



Professionals from Underwood Conservation District can recommend the best-growing plants for those looking to add variety to their property.

Conservation District Offers Native Plants

Imagine making your mark on the world, and that it will last for 500 years. If your mark is made in trees, it just might. A mature Douglas fir or western red cedar can top that, sometimes by a few centuries. Even a short-lived tree is measured in multiple human generations.

Of course, their benefits to people begin much sooner. Within a few years, a tree or flowering shrub can increase property values, start regrowing a logged forest parcel or provide a home to birds and butterflies.

These are all good reasons to plant, and all reasons that conservation districts around the Northwest hold native tree sales. Underwood Conservation District serves residents of western Klickitat and Skamania counties. Its annual tree sale is on now.

UCD accepts orders online now through February 28, 2019. Ordering is as easy as going to the agency's website at www.ucdwa.org and clicking "Shop Native Plants" from the menu along the top. You can pay with a credit or debit card.

The website has information about the benefits of native plants, how to choose what to plant and resource links.

Call the office at 509-493-1936 or stop by during regular business hours at 170 NW Lincoln in White Salmon to talk in person.

Seedlings are generally 2 years old, ready to plant and sell in bundles of 10. There is a variety to select from so people can

match the right plant to the right place in the greater Columbia Gorge. A cleared acre in Snowden might want Douglas fir and ponderosa pine, while a rainy ravine in Carson would be perfect for a western red cedar. Also consider numerous native flowering shrubs such as blue elderberry and mock-orange.

Prices vary depending on species. Shrub and deciduous tree seedlings are \$2.50 each. Conifer tree seedlings start at \$1.50. There are significant discounts for large orders—40 bundles or more—of conifer trees, such Douglas fir and ponderosa pine. Quantities are limited, so order early for best selection.

For those who want fewer plants, individual seedlings are available at UCD's third annual TreeFest and fair in White Salmon on Saturday, March 16. TreeFest will also be seedling pick-up for those ordering larger quantities online.

UCD serves Washington residents of the greater Columbia Gorge and Mount Adams country enhance, repair and wisely use their natural resources. Conservation District technicians help residents reduce wildfire hazards to their rural homes, offer advice and program assistance for small farms and family forests, and support healthy streams and fish populations. The state's 47 conservation districts are non-regulatory and work with landowners on a voluntary basis. ■

For more information, go to Underwood Conservation District's website at www.ucdwa.org.