Fall Fiesta 5'		50.00				
			Maple, Hot Wings 5'		50.00				
<b>Cash:</b>			Maple, Sienna Glen 5'		50.00				
<b>Check Number:</b>			Oak, Northern Pin 5'		50.00				

Bundles of 25 of the same species of conservation size **Deciduous** Shrubs & Trees are available for \$70.00.

Bundles of 25 of the same species of **Conifers**\* are available for \$75.00.

**All Orders Over \$250 Need to Have a Deposit of 50%**



# Conservation District Services

- **Full Service Machine Planting of Shelterbelts/Windbreaks**
  - \$0.60 per linear foot
  - \$600.00 minimum
- **Machine Laid Fabric for Weed Control**
  - \$0.95 per linear foot
  - \$600.00 minimum
- **Tree Protector Tube System**
  - \$8.50 per system (tube, stake, ties)
  - \$10.50 per system installed
- **Full Service Seeding**
  - \$30.00/ac for CRP
  - \$27.00/ac for Custom
  - \$38.00/ac for WRP
  - \$200.00 minimum
  - \$100.00 delivery
  - \$50.00 Site charge if sites are more than 10 miles apart
  - Ask about our out of county seeding.
- **15 Foot JD Rental Drill**
  - \$15.00/ac
  - \$150.00 minimum
  - \$100.00 delivery
- **Full Service Mowing/Clipping**
  - \$175.00/hour for the first 10 hours
  - \$125.00/each additional hour
  - \$175.00 minimum
  - \$100.00 delivery
- **Seed Sales**



## Timely Topics

John Ball, Professor, SDSU Extension Forestry Specialist & South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Forest Health Specialist

### Winter watering



Winter watering is a common topic in South Dakota. We often have winters – such as this winter – with an occasion stretch of warm days. Consider how dry the state is right now, should people water their trees during these warm days? Maybe a little drink during the January thaw we experience later in the month? Generally, no. If the soil is frozen, any water poured around the tree will stay there and freeze. Unless you want a mini-ice rink around the trees, do not water. The exception is if the soil has thawed, and the days are warm then a little watering may be helpful. This means the temperatures are forecast to be at least in the high 40s and the soil is not frozen. Water with a slow soak beginning in late morning. You want to finish watering by mid-afternoon so the water will soak into the ground before the temperatures drop below freezing at night.

### Witches' Broom

It is much easier to see abnormalities on deciduous trees during the winter. Black knot is more noticeable and so is witches-broom. These brooms are dense clusters of stunted shoots that appear along – but never at the end – branches. The brooms may continue to expand over the years or decline. Regardless, the brooming does not kill the tree or even branches. They just look ugly. The cause of the broom is not well understood. It was once thought that an eriophyid mite (*Aceria celtis*) and a powdery mildew fungus (*Podosphaera phytophila*) were responsible for the brooms. While they are found on trees with brooms, the connection between their presence and the formation of brooms has not been proven.





## Soil Health in the Spring Garden

Chris Goldade, South Dakota Soil Health Coalition

Spring is just around the corner and it's time to start thinking about your vegetable garden. Instead of deep tilling in the spring, which can reduce soil health and possibly increase weed pressure, consider some no-till options. Many people start the season by tilling the entire garden area to prepare for planting. Although this may have worked in the past, there are alternatives to deep tillage that will result in a healthier garden and less work for you in the long run.

Tillage can increase weed problems by exposing dormant seeds, and it disrupts the life in the soil. One option instead of tillage would be the use of black plastic or weed barrier to smother any existing live weeds. Covering the soil with an opaque material for 2-3 weeks terminates the weeds without the use of tillage. Most weeds will be eliminated but some perennial weeds may survive which will need to be pulled by hand. After the cover is removed, the garden can be planted without deep tillage. Finish mulching pathways with grass clippings, leaves or wood chips, potentially adding a layer of cardboard underneath for extra weed suppression. After your seeds have germinated or transplants have been planted, mulch can be added to the beds as well.

Another option is the use of inorganic mulches like woven weed barrier. This can be purchased from the local conservation district and secured with ground staples. Holes can be cut or burned in the barrier for planting. Ground cover weed barrier is very effective at controlling weeds but can lead to compaction and loss of organic matter in the soil if left in place for multiple years. It is best to remove the weed barrier at the end of the growing season and add a layer of mulch or compost to the soil prior to winter.

These no-till methods follow two of the five principles of soil health: keeping the soil covered and minimizing disturbance. This approach leads to increased organic matter, reducing the need for fertilizers, and improves water infiltration and retention, meaning less watering.

As the small scale and urban ag soil health technician for the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition, I'm here to help with your soil health and gardening questions. You can contact me at [chris.soilhealth@sdconservation.net](mailto:chris.soilhealth@sdconservation.net).



## Youth Opportunities

◆ **Arbor Day Creative Writing Contest:** The contest is open to all 5th & 6th grade students from South Dakota. The theme this year is, "The Importance of Arbor Day and Trees." The local deadline is March 21st, 2025. Information can be found at: <https://danr.sd.gov/Conservation/Forestry/Education/ArborDayEssay/default.aspx>

◆ **Arbor Day Poster Contest:** All 5th grade students in South Dakota are eligible to enter. The theme this year is "Trees in Space". Deadline is March 28th, 2025. Information can be found at: <https://danr.sd.gov/Conservation/Forestry/Education/ArborDayPoster/default.aspx>

◆ **SDACDE Scholarship:** Open to South Dakota High School Seniors. Must be planning a career in agriculture or conservation. Deadline is March 31st, 2025. The application and information can be found at: <https://www.sdconservation.org/sdacde-scholarship>

Contact the BCCD office for more information!



Brown County Conservation District  
524 Enterprise Street South, Suite 300  
Aberdeen, SD 57401

To receive this newsletter as an email, please email [browncd@sdconservation.net](mailto:browncd@sdconservation.net)

#### District Board of Supervisors

Terri Traxinger, Chairman  
Scott Sperry, Vice Chairman  
Judy Skoglund, Supervisor  
Randy Wiedebush, Supervisor  
Mitch McCranie, Supervisor  
Dana Dennert, Advisor  
Justin North, Advisor  
Brandon Stanley, Advisor  
Allen Ryckman, Advisor  
Doug Farrand, Advisor

#### District Employees

David Dutenhoffer, Technician  
Lori Stevens, Office Manager

#### NRCS Employees

Valeree DeVine, Resource Unit Conservationist  
Jaime Rindels, District Conservationist  
Harlie Malpert, Natural Resource Specialist  
Tyler Stadel, Natural Resource Specialist  
Andrew Payma, Compliance Specialist  
Jakob Pettit, Easement Support Specialist  
Renee Galbraith, Program Support Specialist  
Cody Rolfes, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist  
Tami Rath, Secretary, Leading Solutions

**Board meetings are held the second  
Thursday of the month as needed.**



**Want to plant trees in 2025?**  
***Please contact the District if you  
plan to plant trees in 2025. Stop  
by the BCCD office in Aberdeen or  
call for more information!***

**Brown County  
Conservation District  
Office (605) 226-3360 Ext. 3  
Cell (605) 290-3596**

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