

Great Faces, Green Spaces

Healthy Forests, Healthier Communities.

A newsletter of the South Dakota Community Forestry Program and the South Dakota Community Forestry Advisory Council (SDCFAC).

Welcome to the revamped Great Faces, Green Spaces, South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA), Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry's (RCF) urban and community forestry newsletter! Each issue will have community spotlights, a calendar of events, technical advice, and information on community forestry across South Dakota.

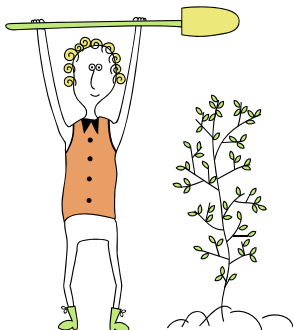
Exciting things are happening in communities throughout South Dakota. From Sioux Falls to Rapid City we continue to hear great stories about new and innovative approaches to urban forestry. We would love to hear more of your success stories to share with others. We hope to inspire other citizens to enhance their efforts to green South Dakota's communities.

The Community Forestry Program has many resources to aid you in your quest for maintaining a beautiful, healthy community. Please feel welcome to contact your local community forester for help. We can help with financial opportunities, technical assists, and educational outreach.

Remember to take a look at the calendar of events. There you'll find upcoming arborist certification exams, conference dates, workshops, grant announcements, and other important items.

As Arbor Month approaches, I wish you good planning and happy planting!

~ Tiffany Arp, Community Forestry Coordinator



"The act of planting trees can have social value, as bonds between people and local groups often result."

~ USDA Northeast Community Tree Guide ~

Welcome to the International Year of Forests, 2011. The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests.

Preparations for the observance of Forests 2011 are taking place at the national, regional, and international levels.

The U. S. Forest Service, with partner organizations, the National Association of State Foresters and the American Forest Foundation, announce the U.S. celebration of the official United Nations International Year of Forests 2011. The theme of the U.S. campaign is: "Celebrate Forests. Celebrate Life."

Trees and forests provide a wealth of social, economic, environmental, aesthetic, cultural, and health benefits. Because of forests, millions of Americans have access to clean drinking water, an abundance of recreational opportunities, cleaner air, and countless jobs. Urban trees and forests also make important contributions by enhancing neighborhood livability, increasing home prices, and

reducing household energy use and the effects of climate change. In short, trees and forests improve the quality of life in urban and rural areas alike.

"The International Year of Forests provides an excellent platform to increase awareness of the connections between healthy forests, ecosystems, people, and economies," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "It is also an opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments, reach out to new audiences, and work with partners across all landscapes."

Additional information on this year's theme is available at the United Nation's U.S. web page:

www.celebrateforest.com.

International Year Of Forests is 365 days of worldwide celebration of some of our most important natural resources, and we invite you to learn about their importance and celebrate in your own way!

"Forests play a key role in our lives. Home to 300 million people globally, forests cover 31% of total land area. Our economies also benefit from forests with over 1.6 billion people's livelihoods depending on them."

The Power of Green



Buzz words seem to pop up almost weekly. Recently phrases like “Green Industry”, “Green Buildings”, and “Green Living” have been making the news. But the fact is, the healing power of green has been known for a very long time.

In 1872 the New York City Commissioner of Health recommended that street trees be planted to mitigate the intense heat and thereby diminish the death rate among children (Gerhold, Henry. *Our Heritage of Community Trees*, 2002).

People find considerable pleasure from trees, whether it is inspiration from their beauty or a calming sense of meaning. A study done back in the 1980's (1985 Ulrich) shows that hospital patients that have a view of trees or nature from their rooms needed less medication and recovered faster following surgery.



"I'm writing you a prescription for two trees for better health."

Besides the health benefits we derive from trees, there are many social benefits the community gains from communal green spaces. Tree planting projects often bring community members together. People gain pleasure from planting trees and often feel a sense of ownership, pleasure, and pride when helping to improve their community. Research in public housing found that outdoor spaces with trees are used significantly more often than spaces without trees. Neighbors have more interaction with each other and spend more time outside doing various activities.

The benefits trees provide us, from energy savings, pollution reduction, and increased overall mental and physical health, are well worth the planting and maintenance costs.

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Upcoming Events

- * **Sioux Falls Lawn & Garden Show:** March 18-20, 2011.
www.sflawnandgardenshow.com
- * **Minnesota Shade Tree Short Course:** March 15-16, 2011.
Bethel University, Arden Hills, MN. www.cce.umn.edu/Annual-Minnesota-Shade-Tree-Short-Course/
- * **Sioux Empire Water Festival:** March 22-23, 2011. Sioux Falls, SD. <http://siouxempirewaterfestival.org/>
- * **Community Forestry Challenge Grants:** Deadline for 3rd quarter applications is March 31, 2011.
www.sdda.sd.gov/Forestry/grants-loans/urban-forestry-comprehensive.aspx
- * **SD Municipal Street Maintenance Association Spring Meeting:** Cedar Shore Resort, Oacoma, SD. April 13-14, 2011.
- * **South Dakota Arbor Day:** Statewide. April 29, 2011.
Check with your local Forestry Board, City Council, or area Parks and Maintenance Department for events in your community.
- * **Big Sioux Water Festival:** May 10, 2011.
www.bigsixwaterfestival.org
- * **SD Arborist Association Annual Conference:** November 8-9, 2011. Pierre, SD. <http://www.sdarborists.com/>
- * **Other Water Festival events around the state:** Various Dates. www.sd-discovery.com/waterfestival.shtm
- * **ISA Certified Arborist Exam:** Multiple deadlines and venues. www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx
- * **Tree Board University:** Online, at your own pace.
www.treeboardu.org/
- * **Green-Scapes Seminar— Edible Landscaping, Tree Diversity, & Soil Health:** South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service. http://www.sdstate.edu/news/event-detail.cfm?customel_datapageid_3207=1100841
- * **Lake Andes:** March 4, 2011
- * **DeSmet:** April 6, 2011
- * **Pukwana:** March 31, 2011
- * **Elk Point:** April 14, 2011
- * **Brandon:** April 27, 2011

Great Faces, Green Spaces is published quarterly by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. Editorial matters should be directed to Tiffany Arp, Community Forestry Coordinator; 523 E. Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501. Office: 605.773.3594; fax: 605.773.4003; email Tiffany.Arp@state.sd.us.

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Thinking Ahead

RIGHT PLACE. RIGHT TREE.



Step 1: Planning before the hole

When starting a tree planting project within your community, planting site locations must be chosen. One of the most important things to remember is not every spot needs a tree or can grow a tree successfully. Narrow boulevards, and overhead utility lines makes this location unsuitable for trees.

A narrow planting strip, a site with poor soils, or a spot where water stands for part of the year are just a few areas throughout the community where trees should not be planted.



It is important to do a bit of research on your potential planting site. Knowing information such as soil type, whether there are utilities present, or

hardscape issues will all aid in the selection of a tree. The next bit of wisdom to use in the beginning stages of a planting project is that not all trees will grow at every site. Selecting a tree prior to gaining any background information on the planting spot is going at it backwards.

Take home message:



We need to choose our sites carefully. It is the first, and often one of the most important, step in successfully planting a tree. When the planning process is done correctly, success is all most assured.



When there is adequate space, many varieties of trees can be selected.



Step 2: Proper planting

Once you've chosen a potential planting site, always contact **South Dakota one-call** to locate any underground utilities. Dial **811** within state and **800.781.7474** out of state.

The first bit of gospel to remember when digging the hole for your tree is a shallow wide hole is better than a deep narrow one. Trees planted too deep become structurally weaker as they mature, making them susceptible to failure in strong weather.

When we start to plant a tree we must find the root collar. This is the area of swelling on the main stem just above the roots. This collar should be slightly above the ground when the planting is completed. In some cases the swelling is hard to locate. Find the top root and place it slightly above the ground line and then cover the rest of the roots with soil.



The bud graft is always found above the ground.

Trees grown for the retail market are grown in wholesale nurseries. One method they use is a process called bud grafting. This is where they take a bud off a tree they want to grow and graft it onto some

compatible hardy root stock. The graft is 3 or 4 inches above the ground and is often mistaken for the root collar. If planted at this level, the tree will be planted too deep.

If you are planting container or ball and burlap (B&B) trees you must also find the root collar. Often times the trees in these containers have their root collars/roots too deep. You must take off the soil from the top of the containers until you find the swelling of the root collar. Once you've done this, you plant the tree with the collar slightly above ground level.



This tree came from the nursery already planted 6" too deep. The yellow line indicates the top of the roots.

You've just given your tree the proper start it needs.

***"The true meaning of life is to plant trees,
Under whose shade you do not expect to sit."***

~ Nelson Henderson ~



"The best friend of earth, of man, is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on the earth."

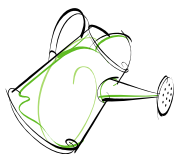
~ Frank Lloyd Wright ~

Step 3: Post Planting Tree Care

Watering

Rule of thumb:

- 2 to 4 gallons every 3 to 5 days for the first growing season.



Mulching

Rules of thumb:

- 2 to 4 inches deep in a 3 foot ring around the tree; and
- Leave 5 to 6 inch gap around trunk to avoid molding.



Staking

Rules of thumb:

1. Choose two strong stakes, hardwood or softwood; pine or hemlock will last longer. These stakes should be at least 6 feet tall, about 2 inches square and pointed on one end to easily penetrate the ground.
2. Determine the direction of the prevailing wind and insert the stakes exactly opposite one another, about 2 feet from the stem, in line with the wind. For example: if the wind direction is westerly, then place the stakes North & South.
3. Drive the stakes vertically at least 2 feet into the ground. Try to bury the stakes so they are the same height above ground. When finished, stakes should stand upright at about 4 feet.
4. Cut 2 pieces of flexible wire, each measuring at least 5 feet long. Also, cut up an old garden hose into 2 eighteen-inch lengths. Then, slip the hose over the wire, and wrap the hose around the tree to protect the trunk from the wire. Pull equal lengths of the wire parallel to the ground and attach to the top of the stake.
5. Twist the wires together on the outside of the stake to make the wire taut and nip off any excess.



Staking provides a young tree with support it needs until the trunk is strong enough to hold its canopy upright. Most trees will not need to be staked longer than a year, but should be left for at least one growing season. As soon as the tree can stand on its own, remove the stakes.



** Source material and additional information available at:
www.daytonnursery.com*

South Dakota's Arbor Day is Friday, April 29, 2011.

Tree & Shrub Care Website Resources

🌲 www.sdda.sd.gov/Forestry
🌲 www.sdstate.edu/hflp/
🌲 www.denr.sd.gov/
🌲 www.treelink.org/linux/?navLocationRef=42
🌲 www.isa-arbor.com/



🌲 www.mwisa.org
🌲 www.arborday.org
🌲 www.Midwestlandscapeplants.org
🌲 www.northscaping.com/Tools/LandscapePlantsearch.asp
🌲 www.osu.edu/plantfacts/



🌲 Action.Lasso
🌲 www.sustland.umn.edu/pant/index.html
🌲 www.mortonarb.org/tree-plant-advice.html
🌲 www.hort.ufl.edu/woody
🌲 www.sdonecall.com



WWW.

"The cultivation of trees is the cultivation of the good, the beautiful, and the ennobling in man."

~ J. Sterling Morton ~



A "TO DO" list for your trees for March, April, and May 2011

☐

Select the site you want to plant a tree.

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Select the tree you want to plant in the planting site.

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Once snow and frost are out of the ground, trees can be planted and/or moved.

☐

Clean, sharpen, and oil your pruning tools and other garden tools.

☐

Clean up tree debris like leaves and branches. This is especially important to do with fruit trees to prevent any over-wintering diseases from infecting the trees.

☐

Prune fruit trees and other ornamental trees now. Remove storm damaged, dead, crossing, narrow crotch angles, insect/disease infected, water sprouts, and animal damaged branches.

☐

Ornamental spring flowering trees and shrubs should be pruned after they flower.

☐

Summer flowering trees and shrubs should be pruned now because their flower buds haven't developed yet.

☐

If your fruit trees and crabapples need spraying for disease control now is the time to start preparing for it.

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