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New Website Up and Running:

Please visit the Nicollet SWCD webpage, created in December. This page offers useful information for all residents in Nicollet County. On this site you will find information on district tree sales, state cost-share, EQIP, meeting agendas, links, and much more.

Our website is also useful for contacting staff regarding your conservation questions. As this is a new website, please e-mail staff with any suggestions for improving this site.

Our website address is: **www.nicolletswcd.org**

The Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District:

424 South Minnesota Ave.
St. Peter, MN 56082.
Phone: (507) 931-2550 ext.3
Fax: (507) 931-3792

District Board

Gerald Rodning, *Chair*
John Kral, *Vice Chair*
William Hohenstein, *Secretary*
Eldon Brown, *Treasurer*
Bruce Hulke, *Member*

District Employees

Kevin Ostermann
District Manager
Blake Honetschlager
District Technician

Private Pesticide Applicator Training - 2008:

This year's Private Pesticide Applicator training will be held Tuesday, February 5th 12:30 – 4:00 pm at the Community Center in Lafayette. As in past years, producers will need this certification in order to purchase Restricted Use Pesticides for use on their farms. This training is for those individuals whose certification will expire in 2008 and anyone else who wishes to renew an expired card.

There are three options to recertification:

- 1.) Attend a Recertification Workshop such as the one listed above. By attending this meeting, you will not have to take the test.
- 2.) Complete the test as a home study course (books and tests are available at your local county extension office).
- 3.) Complete the test on-line at www.pat.umn.edu

Other locations for this training include: February 22nd, 8:30am – 12 noon at the Sibley County Courthouse in Gaylord, MN and February 11th, 12:30pm to 4:00 pm at the Brown County Extension Office in Sleepy Eye, MN.

Mark Your Calendar:

2008 TREE SALES: Remember to send in your tree order forms (Order form included in this newsletter).

Orders can be sent in anytime between January 1st 2008 through March 31st 2008. Contact Blake with any questions 931-2550 ext 3.

Nicollet SWCD Website: The Nicollet SWCD Website is up and running. Please visit www.nicolletswcd.org and check out the new site. We offer information on all SWCD programs, Tree Sales, Technical Assistance and much more.

EQIP Signup Extended: Remember that the EQIP signup has been extended for a second signup period. The deadline is February 1st, 2008. Stop by the office and speak to Stephanie to enroll in the program.

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00am-4:30pm

-Please call ahead to schedule an appointment.

District employees are frequently out of the office performing field work.

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Phone: (507)-931-2550 ext. 3
Fax: (507) 931-4619

Stephanie McLain
District Conservationist



Nicollet Soil and Water
Conservation District

2008 TREE SALES & TREE DAY!!!

We will again be holding our annual Tree Day, **January 29th, from 9am-4pm**, at our office in St. Peter. (424 South Minnesota Ave., St. Peter, 56082). Please find our 2008 Tree Order Form included in this newsletter.

Stop in for free cookies and refreshments throughout the day. We will be taking tree orders, assisting landowners with windbreak designs, landscape designs, picking the correct trees, as well as any other general questions can be answered during Tree Day.

Tree Day is **NOT** the only time to order trees. Tree orders will be taken through March 31st, but quantities are limited. If you need more order forms, stop by our office and pick one up, or simply go to <http://www.nicolletswcd.org> and click on the "Tree Order Day" link to print off a copy of this years order form.

New this year are larger (2 Gallon) Potted Spruce and Pine trees. We expect these larger trees to go very quickly, so get your order in early. Also new this year will be fabric matting. We will be selling fabric matting by the foot, or as a 3'x3' mat for individual trees. Individual tree mats are pre-cut for easy installation. By using Fabric Mulch, you will ensure better survival of your trees, conserve water near tree roots, and prevent competition from weeds and grasses.

Choosing the Right Trees and Shrubs:

Bareroot trees are dug and shipped as dormant, 1-4 year old-stock without any soil surrounding their roots. For most situations, bareroot stock should not show leaf emergence at the time of purchase. Bareroot plants will require slightly more stringent planting and maintenance guidelines to ensure good survival. Remember to keep bareroot tree roots covered and moist until the trees are ready to be placed in their planting hole.

Container trees are grown in a pot for 2-5 years. Potted stock will store longer before planting, as long as the soil is kept moist. Potted plants can transplant easier for less maintenance the first year. Potted plants can develop girdling roots, that will need to be gently loosened from the root ball, cut and spread to allow proper root growth. **For more information about the type of trees you should plant. Please stop in on Tree Day and speak to a staff person directly.**

2008 TREE PROGRAM
NICOLLET SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 424 SOUTH MINNESOTA AVE. SAINT PETER, MN 56082
 PHONE: (507) 931-2550 Ext. 3

Order Number (office use)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

QUALITY NURSING STOCK FOR CONSERVATION

CONIFER TRANSPLANTS

Species	Size	# of Bundles	Cost
Blackhills Spruce	12"-18"	_____	x 13.00/Bundle
Colorado Spruce	12"-18"	_____	x 13.00/Bundle
Norway Spruce	7"-15"	_____	x 13.00/Bundle
Norway Pine (Red)	7"-15"	_____	x 12.50/Bundle
White Pine	8"-12"	_____	x 12.50/Bundle
Ponderosa Pine	8"-15"	_____	x 12.50/Bundle
American Arborvitae	12"-18"	_____	x 15.00/Bundle

Important Notice
 If trees will be used for government programs please let staff know.

Trees are distributed in April, we will notify you of your pickup day.

CONIFER POTTED

Species	Size	Cost
1 Gal. Blackhills Spruce	15"-18"	x 6.50/Tree
2 Gal. Blackhills Spruce	24"-30"	x 11.00/Tree
1 Gal. Colorado Spruce	15"-18"	x 6.50/Tree
2 Gal. Colorado Spruce	18"-24"	x 10.00/Tree
1 Gal. Norway Spruce	15"-18"	x 6.50/Tree
2 Gal. White Pine	18"-24"	x 9.00/Tree
1 Gal. American Arborvitae	15"-18"	x 6.50/Tree

The cost of trees does not warrant free replacement and the district offers no guarantee of survival.

DECIDUOUS SEEDLINGS

Species	Size	Cost
Black Walnut	12"-18"	x 12.50/Bundle
Green Ash	2'-3'	x 12.50/Bundle
Hackberry	18"-24"	x 12.50/Bundle
Norway Poplar	2'-3'	x 10.50/Bundle
Silver Maple	18"-24"	x 10.50/Bundle
Sugar Maple	18"-24"	x 12.50/Bundle
Red maple	18"-24"	x 12.50/Bundle
Red Oak	18"-24"	x 12.50/Bundle

Payment is due on day of order, or pickup day.

SMALL TREES

Species	Size	Cost
Amur Maple	18"-24"	x 10.00/Bundle
Crab, Red Splendor	18"-24"	x 10.00/Bundle
Nanking Cherry	18"-24"	x 10.00/Bundle

SHRUBS

Species	Size	Cost
Freedom, Honeysuckle	12"-18"	x 12.50/Bundle
Villosa Lilac	12"-18"	x 10.00/Bundle
Dogwood Redosier	2"-3"	x 10.00/Bundle
Am. Highbush Cranberry	12"-18"	x 12.50/Bundle

FABRIC TREE SQUARES & ROLLS

Item	Quantity	Cost
Pre-Cut Tree Squares	3' x 3'	x 1.25/Square
Fabric Roll Mat (by the foot)	1 Foot	x 0.35/Foot
Fabric Roll Mat (whole roll)	300 Feet	x 105.00/Roll

Fabric Mats will last 4-8 years, saving time and money, preventing weed growth and retaining water for exceptional plant success.

Subtotal	_____	Make Checks
Sales Tax (6.5%)	_____	Payable to
Total Due	_____	Nicollet SWCD

Environment Quality Incentive Program Offers Another Opportunity for Funding:

The Environment Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is taking applications for a second round of funding. All applications will be ranked based on the conservation practices to be implemented and the environmental benefit gained from the practice. By working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, producers can apply for practice and incentive payments to help make improvements to their operations that include:

- Manure storage and handling
- Pest and nutrient management
- Soil conservation with grassed buffers, terraces, and conservation tillage
- Organic crop production
- Pasture management
- Tree planting and improving wildlife habitats

Other practices eligible for funding include animal mortality composting, forest land management, well sealing, and stream bank protection. **Any Nicollet County producer interested in taking advantage of available funding can apply at the St. Peter NRCS office from now until February 1st, 2008.** There is no cost or obligation to sign-up.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 71st Annual Meeting:

This year marked the 71st annual MASWCD meeting, held on December 2nd-4th 2007 in Rochester, MN. The annual convention is put on by the MASWCD to help local Conservation Districts address current conservation issues. The convention continues to bring together Conservation Districts from across the state. This networking allows districts to be up to date on conservation issues and policies throughout the state.

The Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District would like to extend their thanks to the following, for contributions made to the annual auction which is held during the convention. This auction helps raise money to continue the strong conservation mission that MASWCD works for.

If you would like to donate to the annual MASWCD auction for conservation, please contact our office, or go to our website to get into contact with one of our five elected board members.

- Zin's Implement of Nicollet for the 7420 John Deer Tractor w/Plow Model.**
- First National Bank of St. Peter for the Rain Gauge, Flashlights, and Coffee Gift Pack.**
- Farmers Elevator of Traverse for the donation of money.**
- UFC Coop of Lafayette for the 2 Bobcat Model Toys.**
- Canopy Insurance of LeSueur for the Poker Chips and Tin of Cashews.**
- Citizens Bank of Lafayette for the Schell Brewing Basket.**
- Arnold Implement of North Mankato for the Tractor Model Toy.**
- Dave's Place of Lafayette for the Collector Mug.**
- Judson Implement for the Oliver Tractor Model.**
- Courtland Waste Handling for the Sweaters.**
- B.J & Bill Hohenstein for the Tackle Box filled full of Tackle.**

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