

Cass County Soil Conservation District

Conservation News

Spring 2020

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Tree of the Quarter: Arnold Hawthorn (*Crataegus arnoldiana*) is a member of the rose family. While there are native Hawthorn to North Dakota, the Arnold is a cultivar. A small tree, Hawthorn will grow to 20 feet tall and 20 feet wide. Delicate white flowers bloom in Spring, but don't be tempted to smell them, as they have a disagreeable odor close-up. Sharply serrated leaves measure 1 to 3 inches long and around an inch wide. The fruit are apple-like pomes, around a half-inch in diameter. While they can make good jellies, fresh hawthorn pomes have a mealy like texture, similar to a overripe Red Delicious apple. Hawthorn are excellent for riparian



plantings and are well-adapted to environmental stresses. Arnold Hawthorn are available through the Tree Store.

Tree Planting Season is Here!

Spring is here! With the tree orders from the nurseries arriving soon we will be busy putting conservation on the ground! Prior to machine planting, there are a few things that should be done. Cultivating the site is imperative to a successful planting, as an adequate seedbed allows for good soil-to-root contact. Clumpy, cloddy soil makes it difficult for the trees to flourish.

Prep work on the front end of the planting goes a long

way in ensuring a long lasting, beautiful planting. The District would like to thank ***Daniel Iwen*** for returning for his 16th planting season. His hard work contributes to our success every year.



District Staff

Jeffrey Miller—Director

Amy Cole—Office Manager

Eric Dahl—Soil and Water Resources Mgr

Tony Peterson—Programs Manager

NRCS Staff

Josh Monson—District Conservationist

Matt Shappell—Soil Conservationist

Matt Waclawik—Wetlands Specialist

Blake Johnson—Agriculture Engineer

Paul Flahave—Designated Conservationist

Tim Cogger—Program Assistant

Amy Bauroth—Heartland Secretary

District Supervisors

Terry Hoffmann—Wheatland

Brad Kellerman—West Fargo

Curt Knutson—Page

Brooks Whitmore—Page

Warren Solberg—Horace

Weed Board News

The Cass County Weed Control would like to remind producers of the Landowner Assistance Program for 2020. Owners or operators of non-crop, non-CRP acres can apply for assistance for partial reimbursement of chemical and application costs. 80% of the cost of the herbicide and \$3.50 per acre of application will be reimbursed, with a maximum single operator payment of \$1,500. Also remember to be diligent in scouting fields for the appearance of Palmer Amaranth. Contact Weed Control or NDSU Extension if you believe you have found the noxious weed.

The Good Life magazine

The CCSCD has partnered with Urban Toad Media, publishers of The Good Life magazine. Director Jeffrey Miller is writing a column in each issue on conservation topics. From trees and prairie to recycling and water conservation, the District is excited to bring conservation and environmental awareness to the public! The Good Life can be picked up at a variety of locations in Fargo-Moorhead, along with online at Urban Toad Media. The magazine is free!

Quote of the Quarter

*"The trees are green, the sun is shining,
my heart is broken beyond repair.
But the air is filled with diamonds, I can
see them sparkling everywhere.
And today, could be the best day ever,
just you wait and see. "*

Bob Schneider



Upcoming Events

March 24th and March 31st— **2-Part Pollinator Workshop:** Moorhead, MN **POSTPONED**

April 21st—**Board Meeting:** Fargo Field Office

May 5th and 12h, June 10th, July 14th—**Make a Rain Barrel Workshop:** Various Locations

April 27th, May 20th— **Make a Compost Tumbler Workshop:** Various Locations

May 19st— **Board Meeting:** Fargo Field Office

May 25th— **Memorial Day:** Office Closed

June 16th— **Board Meeting:** Fargo Field Office

Living Ag Classroom 2020



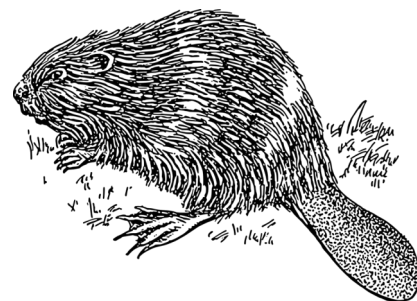
The Soil Conservation District participated in the annual Living Ag Classroom at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds. Nearly 2,500 fourth grade students from around Cass County attended four exciting days. District staff demonstrated wind and water erosion by using containers containing cover crop and pollinator plants. The containers added a splash of green to the office during the dreary Winter. Exposing school children to the realities of agriculture, and the need for conservation of the land, water and soil, is critical for our future. Events like the Living Ag Classroom allow them to gain hands-on experience and knowledge of our ag and natural resources heritage.



Cass County Grass & Forage Establishment

New for 2020, the Cass County Soil Conservation District is offering cost-share assistance for grass & forage establishment. Parcels up to 50 acres can benefit from the program. Smaller pieces of land that may have lower crop productivity or high soil moisture stand to benefit the most from this program. Establishing grass in these areas is great for using excess moisture, building soil structure, filtering runoff, and providing additional income in forage value.

Contact Eric Dahl at eric.dahl@nd.nacdnet.net or call the office today to sign up!



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STEWARDSHIP FOR TODAY & TOMORROW


All programs and services of the Cass County Soil Conservation District are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age or handicap. 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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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