

Now is the Time to Think TREES!

The Missouri Department of Conservation tree seedling ordering period is just around the corner. Mid –November is the traditional time frame the public can begin placing orders. Forms can be obtained from any MDC office, the Natural Resource Conservation Service County office or by going to the Missouri Department of Conservation Public Website and should be available the first of November.

Seedlings are grown at the Department's George O. White state forest nursery near Licking, MO. Seedlings are bareroot stock, one, two or three years old, depending on species, available in single species bundles of 25 seedlings, and for use in Missouri. Seedling *sizes* vary greatly depending on species, but the majority are very hearty. A large variety is offered for reforestation projects, windbreaks, erosion control and wildlife food and cover. Seedling bundles are very affordable ranging from \$7 -\$14 per bundle. Sales tax and shipping and handling apply. Nursery stock is for private use only and cannot be resold.

For areas where a variety of seedlings are needed, in smaller quantities, five special bundles are available. The Pecan Variety Bundle offers landowners four different pecan varieties. The Conservation Bundle is recommended for people who want to add a mix of trees and shrubs to their property. The Wildlife Cover Bundle will improve habitat and food sources for a num-

ber of Missouri wildlife species. The Extra-Large Nut Tree Bundle is made up of pecan and walnut that are larger than our normal stock size. The Quail Cover Bundle provides plants for quail food and cover. The contents of these special bundles are preselected by the nursery, and no substitutes can be made.

These special bundles range in price from \$13 - \$24.

If your order is for a CRP planting please indicate so as the nursery tires to place priority on these orders. Payment does not need to be submitted at the time of order. You will be billed later in case one of the species you ordered is sold out.

You will be notified by postcard approximately one week before the date your order will be shipped or is available for pickup at the nursery. Most shipped orders arrive within 48 hours of leaving the nursery; however, this cannot be guaranteed. All trees will be shipped by mid - May, unless other arrangements have been made.

If you are new to planting trees and shrubs there are several resources available. The Department of Conservation has planting bars available for loan free of charge. For quantities greater than 1000, tractor mounted three point planting machines are available. The Department and University Extension also have several publications providing details or you can always contact your local MDC Resource Forester or Private Land Conservationist for guidelines.

Conservation Stewardship Program

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by: Undertaking additional conservation activities, and Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

CSP is available to Tribal and private agriculture lands in all 50 states and the Caribbean and Pacific Islands Areas.

To be eligible to participate in CSP, applicants must: Demonstrate that they are meeting the stewardship threshold for at least one resource concern; and Address at least one additional priority resource concern by the end of the conservation stewardship contract.

The program will enroll an additional 12.7 million acres for each fiscal year from 2009- 2017. Acreage will be allocated based primarily on each States's or Area's proportion of eligible acres to the total number of all eligible acres. In addition to private agricultural land, up to 10 percent of the enrolled acreage may be non-industrial private forest land.

Applications will be ranked based on national, state, and local criteria. Contracts will cover the entire ag operation of a producer and will be for 5 years.

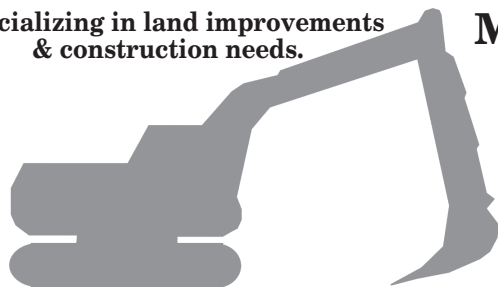
CSP payments will compensate producers for: Installing and adopting additional conservation activities: Improving, maintaining, and managing conservation activities in place at the time the contract offer is accepted; adopting resource conserving crop rotations to achieve beneficial crop rotations; engaging in activities related to on farm conservation research and demonstration activities, and pilot testing of new technologies or innovative conservation practices.

CSP payments to an individual or legal entity may not exceed \$200,000 for the 5 year contract period, so \$40,000 is the maximum payment per year.

The sign up for the CSP program is ongoing. If you are interested in this program please contact your local USDA, NRCS office.

PHILLIPS CONSTRUCTION

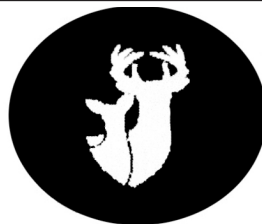
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