



Fall/Winter 2018

Volume 23, No 4

# Winter Care for Trees

Winter is fast approaching, and there are a number of things a person can do this fall to help maximize the survival of trees through our harsh winters and maximize health and vigor when spring arrives.

- ◆ Rake up or destroy fallen leaves and debris that have accumulated around your trees. Many fungal leaf diseases can survive the winter in these leaves and will quickly establish in your trees come spring.
- ◆ Wrap the lower main stem of young trees to help protect their thin bark from winter damage such as sun scald, winter burn, and rodent damage.
- ◆ Prune any dead or damaged branches. This will help reduce overwintering sites for pests and diseases. Any living wood should be pruned after the tree has gone dormant, but while they still have leaves is a great time to mark any living branches to be pruned later.
- ◆ Watering is a great idea. Giving trees water in the fall, even after they have dropped their leaves, is a great way to help improve survival through the winter. A good rule of thumb is to weekly give 2 gallons of water per inch of stem diameter.
- ◆ In addition to caring for the trees, make sure to clear off any dirt and debris that may have accumulated on your weed barrier fabric.

# Preparing for Spring Planting

If you are thinking about planting trees in the spring, now is the best time to get started. If you want to have the district plant for you, contact us and set up an appointment to get started. Once you have met with us and we have figured out where the rows will go, there are a few things you should be doing to get ready for the spring.

- ◆ Get your utilities marked. The district has a policy that we will not plant on any easements, and we have to give 10 feet on either side of any utility lines. We also have to stay at least 100 feet off any roads, and some other situations warrant additional setbacks. In addition, we may refuse to plant if your area is in native range and certain criteria are not met. The point is, until we know where all of these things are, we can't truly know where we can put your trees and you should not start your site prep until you have talked with us.
- ◆ Prepare the ground. In meeting with us we will decide if it would be best to do a no till planting or to work the soil. If the soil is going to be worked, start doing that this fall. You will want the soil to be the consistency of a vegetable garden- not lumpy, but not a powder either. This can take a lot of time to do, so you want to start this fall. If it is a no till site, it needs to be sprayed multiple times and mowed.
- ◆ Mark your rows. If the rows aren't marked, we don't know exactly where to put the trees! Even though we have met on site and discussed the plan for a while, without the rows being marked we have to make a guess on site where to put them, and that might end up with them not being exactly where you had imagined. In addition, we have to take the time to mark the rows so we know where each one will be, and there will be an extra charge if we have to do that on site.

The importance of the preparation for tree rows should not be underestimated. Even the best plans with the best trees can be hindered if the site is poorly prepared.

**If you have any questions with any of these steps, please contact Chet, our District Technician, at 701-667-1163 ext. 3.**



## District Conservationist in the Mandan NRCS/SCD Office



Val Hartman has made a permanent move to the Mandan Field Office and is now our District Conservationist here. During her time here over the past year Val found a good fit with the staff and producers in Morton County. Val comes to us from the Center Field Office where she served as the District Conservationist there for 3 years. Prior to that Val worked in the NRCS office in Carson for 20 years before moving on to Devils Lake & Fargo in the engineering field. Val is happy to be back “out west” working with producers on their conservation needs. If you would like to visit with Val please stop in the office or give her a call.

## Morton County Soil Conservation District Secretary

Hello my name is Valerie Frohlich and I am the new Morton County District Secretary. I am the second Val in the office. ☺

I live in Mandan, however I grew up on our family farm by St. Anthony. I have two girls, Madison-13 and Gabriele-10.

I am excited to start my new adventure with the district.



## Farm Bill Specialist



My name is Zach Compson and I am the Farm Bill Specialist located in Mandan ND. I am serving Morton, Burleigh, and Kidder counties. I was hired by the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts in August 2018.

I grew up in Jamestown, ND and graduated high school in 2011. After high school I continued my education at Valley City State University, where I earned my Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences and Biology and graduated in December 2015. I started my career in natural resources in 2010 working for the U.S Fish and Wildlife Services as a Youth Conservation Corps member. I continued working for the USFWS for three more summers as a biological science aid at Arrowood NWR and J. Clark Salyer NWR. Then went to work for the ND Game and Fish Department for two summers in Jamestown, ND. Once I graduated college I moved to Devils Lake, ND and worked for the NDGF for two years as a temporary wildlife technician. After my two years in Devils Lake I moved to South Dakota where I was hired on as a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist with Pheasants Forever, before coming back to North Dakota to work for the NDASCD. I’m an avid outdoorsman and spend my free time hunting and fishing. I look forward to continuing my career with NDASCD as the Farm Bill Specialist and working with land-owners and producers by promoting conservation practices.

## WORK SHOPS

*Morton County and Burleigh County have teamed up for the following work shops.*

*If you are interested in either of these work shops and would like to attend, you can do so by registering in one of two ways.*

*You can call Cindy at 701-250-4518 ext. 3 or you can email her at [Lucinda.makedonski@nd.nacdnet.net](mailto:Lucinda.makedonski@nd.nacdnet.net).*

### *Regenerating Soil with Diversity*

November 7 & 8, 2018.  
National Center for Excellence—BSC  
1200 Schafer Street—Bismarck, ND

We have 14 speakers slated for this 2-day event that includes

- 3 researchers
- Editors of “Beef Producer” and “Dakota Farmer”
- 9 farmers from around ND, the USA and Canada

This 2-day event will be filled with information for all who attend with topics revolving around using crop rotations, cover crops, livestock and technology to improve soil health and profitability on your farm.

For more information/details visit the Burleigh County website at [bscd.com](http://bscd.com).

## Conservation Assistance 2019

If you are interested in financial/technical assistance from our office to install conservation practices in 2019, contact our office at 701-667-1163 Ext. 3. We would need to schedule a field visit yet this fall. Funding is dependent upon having your name on an application and a plan in place to determine eligibility. Potential funded practices include but are not limited to:  
\*water developments \* cover crops \* grass plantings \* grazing systems \* tree planting and renovation.



- \* The first Jack O'Lanterns were actually made from turnips and potatoes

- \* The heaviest pumpkin weighs **2,624.6 lb.**, was grown by Mathias Willemijns (Belgium).
- \* Comedian John Evans once quipped: “What do you get if you divide the circumference of a jack-o-lantern by its diameter? Pumpkin  $\pi$ .”
- \* If you see a spider on this night, it could be the spirit of a dead loved one who is watching you.

#### **SUPERVISORS:**

TED BECKER  
RICHARD TOKACH  
ROCKY BATEMAN  
AARON STECKLER  
TRAVIS WOLF

#### **ADVISORY SUPERVISORS:**

DUANE OLSEN  
DON TANAKA  
TRAVIS ROSSOW

#### **DISTRICT PERSONNEL:**

BRANDON SCHAFER  
CHET ZAPZALKA  
VALERIE FROHLICH

#### **NRCS PERSONNEL:**

VAL HARTMAN  
DANELLE HOFF  
PAULA KVERNUM  
SHARON POTTS-SAYLER

#### **FARM BILL SPECIALIST:**

ZACH COMPSO

## *Farming and Ranching for the Bottom Line*

February 26 & 27, 2019  
BSC National Center for Excellence

#### **FEATURED TOPICS:**

- ◆ Cover Crops
- ◆ Weather Crystal Ball
- ◆ Bale Grazing
- ◆ Area IV Farm Research
- ◆ Food and Flavor
- ◆ The Banker's Perspective
- ◆ Farm Couples Panel

#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**

- ◆ Temple Grandin
- ◆ Mark Schatzker
- ◆ Greg Judy



Morton County Soil Conservation District  
2540 Overlook Lane  
Mandan, ND 58554-1593  
[www.mcsd.com](http://www.mcsd.com)  
Phone: 701-667-1163 ext. 3

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*All Programs and Services of the Soil Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, age, or handicap.*



## Sponsors

**The Morton County Soil Conservation District would like to thank the following sponsors:**

Agassiz Seed & Supply—Mandan, ND  
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West River Telecommunication  
Opp Well Drilling  
PJ'S Farm Supply Inc.  
Prairie Nutrition Center  
Capital Credit Union  
RDO Equipment Co.

## Upcoming Events

### November

7th-8th -Soil Health Summit @ National Center of Excellence, BSC  
SCD Board Meeting @ TBD  
12th—Veteran's Day Holiday—Office Closed  
18th-20st—NDASCD Annual Convention @ Ramkota in Bismarck  
22rd—Thanksgiving Day Holiday—Office Closed

### December

25th—Christmas Day Holiday—Office Closed  
SCD Board Meeting @ TBD

### January

1st—New Year's Day Holiday—Office Closed  
SCD Board Meeting @ TBD  
15th—Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday Holiday—Office Closed

*"Our deep respect for the land and its harvest is the legacy of generations of farmers who put food on our tables, preserved our landscape, and inspired us with a powerful work ethic. James H. Douglas*