



Summer/Fall 2020

Volume 25, No 3

## Morton County Soil Conservation District updated the tree shed sign with new paint.



### Tree Crew



LtoR -Bryce Peters, Annette Graner, Olin Halstengard

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#### Upcoming Board Meetings:

July 9th, 2020  
 August 13th, 2020  
 September 10th, 2020

Check our Facebook page and website for place and times.

Office Closed July 3rd, 2020



## 2020 TREE PLANTING

Morton County Soil Conservation District has completed their tree plantings for 2020. The tree crew planted over 100,000 feet of trees throughout Morton County in the month of May. They laid fabric on almost all of those plantings as well.

If you are interested in having a tree planting done, contact the office to set up a visit. We can design your planting and help you choose the best trees for your soil. We may also be able to find a program to help fund some of your planting.

If you have questions about planting trees at your place or if you would like the MCSCD to plant trees for you, call the office at 701-667-1163 Ext #3 and ask for Ryan.



Tree Crew Planting Trees



Tree Crew Laying Fabric

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We can learn a lot from trees: they're always grounded but never stop reaching heavenward." – Everett Mamor



# 15" Spring Wheat

**What:** 15-Inch Spring Wheat

**Where:** Menoken Farm-Burleigh County Soil Conservation District

**When:** May 2020

**Why:** Providing crop diversity with a biennial cover crop.



Photo courtesy from BCSCD

Rethinking spring wheat production in the Northern Plains. A broadleaf biennial cover crop, such as sweet clover, provides plant diversity and a green seedbed. A liquid bioinoculant is applied directly into the seed trench with the organic spring wheat seed. Early cover crop termination in dry years and later termination in wet years.

## AMERICAN LINDEN

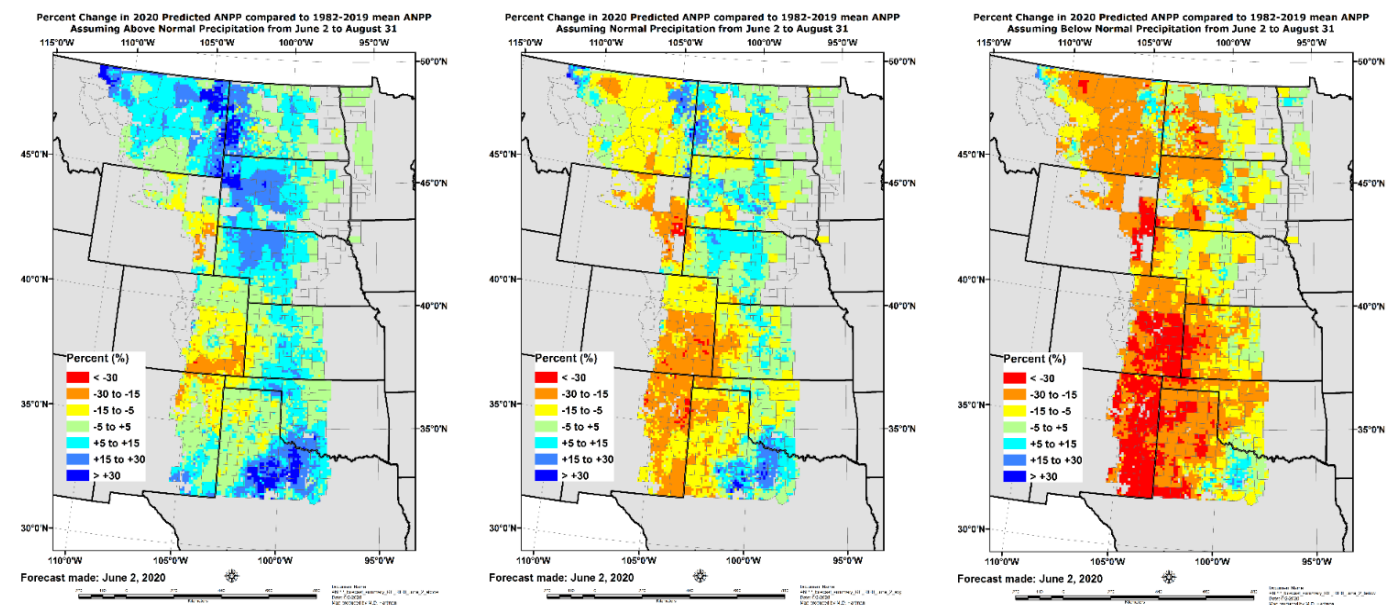
### American Linden

(*Tilia Americana*) is a large native deciduous tree. Also known as Basswood, the Linden is fond of water. They are most often found in eastern North Dakota in river bottom forests. It will grow in shade but prefers full light. Because of their love of water, drought can be very tough on Linden. The leaves are large and beautiful, shaped like a heart with serrated edges. The leaves can be as large as 5 1/2" long by 3" wide. In the spring, small beautiful white aromatic flowers bloom. Bees that produce honey from Linden flowers can be extra sweet. The flowers develop into pea-sized pods that are eagerly eaten by birds, squirrels, and even fish, when they drop into a river. American Linden is a stately, lovely native tree that looks good in a tree row, wildlife planting, or as an ornamental tree.



# Drought Management Tools

This last week with high temperatures and high wind speeds, we could just about watch the grass turn brown. Since we can't do anything about the weather, we need to effectively manage what we can and use tools available to us. One of the newest tools is called Grass-Cast that takes 38 years of historical weather and production data along with long range forecasts from NOAA to estimate production for the upcoming grazing season. Grass-Cast will give three scenarios of a below average rainfall scenario, average rainfall scenario, and above average rainfall scenario. The initial forecast is done at the beginning of May and then every two weeks it is updated as the grazing season progresses. Each forecast becomes more accurate as forecasted weather data is replaced with actual data. Below is an example of what the maps look like. A much more detailed explanation on how the maps are created along with historical production and climate data can be found at: <https://grasscast.unl.edu/>



The Drought Monitor is a tool that is probably more familiar to most. As of 6/16/2020 abnormally dry conditions have now spread east of the river and a large portion of western North Dakota has moved into the moderate drought category. Detailed maps comparing drought conditions from week to week as well as throughout the growing season along with detailed summary reports for geographical regions of the U.S. can be found at: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Another great resource is the publication put out by North Dakota State University “Strategies for Managing Drought in the Northern Plains” it covers in great detail drought monitoring strategies, management preparation for drought, herd management, past and future stocking rate considerations, developing a drought management plan, and critical evaluation dates with management decisions that should be made at certain points in the growing season. One thing to consider is most plant growth in the Northern Great Plains occurs in June. If drought conditions have occurred in May and continue into June, forage production will be reduced dramatically for the season, regardless of the amount of moisture received after June 30<sup>th</sup>. Serious consideration should be given to stocking rate reductions and herd management. View the whole publication at: <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/livestock/strategies-for-managing-drought-in-the-northern-plains/r1819.pdf>



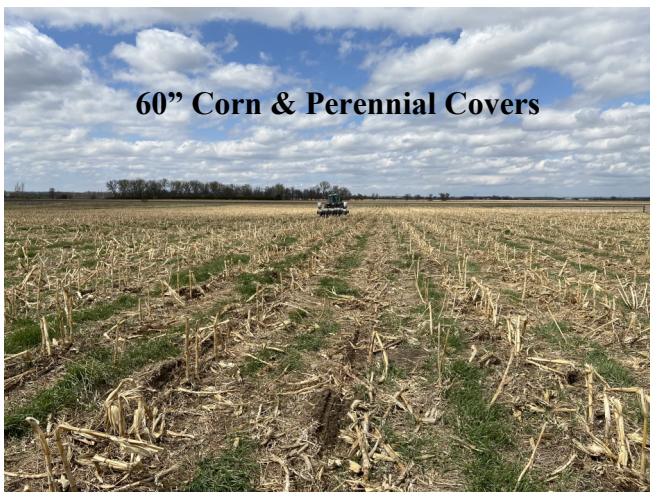
# WELCOME BRYCE

Hi my name is Bryce Peters and I am the Morton County Soil Conservation's 2020 Intern for the summer.

I am a local Mandan resident. I recently graduated from the University of Mary where I got my bachelor's degree in biology with a concentration in wildlife conservation.

In my spare time I enjoy hunting, fishing, and helping out on my uncle's farm.

I applied for this internship to broaden my horizons and experience different fields of work.



## Crops Cows & Covers

Morton County SCD is partnering with the Burleigh County SCD for the second annual workshop on Crops Cows & Cover. This event will be taking place July 22nd, 2020.

Watch the website and Facebook for more details as they are available.

## LADY'S AG NIGHT MARCH 2021

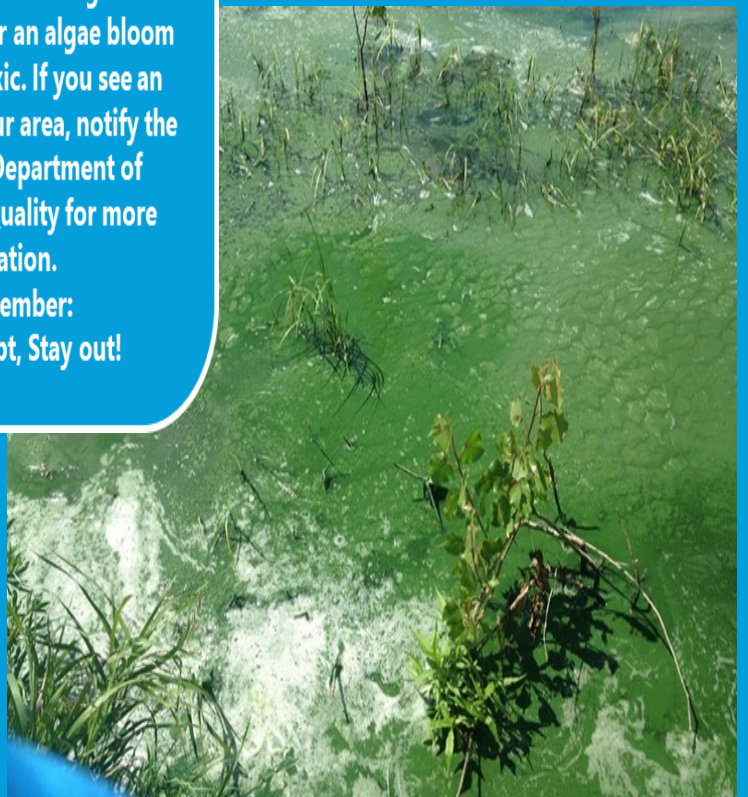
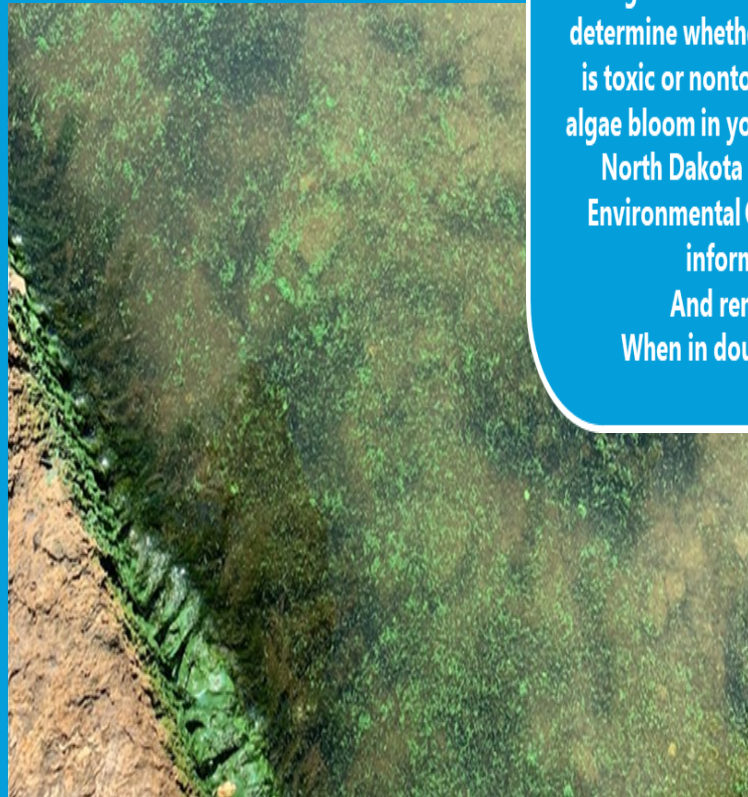
**If you have any suggestions of topics or speakers you would like to hear let us know by emailing your suggestions to [valerie.frohlich@usda.gov](mailto:valerie.frohlich@usda.gov)**

**\*\*A snail can sleep for three years**

**\*\*Rubbing a banana peel on mosquito bites can help stop the itching**

**\*\*Honey is the only food that included all the substances necessary to sustain life, including enzymes, minerals, water and vitamins.**





Can you tell if these algae blooms contain toxins that are harmful to animals?

Sight alone is not enough to determine whether an algae bloom is toxic or nontoxic. If you see an algae bloom in your area, notify the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality for more information.

And remember:  
When in doubt, Stay out!

NORTH  
**Dakota**  
Be Legendary.™

Environmental  
Quality

Division of Water Quality  
701-328-5210 [www.deq.nd.gov](http://www.deq.nd.gov)



# Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) for Ranchers and Pet Owners

Blue-green algae are simple plants that exist naturally in water and wet environments. They prefer warm, stagnant, nutrient-rich water and are found most often in ponds, lakes, and slow moving rivers.

- Dugouts, wetlands and lakes contaminated with fertilizer run-off or direct manure and urine contamination are prime places for algae to thrive.
- During periods of hot and dry conditions, rapid growth of blue-green algae may result in a “bloom”. A bloom is a build-up of algae that creates a green, blue-green or white coloring on the surface of the water.
  - \*Sometimes occurring as mats or scum.
  - \*It may look like a floating layer of paint.
- Windy conditions can concentrate algal blooms along water edges, increasing the risk for livestock to ingest algae when they drink.

The most common species of blue-green algae in North Dakota associated with poisoning are *Microcystis*, *Anabaena* and *Aphanizomenon*.

- *Microcystis* is the most common bloom-forming genus, and is often toxic.
  - \**Microcystis* blooms are a greenish, thick, paint-like (sometimes granular) material that accumulates along shores.
  - \*Scums that dry on the shores of lakes may contain high concentrations of microcystin toxin for several months, allowing toxins to dissolve in the water even when the cells are no longer alive or after a recently collapsed bloom.
- *Anabaena* may form slimy summer blooms on the surface of lakes and reservoirs.
- *Aphanizomenon* look similar to grass clippings and are slender, straight filaments that can be observed separately or in clumps.

Blue-green algae toxins are released when algal cells are damaged and die in the water. This can occur when water is treated with an algaecide such as copper sulfate or when ingested water reaches the animal’s digestive tract and algal cells are disrupted, releasing the toxins. Pets and livestock are most at risk when drinking contaminated water or cleaning algae from fur/hair coat. Most animals exposed to blue-green algae toxins die acutely and are often found dead very near the water source.

## Symptoms

- Some algae produce potent neurotoxins (toxins that affect the nervous system) that cause:
  - \*Muscle tremors, difficulty breathing, seizures, profuse slobbering, diarrhea, and rapid death within minutes to hours.
- Other algae can produce hepatotoxins (toxins that affect the liver) that can cause:
  - \*Death quickly or a more delayed onset of death after signs of liver failure develop.
  - \*Photosensitization, a skin condition causing white (light or non-pigmented) areas of skin to peel, can occur in animals that survive the acute stages of liver damage.

## Treatment

- The only treatment is supportive care and medications to alleviate the symptoms.



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Phone: 701-667-1163 ext. 3

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

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West River Telecomm  
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## Upcoming Events

### August

13<sup>th</sup>—SCD Board Meeting -USDA Service Center, Mandan

### September

7<sup>th</sup> — Labor Day—Office Closed

10<sup>th</sup> --SCD Board Meeting -USDA Service Center, Mandan

### October

8<sup>th</sup> —SCD Board Meeting -USDA Service Center, Mandan

12<sup>th</sup> — Columbus Day — Office Closed

“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.  
The second best time is now.” —  
Chinese Proverb