

# Cass County Soil Conservation District

## Conservation News

Spring 2022



**Tree of the Quarter: American Plum (*Prunus americana*)** is a member of the rose family. Native to North Dakota, the American Plum is a deciduous large shrub or small tree that grows to 15 feet.. This shrub likes coarse to medium textured soils, preferring moist

soils as it is not very tolerant to shade, drought or fire. Even though they have shallow roots, the American Plum sends up copious amounts of suckers, making it an excellent choice for riparian stabilization plantings and windbreaks. The bark of the shrub becomes scaly with age. The leaves are alternate and dark green. During the middle portion of Spring, the American Plum erupt in a riot of fragrant, showy white flowers. The resulting fruit is delicious to both wildlife and humans. In addition to fresh eating, plums can be turned into jelly, wine or jams. The American Plum is a great choice for any tree planting.

### 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

Kelli Bowen—Casselton

Jodi Meisch—Mapleton

Warren Solberg—Horace

## Spring 2022

### Page 1

*Tree Planting Season*

*Tree of the Quarter*

### Page 2

*Ladies' Ag 2022*

### Page 3

*Beaver Damage and Trees*

### Page 4

*Sponsors*

## Tree Planting Season is Here!

Even though the Winter felt like it would never end, Spring is here! 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. You can find our new publication, *Tree Planting Owner's Guide*, on the website. The guide explains, from soup to nuts, the keys to a successful tree planting. We are excited to get out into the field and assist producers with getting conservation on the ground!



## Ladies' Ag 2022

It felt good to have Ladies' Ag again after a two-year deferment due to Covid. We welcomed over 120 attendees to the Air Museum in Fargo for a wonderful night of celebrating women and agriculture. Once again, One-on-One Catering prepared a delicious meal of beef tenderloin, twice-baked potatoes, carrots, salad and dessert. The centerpieces consisted of flowers by Fleurish Floral Designs and handcrafted goat milk soap from Glimpse of the Prairie. Sabrina Hornung, the keynote speaker, is Editor of the High Plains Reader and writer for the Wishek Star and Ashley Tribune. She gave a fantastic presentation on rural art, living in German Russian country, and how art has shaped her life. The gift basket raffle is always a hit, with many participants buying \$1 raffle tickets for a chance to win one of the eight baskets. We would like to thank everyone that made Ladies' Ag 2022 another rousing success!



## Upcoming Events

April 19th—**Board Meeting:** Fargo Field Office

April 27th, May 3rd and May 10th—**Make a Rain Barrel Workshop:** Various Locations

April 20th – **Make a Compost Tumbler Workshop:** MB Johnson Park Moorhead

May 17th— **Board Meeting:** Fargo Field Office

May 30th— **Memorial Day:** Office Closed

June 21st – **Board Meeting:** Fargo Field Office



## Beaver Damage and Trees



The beaver is North America's largest rodent, and the second largest rodent in the world. Only the capybara of South America is bigger. In good habitats, a beaver may reach 80 pounds! Beavers have many unique adaptations to their environment, including large webbed hind feet and a broad scaly tail that aids in swimming. Their front feet are much smaller but sport sharp claws, allowing the animal to dig into soil to create dens as well as handling their main food, trees. The beaver's long orange teeth never stop growing, and the only way the beaver can prevent the teeth from disfiguring their face is to wear them down on trees.

Beaver are an important part of any lacustrine or riverine ecosystem, but at times they can wear out their welcome. Their habit of cutting and eating trees is great for shrubs that grow near the water. Dogwood, willow, false indigo and other native shrubs benefit from the removal of old stems and allow for healthy, vigorous new stems. Unfortunately, they will also chew on valuable trees as well.



If a landowner wishes to protect a few trees, it's easy to build a steel cage around the trunk. However, if there are too many beaver and causing trees damage, lethal control is often the best way. Licensed trappers, working in the late fall or early spring, can remove excess beavers from a section of river. A beaver is a natural resource with both meat and fur utilized by the trapper.

Beaver are fascinating animals and make good neighbors on river properties. However, when they get too numerous, protecting valuable trees and removing some of them is the best way to ensure they don't make themselves pests!

### Quote of the Quarter

*"The air is slightly chilly, but there's a promise in the air. It might be rainy and cold and, okay, it wouldn't be unheard of if it started snowing in April, but warm weather is coming. Things are growing, and I can feel it."*

**Kerry Winfry**

**Cass County Soil Conservation District**

1665 43rd St S, Suite 103

Fargo ND 58103-3319

**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.

*This Newsletter Has Been Sponsored By:*

**4e winery**

Tasting room open  
May through October

3766 156th Ave SE  
Mapleton, ND 58059  
701-936-9693  
4ewinery.com

 **AGASSIZ**  
SEED & SUPPLY

Chris (Chrispy)  
Prochnow  
Sales

445 7th Street NW • West Fargo, ND 58078  
Office 701-282-8118 • Fax 701-282-9119  
chrisp@agassizseed.com • Cell 701-388-6323

www.agassizseed.com

 **COTTONWOOD BEND FARM**  
facebook.com/cottonwoodbendfarm

Jeffrey Miller and Melanie Kraker  
Owners  
5447 E River Road  
Kindred, ND 58051  
jeffreymiller@hotmail.com 701-371-1060

 **Prairie Brand**

Brooks Whitmore  
Prairie Brand Dealer

13498 12th St SE  
Hope, ND 58046

c: 701-730-0301


**COUNTY LINE**  
SEED LLC.  
COLGATE, ND

countylineseedllc@gmail.com

**GROW your PROMISE.**

 **Peterson**  
Farms Seed

701-282-7476  
3104 164th Ave SE • Harwood, ND 58042  
PetersonFarmsSeed.com

 **BRIAN TEBERG**  
Owner

Phone: 701.277.3255  
3201 39th St SW  
Fargo, ND 58103  
eliteautomotivecenter@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook

 **EMBDEN**  
GRAIN COMPANY  
QUALITY • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

701-633-5438  
embdengrain@ictc.com

WWW.EMBDENGRAIN.COM

 **Bobcat**  
of Fargo  
A Division of Swanston Equipment

 **DOOSAN**  
Portable Power

Mason Persons  
Sales Specialist  
3450 W. Main Ave. • Fargo, ND 58103  
T 701-293-7325  
C 701-566-3266  
F 701-293-9468  
E mpersons@swanston.com

Bobcat of Fargo  
AUTHORIZED BOBCAT DEALER

www.swanston.com