

UINTA COUNTY Connection



Seedling Tree Program Takes on New Look for the 2023 Season

The Conservation District's seedling tree program has seen a rough couple of years. However, we hope to turn that around this year!

The Colorado State Forest Service Nursery has been providing us with seedling trees for the past 20+ years and we have appreciated working with them. Recently though, they informed us that they would not be selling any seedlings for the 2023 spring season due to some shortages. So, we did some searching and found a nursery out of Bismarck, North Dakota that also sales seedling trees and shrubs. The name of the nursery is the Lincoln-Oakes Nursery, and it is owned by the North Dakota Soil Conservation Districts.

The climate in Bismarck is similar to southwest Wyoming, maybe even a bit more harsh, so the seedlings that grow there, should be able to tolerate our area as well. Keep in mind though, that just because they are on the order form does not mean they will grow on your specific planting site. There are many other factors such as soil conditions, water availability, drainage, etc., that must be taken into consideration when deciding whether to plant a certain species. **(TREES, Pg 4)**

<p>Laurel willow</p> <p>Form: tree; dense, round crown; often grown as a shrub</p> <p>Size: small to medium; up to 25-35 ft high and wide</p> <p>Growth Rate: fast</p> <p>Exposure: full sun to partial shade</p> <p>Soil Conditions: performs best on moist deep loams; tolerates alkaline soils</p> <p>Cold Hardiness: high; USDA zone 3</p> <p>Drought Tolerance: fair</p> <p>Life Span: medium</p> <p>Elevation Range: up to 8,200 ft</p> <p>Possible Disease/Insects Problems: no serious disease problems; aphids</p> <p>Wildlife Value: high; used for food and cover for a wide range of wildlife</p> <p>Seasonal Color: leaves - dark green and glossy, leathery with a yellowish midrib, turning yellow in the fall, deciduous</p> <p>Wyoming Native: no</p> <p>Miscellaneous: Will do best in large open areas away from buildings and sidewalks. Best used as a shade tree, screen or windbreak.</p>	<p>Salix pentandra</p>  
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Tree descriptions on our website!

Bacteria and E. Coli in our water

Humans, water, and everything else on Earth is full of bacteria. Some bacteria are beneficial, some are not. *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria, found in the digestive tract of warm-blooded animals, can cause health problems and sickness in humans if the bacteria are ingested.

Bacteria are common, single-celled organisms and a natural component of lakes, rivers and streams. Most bacteria are harmless to humans, however, certain bacteria have the potential to cause sickness and disease in humans. E.coli are bacteria found in the environment, in foods, and in the intestines of people and animals. Most strains of E. coli are harmless; however, some can make you very sick.



Dirty irrigation water from a local livestock truck clean-out

E. coli in water is a strong indicator of sewage or animal waste contamination. Significant sources of fecal material to lakes and streams include wastewater discharge (sewage), stormwater runoff, and manure runoff. The fecal material in these sources comes from warm blooded animals including humans, pets, wildlife, and livestock.

In every state, water quality standards are set to limit exposure to pathogens in recreational waters. Several years ago, the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers were considered impaired by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality because the E.coli counts exceeded the state standard, impairing them for contact recreation use. In response to the impaired listings, the Uinta County Conservation District has been monitoring water quality in our local rivers for E. coli bacteria and other important parameters. UCCD has found E. coli present in our local waterways which can be a concern for anyone who may come into contact with that water. **(BACTERIA, Pg 3)**

How To Tell If Your Lawn Is Overwatered

By Grant Redden, Natural Resource Specialist

- Check the soil saturation. With a soil probe, I see how far I can go into wet soil. I recently plunged the probe about two feet deep and it was pretty wet all the way down- a sign that there was too much water.
- Look for water loving species. If Sedges and Rushes are showing up in your lawn, it's a sign that your soil is becoming favorable to wetland loving plants instead of grasses which prefer dry feet. On that same lawn, I found a healthy patch of Nebraska Sedge, a good sign that the soil was becoming a wetland.
- Dig up some soil and smell it. Does it smell like a bog or a pond? That's a sign that its getting anaerobic- too much water and beyond the growing conditions of most turf grasses.
- Sprinkler system cup test. Place little cups all over your lawn before the sprinkler system runs its course, and then see if you have a uniform spread. Most sprinkler systems will manage this by design- the problem I have seen has to do with soil complexity such as hard pans or clay layers. Or sometimes its just a low spot in the yard where the water settles. If the water can get to a low spot, it needs a way to get out. Otherwise, you start to get moisture problems and even salinity problems.
- If your water is drawn from a canal or a surface well, you may need to be extra diligent in making sure your soil is draining well. If the water cannot seep or drain through your soil, you could quickly have a salt build up. Salts are left behind when water evaporates. If you aren't watering enough and the water evaporates repeatedly from the surface, it can begin to leave a build up of salt in the soil. If you are watering enough but you have a drainage problem, the water will sit and evaporate off the top instead of seeping down into the soil, leaving increasingly higher levels of salts at the surface.
- All plants need just enough water. I have seen lawns stressed by not having enough water and lawns dying from too much moisture. Be aware of your soils and location: more sun and wind increases evaporation and can dry up a lawn quicker than expected. If an area is prone to wind and sun, try cutting the grass a little taller without a bag on the mower- this will place the cuttings between the grass blades on the soil, increasing soil shade and moisture retention. Of course, you may need to watch for aeration or thatch problems that can occur as well.



Nebraska Sedge

I'm sure these are just the beginning of the challenges you might face in growing a healthy lawn in our arid/cold climate, but hopefully these insights will help you overcome some of the more common problems that I've seen.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

The **Wyoming Collaborative for Healthy Soils (WCHS)** is a stakeholder process to engage the agriculture community in identifying ways to support the voluntary adoption of soil health practices.

Guided by a diverse Coordination Team*, WCHS will gain input from the agricultural community in various ways to develop a roadmap that will help advance and incentivize voluntary soil health practices, including 1) producer-focused listening sessions; 2) producer and agricultural professional surveys; and 3) working groups. Larger meetings ("Collaborative Meetings") will be held regularly to engage and solicit feedback from those unable to otherwise participate.

As a member of Wyoming's agricultural community, we value your input and invite you to help us gather information by taking this important Producer Survey. Scan the QR code or access the survey from our website. Complete the survey online or print it and bring it to us. Contact the Uinta County Conservation District for assistance.



**WYOMING
COLLABORATIVE
FOR HEALTHY SOILS**

COMPLETE THE PRODUCER SURVEY!



**SCAN QR CODE TO
COMPLETE ONLINE**

Visit www.groundupconsulting.us/wchs to learn more

*The **Coordination Team** includes agricultural producers, University of Wyoming soil scientists, Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Extension specialists, Central Wyoming College, and others.
WCHS is funded by the University of Wyoming.

Uinta County Rancher Highlighted in Video

Uinta County rancher, Shaun Sims, has been highlighted in a short video produced by the Public Lands Council, American Sheep Industry Association, & National Grazing Land Coalition.

"[Sims Ranch: Public Lands Ranching and the Legacy of Stewardship](#)" is available on YouTube. You can also access the video from our website.

Shaun Sims served on the Uinta County Conservation District Board of Supervisors for over 20 years.

Upon Shaun's resignation from the UCCD Board in 2021, the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Director, Doug Miyamoto, wrote:

"The Board would like to thank you for the service you have provided toward conservation and stewardship efforts in Wyoming. And for serving as the most influential producer/conservationist in Wyoming in a generation."

Thank you, Shaun, for all you continue to do in Uinta County and throughout Wyoming!

Lyman Intermediate School Bridger Lake 5th Grade Field Trip

Sixty-five fifth graders were excited to engage in learning in Mother Nature's Classroom during the annual field trip on September 29th. Students rotated through four stations as they learned about: Coniferous Forests & Tie Hacking, the Mountain Pine Beetle, Wyoming Predator & Prey Interactions, and Macroinvertebrate Species in the lake.

This field trip would not be possible without the interest and support of the Lyman Intermediate School teachers, principal, and bus drivers, as well as the help of experts from the U.S. Forest Service, Wyoming Game and Fish, and Uinta County Conservation District. We hope to continue providing this great outdoor experience to the students at LIS for many years to come!

For more information on educational opportunities, please visit us at www.uintacountycd.com.



(BACTERIA, from Pg 1)

How can you prevent E. coli from entering water sources near you?

As community members, we should all be aware of the natural resources we rely on every day, especially water, and take steps to ensure they are in good condition. Here are some things we can all do to prevent E. coli from contaminating the water we rely on:



- Clean up after your pets
- Make sure your sewer system is working properly, whether you are on town sewer or use a septic system
- Avoid cleaning out your livestock trailer, of any size, in or near running water
- Provide another source of water for pets and livestock so they don't have to access the stream directly to get a drink.
- Provide buffer strips that contain plenty of grass and other vegetation next to waterways to help filter out any contaminants before they enter the water.



These are just a few of the things we can do to prevent E.coli from entering our waterways. If you have a problem area and would like assistance repairing it, contact UCCD. There may be financial assistance available for certain types of projects. For more information or ideas on how to keep our water clean and safe, contact the Uinta County Conservation District or visit our website.

Uinta County Conservation District

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CHANGE OF SERVICE REQUESTED



PRSRRT STD
AUTO
U.S. Postage Paid
Lyman, WY
Permit No. 11

2023 REDBOOKS are in!

Stop by our
office to pick
yours up!



(TREES, from Pg 1)

Not to worry! We have tried to make it easier for you to decide which species is best for your planting site by providing details and descriptions of each species offered. Go to our website, click on the species you want to know more about, and you will see a more detailed description, including pictures.



Bareroot bundles

You will notice several different species to choose from, including some that have not been sold in previous years. We are excited to offer these new species for our area! Unfortunately, the Lincoln-Oakes Nursery does not offer evergreen seedlings, but we are currently working on finding some to add to the order form, so make sure you keep checking back for updates. The seedlings are sold in bundles of 25 bareroot plants and will arrive in early May. The deadline to order is April 23, 2023.

The Conservation District offers technical assistance and can help you with your planting design. You can also purchase weed barrier, fabric staples, and polymer from UCCD to assist with your planting. Order forms will be on our website at www.uintacountycd.com, or you can call or stop by the office to pick one up.

Check back often for species availability and any changes to the order form. Payment for seedlings must be received before they will be ordered from the nursery. Place your order early! As always, give us a call if you have any questions or concerns. We appreciate your patience as we try something new!

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