

Conservation District Offers Native Plants

Native plant and tree seedlings are now available

Our property can provide us many things: A roof over our heads, privacy, beauty, even food and water. In other words, shelter and a place to rest.

What if your property provided these things for other living things, too?

It can if you plant native trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses. The more diverse, the better.

Animals get their energy from plants, or by eating something else that has, points out biologist and author Douglas Tallamy in “Bringing Nature Home.” His research suggests that non-native ornamental plants, while useful to some species, support an average of 29 times less biodiversity than native species.

There is something everyone can do at all scales—from the backyard to the back 40, from a stand of flowering shrubs to a wild hedgerow to a diverse woodlot.

In support of such efforts, soil and water conservation districts around the Northwest offer advice and, for larger efforts, financial support.

Locally, your conservation districts have launched their annual native plant sale for residents of Skamania and Klickitat counties.

To see available species of trees, shrubs and native grass-and-flower seed mixes, and to order online, visit the Underwood Conservation District website at www.ucdwa.org. Orders are accepted until February 28.

Residents east of Klickitat River should use the Eastern or Central Klickitat Conservation District sites at www.ckcd.org or www.ekcd.org. They accept orders until March 3. A catalog with ordering information and a list of the available species is available online or can be mailed upon request.

The conservation district websites also have information about the benefits of native plants, how to choose the best plant and additional resources.

Prices vary depending on species, but most seedlings cost about \$1.50 each. They come ready to plant as 1- to 3-year-old bare-root or plug seedlings. There are significant discounts for orders of 400 or more trees of the same species.

For Eastern and Central Klickitat Conservation Districts, the seedling pickup is Saturday, March 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. downstairs at Goldendale Grange Hall, 228 E. Darland.

For Underwood Conservation District, the seedling pickup is Saturday, March 18, at Rhinegarten Park (Lincoln and Main streets, White Salmon). This corresponds with UCD’s first



A Western red cedar sapling grows near a stream in the Columbia Gorge. For a red cedar, a streambank often is a preferred location, highlighting the need to plant the right trees in the right place. Conservation District staff welcomes questions about what might be appropriate plants on your property.

“TreeFest,” featuring same-day plant seedling sales for people who want only a few—or last-minute—seedlings. Additionally, there will be booths, food and other activities for landowners, homeowners and families. Mark your calendar for TreeFest on March 18.

The annual tree sale is one way UCD and other conservation districts encourage restoration of natural habitats and promote native species. The goal of this not-for-profit sale is to provide a convenient, low-cost way for property owners in Skamania and Klickitat counties to get these trees and shrubs.

Have questions or need help ordering? Contact UCD staff at (509) 493-1936, stop by the UCD office at 170 NW Lincoln in White Salmon, or contact the E/CKCD staff at (509) 773-5823, ext. 5, by email at cdooffice@ckcd.org or stop by the office at 1107 S. Columbus Ave. in Goldendale. ■