

Planting for the Future

Native plant, tree seedlings available from conservation districts

Resolve this year to make the world a little better—the air a little cleaner, a bit more habitat for birds and butterflies, some extra shade or beauty on the property.

Sound like a tall order? You can accomplish all that by simply planting native trees and shrubs.

Some people appreciate native plants and trees for being adapted to local conditions and not needing much special care. Others appreciate that they are as much a part of the landscape as rivers and clouds, or because they sustain birds and wildlife. Some see native trees as natural wealth, or as simply beautiful.

Whatever the reason, now is a good time to prepare for an early spring planting.

Every year, Underwood Conservation District offers low-cost tree and shrub seedlings to residents in the Columbia Gorge. They come ready to plant as 1- to 3-year-old, bare-root or plug seedlings.

The annual tree sale is one way conservation districts encourage the restoration of natural habitats and promote native species. The goal is to provide a convenient, low-cost way for property owners in Klickitat and Skamania counties to obtain these trees and shrubs.

For residents east of the Klickitat River, the Eastern and Central Klickitat conservation districts will accept orders until Friday, March 4. Seedling pick-up is Saturday, March 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. downstairs at the Goldendale Grange Hall.

A catalog with ordering information and a list of the available species is available online at <http://ekcd.org> and <http://ckcd.org>, or can be mailed upon request. The conservation districts accept debit and credit card

payments or checks.

For more information and to order, contact Mindy at (509) 773-5823, ext. 5, or email cdooffice@gorge.net.

Underwood Conservation District, for residents on the west side of the Klickitat River, is accepting orders for native conifers, deciduous trees and shrubs, and native wildflower and grass seed mixes for its annual tree sale. Orders are accepted until Monday, February 29. Seedling pick up is Friday, March 18, and Saturday, March 19, in the White Salmon area.

To view available species and to order online using your credit or debit card, visit the UCD website at www.ucdwa.org

The website has information about the benefits of native plants, how to choose what to plant and additional resource links. Prices vary depending on species, but most seedlings cost about \$1.50 each. Significant discounts are available for orders of 400 trees or more of the same species.

In celebration of its 75 years of service to local people, the Underwood Conservation District is making a special offer: visitors can buy a Douglas fir seedling for \$30, to be planted by UCD with a placard in commemoration. Trees may be dedicated to individuals, families or other groups who have deep roots in the Columbia Gorge. These commemorative trees may last for decades, even centuries, and offer a beautiful living monument.

Have questions or need help ordering? Contact UCD staff at (509) 493-1936, or stop by the office at 170 Northwest Lincoln St. in White Salmon. ■

