

Planting Trees

Conservation trees benefit both people and animals. They shade and shelter homes, reduce soil erosion, protect crops and livestock, provide food and cover for wildlife, buffer noise, provide valuable products, add beauty to our landscape and purify the air around us.

The Middle Republican NRD has many varieties of trees and shrubs available to landowners. The trees may be purchased as hand plants (you plant the trees yourself) or as machine plants (the district plants them for you). The tree planting crew, using a machine tree planter, is capable of planting thousands of seedlings in a day. Here at the MRNRD, you can pick up a handy guide, "Conservation Trees for Nebraska" which allows you to study the trees available in your area. Since 2007, 250,870 trees have been planted in our district. You can also visit the website www.nrdtrees.org to view the booklet.

Also available are weed barriers for tree planting. The weed barrier material is a black polypropylene fabric with the appearance of tightly woven burlap. Installation can be done by either the NRD or landowners themselves. The barrier is generally available in 6-foot-wide rolls in 300 to 500 foot lengths. This is recommended, as well as mulch, for most plants to give your trees the best chance of survival.

Seedlings are generally distributed in late March/early April. To order seedlings for a tree plan contact your local NRCS offices and the deadline is March 1st, 2018. If you are interested in hand plants contact Middle Republican NRD, Curtis, NE at 308-367-4281 and ask for Andrew, there is a deadline of March 15th, 2018. The staff can help you with a planting plan and offer suggestions on which species would best suit your seedlings. Also available to rent are horizon drills and gopher getters.

The Middle Republican NRD offers cost-share programs to landowners wanting to apply conservation practices. Please go to our website MRNRD.org and click under the heading Programs. You will find staff phone numbers and more information to help you protect property, protect lives and protect the future.

Cheryl Muilenburg
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