



SPRING NEWSLETTER

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Arbor Day Creative Writing Contest



The contest is open to all 5th- and 6th-grade students from South Dakota. The theme this year is, "The Importance of Arbor Day & Trees." Deadline is March 20, 2026. More information 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 Mythology." Deadline is March 27, 2026. More information can be found at: <https://danr.sd.gov/conservationforestry/education/ArborDayPoster/default.aspx>

GARDEN WORKSHOP

Thursday, March 26, 2026 | 6 - 8 PM

- Eagles Nest inside the AARC
 - 225 3rd Ave SE, Aberdeen, SD
- RSVP's appreciated but not required, walk-ins welcome!
 - RSVP to Lori (605) 290-3596
- Learn
 - Square Foot Gardening Techniques
 - Companion Planting & Soil Health
 - Community Orchard & Gardens
 - What the Conservation District has to offer



New Storage Shed

3125 8th Ave NE, Aberdeen, SD

Three years ago, on January 19, the two conservation districts in Brown County officially merged to form the organization we are today. At that time, the tree shed and office in Hecla continued to be used for storage.

After thoughtful consideration, the decision was made to construct a new cold storage shed adjacent to the Aberdeen tree shed. This strategic move allows all equipment to be housed in one central location, improving efficiency and saving valuable time.

As a result of the consolidation of operations, the Board has determined that the Hecla storage facility is no longer needed. Therefore, the Board has decided to offer the Hecla property for sale. More information to come.



(605) 290-3596
(605) 226-3360 x3

524 Enterprise St. S. #300
Aberdeen, SD 57401

BrownCD@sdconservation.net

USDA NRCS PROGRAMS

NRCS offers several programs that may be able to assist you. For more information, contact the Brown County Conservation District at (605) 226-3360 ext. 3.

Available programs include:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

NOTICE OF VACANCY

Brown County Conservation District

Notice is hereby given that the following positions will become vacant due to the expiration of the current terms of office:

- Supervisor #2 – Four-year term
- Supervisor #3 – Four-year term

Candidates must be residents of Brown County. Each candidate is required to file a petition with the County Auditor no later than July 1, 2026.

Petitions may be obtained at the Brown County Conservation District office.

Current District Board of Supervisors

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

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

WANT TO PLANT TREES IN 2026?

Please contact the district if you plan to plant trees in 2026, or stop by the BCCD office in Aberdeen for more information.

2026 SERVICES

- Full Service Machine Planting of Shelterbelts/Windbreaks
 - \$0.65 per linear ft
 - \$800 min.
- Machine-Laid Fabric for Weed Control
 - \$0.95 per linear ft
 - \$800 min.
- Tree Protector Tube System
 - \$10 per system (tube, stake ties)
 - \$13 per system installed
- Seed Sales
- Full Service Seeding
 - \$35/ac for CRP
 - \$35/ac for Custom
 - \$40/ac for WRP
 - \$500 min.
 - \$100 delivery
 - \$50 site charge (for sites > 10 miles apart)
 - Ask about our out-of-county seeding
- 15 Foot JD Rental Drill
 - \$15/ac
 - \$150 min.
 - \$100 delivery
- Full Service Mowing/Clipping
 - \$175/hr for first 10 hrs
 - \$125/hr for each additional hr
 - \$175 min.
 - \$200 delivery



Tree Shed:
3125 8th Ave NE
Aberdeen, SD 57401

2026 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
Aberdeen, SD 57401

Office: 605-226-3360 x 3
Cell: 605-290-3596

Email: BrownCD@sdconservation.net

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____

Email: _____



This is a sample of what we can offer. If you do not see what you are looking for, please contact our office.

Shrubs (3'-6' spacing) (25 per Same Species Bundle)	QTY	\$3.25 ea or \$75/ Bundle	Tall Trees (8'-12' Spacing) (25 per Same Species Bundle)	QTY	\$3.25 ea or \$75/ Bundle	Conifers (6' -18' Spacing) (Mature Height 20' - 60') (25 per Same Species Bundle)	Tree HT	QTY	\$3.50 ea or \$80/ Bundle
Almond, Russian			Aspen, Quaking			Cedar, Eastern Red	8-15"		
Aronia, Black			Birch, River			Juniper, Rocky Mountain	8-15"		
Buffaloberry			Cherry, Black			Pine, Ponderosa	6-15"		
Caragana			Cottonwood, Native			Spruce, Black Hills	6-12"		
Cherry, Nanking			Cottonwood, Siouxland (Cottonless)			Spruce, Colorado Blue	6-12"		
Chokecherry, Common			Hackberry			Larch, Siberian - Plugs	8-12"		\$3.75 ea
Chokecherry, Schubert			Hawthorn, Homestead			Potted Conifers			
Cranberry, American Highbush			Honeylocust, Thornless			~~Cedar, Eastern Red - 1 Gal~~	~~15-18"~~		~~\$25.00~~
Cranberrybush			Kentucky Coffee			Pine, Ponderosa - 1 Gal	15-18"		\$25.00
Current, Golden			Linden, American			Pine, Ponderosa - 3 Gal	24-30"		\$35.00
Dogwood, Redosier			Linden, Little Leaf			Spruce, Black Hills - 1 Gal	15-18"		\$25.00
Elderberry, Common			Maple, Silver			~~Spruce, Black Hills - 3 Gal~~	~~24-30"~~		~~\$35.00~~
Hazelnut, American			Oak, Bur			Spruce, Colorado Blue - 1 Gal	15-18"		\$25.00
Indigo, False			Oak, Swamp White			Spruce, Colorado Blue - 3 Gal	24-30"		\$35.00
Lilac, Common			Oak, Red			Spruce, Meyer - 1 Gal	15-18"		\$25.00
Nannyberry			Poplar, White			Spruce, Meyer - 3 Gal	24-30"		\$35.00
Plum, American			Walnut, Black			2-5' BAREROOT	Tree HT	QTY	Price per Tree
Sumac, Smooth			Willow, Golden			Aspen, Quaking TALL	2-3'		\$7.50
Willow, Flame			Willow, Laurel Leaf			Birch, Whitespire TALL	2-3'		\$7.50
Willow, Sandbar			Specialty Fruit/Yard Trees	QTY	\$50 ea	Cottonwood, Native TALL	3-4'		\$7.50
			Apple, Frostbite			Cottonwood, Siouxland TALL	3-5'		\$7.50
			Apple, Honeycrisp			Crabapple, Red Splendor TALL	2-3'		\$7.50
			Apple, SnowSweet			Dogwood, Redosier TALL	3-4'		\$7.50
			Apple, Sweet Sixteen			Linden, American TALL	3-4'		\$7.50
			Cherry, Evans Bali			Linden, Little Leaf TALL	3'+		\$7.50
			Pear, Golden Spice			Maple, Amur TALL	3'+		\$7.50
			Pear, Luscious			~~Maple, Silver TALL~~	~~3-4'~~		~~\$7.50~~
			Pear, Summercrisp			Oak, Bur TALL	2-3'		\$7.50
			Plum, Black Ice						
			Plum, Superior						
			Plum, Waneta			Fabric Staples			
			~~Crabapple, Red Splendor 5'~~			8x2 8 ga	\$0.25 / ea		\$100 / bx
			Elm, Princeton, American			Weed Barrier Fabric			Per Roll
			Linden, Redmond			3'x300'	\$0.32 / foot		\$80.00
			Maple, Brandywine			4'x300'	\$0.42 / foot		\$110.00
			Maple, Celebration			6'x500'	\$0.43 / foot		\$200.00
			Maple, Deborah			Tree Protector Tubes			
			~~Maple, Red~~			5' Tube			\$5.00
			Oak, Scarlet			6' Tube Stake			\$5.00

Office Use Only

Notification Date: _____

Pick -Up Date: _____

Sub Total: _____

Tax (6.2%): _____

Total: _____

Cash: _____ **Check Number:** _____

Deposit: _____

****All Orders Over \$100 Require a Deposit of 50%****

***We will notify you when your order is ready for pick-up. *The order needs to be picked up within 10 days of notification, or the stock will then be available for others to purchase. *Payment is due at the time of pick-up.**

***Check & cash only!**

*****Tree Stock and Pricing are not Guaranteed by the District for 2026*****

IS YOUR TREE SITE READY?

TIPS FOR THE COMING SEASON



Please ensure the planting site is properly prepared prior to planting. For sites that will not be planted into crop ground, the area should be disked or cultivated several times to achieve adequate soil preparation. The planting machine requires a minimum of 8 inches of loose, workable soil to properly plant seedlings.

For sites being converted from crop ground, all corn stalks and crop residue must be removed before planting. Planting trees in areas with large roots or cloddy soil can create air pockets around the seedling roots. These air pockets may cause the roots to dry out, leading to tree mortality.

Please mark all four corners of the planting site with flags, and clearly flag each row to prevent any confusion for District staff during planting.

Pre-plant weed control is strongly recommended, particularly for sites previously established in grass.

Bare-Root Tree Hand Planting Tips

- Before digging, contact 811 to have underground utilities located, and consider the tree's mature size when selecting the planting site.
- Plant trees as soon as possible after receiving them, and keep the roots moist at all times prior to planting.
- Dig a hole wide and deep enough to fully accommodate the entire root system. Place the tree in the hole and carefully spread the roots outward. Do not allow roots to bend upward or circle around the trunk.
- Backfill with the original soil to the level of the root collar, ensuring all roots are covered. Firm the soil gently to eliminate air pockets.
- Water thoroughly after planting and continue to provide approximately one gallon of water per week (or the equivalent of one inch of rainfall).
- Mulch may be applied around the base of the tree to conserve moisture and suppress weeds. Keep mulch at least one inch away from the trunk to prevent rot and damage.



REMINDERS FOR AFTER PLANTING!

- Maintain effective weed control around newly planted trees for at least 3 years. Competition from weeds and grasses is one of the primary reasons trees fail to meet expected growth rates.
- Adequate watering is critical, particularly during the first two weeks after planting and throughout the remainder of the growing season if natural rainfall is insufficient. Apply water slowly at the base of the tree to ensure deep soil penetration. Approximately one inch of water per week is recommended during the first growing season.
- Protect young trees from wildlife, livestock, and herbicide or other chemical applications. Newly planted seedlings are especially vulnerable to damage and require careful attention. Tree tubes, fencing, and protective cages are effective options that provide protection while still allowing sunlight and moisture to reach the tree
- Before installing weed barrier fabric, ensure all trees are firmly set in and that any ridges created by planting equipment are packed down. Proper soil-to-root contact and a smooth surface will allow the fabric to lie evenly and function effectively.

Don't Remove Tree Tubes Too Soon

Dr. John Ball, SDSU

A common issue with tree tubes is that seedlings may bend or fall over after the tubes are removed. Tree tubes protect young trees from rabbits, deer, and mechanical damage, while also creating a greenhouse effect that promotes faster height growth and improved survival.

However, this rapid height growth often occurs at the expense of trunk diameter. Because tubes limit wind movement – which naturally stimulates trunk thickening – trees may develop slender stems with poor taper. If tubes are removed just as the tree begins to grow above the top, the stem may not be strong enough to support the new growth.

To prevent this, remove the tube while the tree is still fully contained within it, or leave it in place until the trunk nearly fills the tube and the canopy is well above it. Removing tubes immediately after the tree has branched out above the top is generally the most problematic timing.





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Aberdeen, SD 57401

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Allen Ryckman, 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
Cacey Dornbusch, Natural Resource Specialist
Andrew Payma, Compliance Specialist
Jakob Pettit, Easement Support Specialist
Joe Mayrose, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Specialist

**To receive this newsletter as an email,
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browncd@sdconservation.net**



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