

# Nebraska Forest Service Ends Tree Distribution Program



Seventy-six years of history came to an end this past spring when the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) decided to end the "tree distribution" program. The first distribution of seedlings came in 1926 under the old congressional authority of the Clarke-McNary act of 1924. The total number of trees distributed the first year was 33,900. By 1934, the program was distributing over a million seedlings a year for conservation purposes. The peak

years were the late 70's and early 80's when over three million seedlings were distributed annually. Though the Nebraska Forest Service will not be operating a tree distribution program, the professional foresters will continue to be available to landowners, NRD's, and other government agencies in Nebraska.

Since conservation tree and shrub planting remains a high-priority need across Nebraska,

the Natural Resources Districts (NRD) managers have formed a committee to develop options for the 23 NRD's. One option is to develop a working relationship directly with the United States Forest Service and purchase seedling from the Bessey Nursery in Halsey.

Though many details have yet to be determined and there are many unknowns at this time, most Natural Resources Districts intend to have tree planting programs available for the spring of 2002. (DJ)

## Livestock Buildings



Consider several factors when choosing a building for your livestock.

Selecting a building that is right for your farm livestock should include meeting all your personal needs in addition to your livestock's needs. Providing adequate housing for your animals, including proper ventilation and space, is essential and will ensure they are getting the housing they need to remain healthy and productive.

There are several factors you must consider when choosing the building that is right for you. First, you must consider what you intend to use the building for, whether it be a farrowing barn or a stable to keep a few horses. The animal species will greatly affect the number of animals you can house in the facility. Each animal should have an adequate

amount of resting space to make sure it is comfortable, an adequate amount of feed access, and free access to clean, fresh water.

Ventilation and air quality are also critical when planning livestock housing. Many facilities may require ventilation fans to move an adequate amount of air within the facility. It is very

critical you do not overlook the ventilation factor as animals residing in a poorly ventilated area will be at greater risk of sickness and disease.

Special architectural requirements for the building, such as wider doors to get large equipment through, should also be considered for your livestock building.

Determine how you will clean livestock waste from the facility before it is built.

Finally, when you are selecting a building, you must decide where you want to locate it and if you are planning any major site renovations in the next few years. This could make a big impact on any future projects you have planned. (DJ)

## Water Quickies for September

Water-saving showers use about 2.5 gallons per minute at a water pressure of 80 pounds per square inch, compared to traditional showers that use up to 10 gallons per minute. Water pressure can affect water flow. With low water pressure, select a low-flow shower head that delivers the water needed at low pressure. Some showers have special controls to reduce sudden bursts of hot water that may occur when other water using appliances are turned on.

Demand-initiated water softening equipment regenerate soft water in response to the demand for treated water rather than on a set timed schedule. The need for regeneration is determined by measuring gallons

of water used, or by measuring the change in electrical conductivity of the resin bed, or by sensing a change in water hardness. These units can save water by eliminating unnecessary regeneration cycles.

Making decisions about water and energy saving equipment means searching for consumer information, talking with the professionals, considering the existing water and appliance system and the household needs.

For more information on these devices, or additional ways to save water, ask for the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension NebFact NF97-338, "Making Decisions: Household Water Saving

Equipment and Practices," available at the extension office.

Visit websites such as WaterWiser by the American Water Works Association in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation at [www.waterwiser.org/frameset.cfm](http://www.waterwiser.org/frameset.cfm) or EPA's Energy Star® site at [www.epa.gov/appdstar/estar/prodnews.html](http://www.epa.gov/appdstar/estar/prodnews.html) or the Department of Energy's Energy and Appliances at [www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/buying\\_appliances.html](http://www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/buying_appliances.html).

Other sources include publications such as "Consumer Reports." Visit with your professional plumber about water saving ideas and your water system. (DJ)

## Fall Fertilizing is Best for Lawns

If fertilizing your lawn is a once-a-year chore, do it now as early fall is the best time to rejuvenate lawns. By mid-September, most lawn abilities to use nutrients peaks, and they're craving a "meal." Nitrogen helps grass develop a thicker stand and healthier root system, which increases its ability to withstand

pests and stress.

Lawns also benefit from a second application in October, which should be applied just before the last mowing. Add a third application in April or May. A well-developed root system is essential during the hottest, driest weeks of summer.

Many lawn owners can save

money on fertilizer by keeping grass clippings on the lawn after mowing. Clippings can cut a lawn's nitrogen needs by 25 percent each year, and may eliminate the need to apply phosphorus and potassium. If mowing frequently, don't remove more than a third of the turf's height each time. (DJ)

## Acreage Insights



## Fall Dandelion Treatment



Don't want to see these yellow flowers in spring? Spray them now.

To avoid yellow dandelions spoiling the beauty of your emerald-green lawn next summer, spray them now.

Mid-September through October is the best time to treat dandelions because they're actively growing and storing food for winter. At this stage, herbicide applications kill the top growth and the weed's deep tap root.

Spray dandelions with a liquid herbicide that contains MCP, dicamba, 2,4-D or a mixture of those chemicals. Check the label before purchasing or applying. Chemicals affect each type of grass differently, so make sure to use one suitable for the lawn. Combinations of fertilizer and broadleaf herbicide spray also are effective

for tall fescue or Kentucky bluegrass lawns.

The treatment will be more effective under these conditions:

- Dandelions must be actively growing. If necessary, water them for a week to encourage growth.
- Soil moisture should be plentiful because drought-stricken dandelions are less sensitive to sprays.
- Weeds shouldn't receive water for at least 24 hours after the application.
- Dandelions shouldn't be mowed for several days before or after treatment.
- Temperatures should be between 50 and 80 degrees F and wind speeds should be less than 5 mph. (DJ)

## There's Nothing Fishy About This Nebraska Grad's Work.



Deb Ohlinger doesn't fish, but she is a best friend to those who do. She is a civil engineer who is helping to restore Nebraska lakes—she got her feet wet on lake projects while completing her degree in biological systems engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Thanks to Deb's work, a few of Nebraska's lakes have less sediment in the water, better access to deeper waters and improved fish habitat.

Wagon Train Lake near Hickman and Summit Lake near Tekamah are two on her professional projects list, plus she's finishing a master's degree at NU to become even more of an expert on water and civil engineering.

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