



West McLean SCD Spring 2019

TREE PLANTING SEASON



Tree planting season is just about here. According to Michael Kangas with North Dakota Forrest service "Soil temperatures should be above 42-45 degrees." The season begins when the weather conditions are in our favor and soil is dried up enough to allow planting equipment to sufficiently operate.

Reminder to all who have tree plantings this spring, please think about ground preparation and make time to get the ground ready. **Clumpy dirt or shallow tilled ground is not good ground prep. Good ground prep is soft dirt worked up 6-8 inches deep.**

For a guide on ground preparation go onto our website and look under Resources, or contact the office and we will get one to you.

WEST MCLEAN SCD BOARD MEETING DATES AND TIMES FOR 2019

April 11th	@ 8:30am
May 9th	@8:30am
June 13th	@ 8:30am
July 11th	@ 8:30am
August 8th	@ 8:30am
September 12th	@ 8:30am
October 10th	@ 8:30am
November 14th	@ 1:30pm
December 12th	@ 1:30pm

Meetings are held at the USDA Service Center and are open to the public.

Dates and times are subject to change.

If you wish to attend meetings and need assistance please call and make arrangements.

BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Retterath

Ed Hauf

Jay Hansen

Richard White Bear

Donald Bauman

DISTRICT STAFF AND NRCS

Corey Bittner– Manager/
Tech

Sheryl Krueger–Clerk

Ty Macheledt– NRCS
District Conservationist

Diane Krzmarzick– NRCS
Soil Conservationist Tech

John Mortenson– NRCS
Soil Conservationist

Contact your local NRCS office for more information regarding Client Gateway or any NRCS Programs

463-2851 Ext. 3



“Love the trees until their leaves fall off, then encourage them to try again next year” ~ Chad Sugg



TREE OF THE YEAR—AMERICAN ELM

Ulmus Americana

It's been awhile since we have had a “Tree of the Quarter” write up in the newsletter so what better choice then North Dakota's state tree for a “Tree of the Year” to make up for past newsletters.

The American Elm is a large vase shaped tree. It has a crown height of 45-65 feet and a crown width of 30 to 50 feet. It grows best in wet, well drained soils, but can adapt to a wide range of soil types. This tree is drought tolerant but prolonged stress from the lack of water can make the tree weak and exposed to pests.

Also called White elm the American elm is the largest species of elm. North Dakota adopted it to be the state tree in 1947. American elm could be found all over, used for windbreaks and very popular in urban areas.

Unfortunately due to Dutch elm disease American Elm is not recommended to be planted anymore. Dutch elm disease is spread by elm bark beetles.

Some may read this and think why is this the “Tree of the Year” if we can't plant this. It was chosen for 2 reasons. 1. It is our state tree. 2. It's a good reminder to all that we need some diversity in our plantings so if something came along and wiped out one species of trees we are not left with dead trees.



Elm bark beetles on an American elm

Our Water

Keeping it Clean

North Dakota Department of Health Environmental Health Section

What's Your Water Quality Impact?

By Jim Collins, Jr., Environmental Scientist, North Dakota Department of Health



Every day you make decisions that affect water quality.

- Should I toss this garbage out the car window?
- Is it time to fix that engine oil or hydraulic fluid leak?
- Should I mulch my lawn or use it for soil cover in the garden? Should I plant a cover crop?
- How close can I mow or cultivate to the water's edge?
- Should I test the soil before I fertilize the lawn or field?
- How do I properly dispose of or utilize pet and livestock waste?
- Do I use sand, salt or leftover fertilizer to melt the walkway ice?
- Should I flush this unused medicine down the drain?

Each day North Dakotans, both urban and rural, answer these questions. What are your answers?



Unfortunately, many people think, "It's just a little bit; it won't affect it that much." or "I'm a long way from the creek/lake."

However, in each instance the effects can lead to water quality problems such as harmful algal blooms, excess sedimentation, and health concerns for aquatic life, pets, livestock and humans.

To lessen your impact on water quality you can:

- Have a garbage bag in your car and empty each time you visit a fuel station.
- If you find a fluid leak fix it promptly.
- Use lawn clippings as a soil amendment in your garden, or better yet leave them on the lawn. Clippings are an excellent source of nitrogen for the lawn and cheaper than fertilizer.
- Plant cover crops to keep bare soil at a minimum, saving soil and nutrients.
- Leave a buffer around streams and lakes to filter runoff.
- Always do a soil test to find out if fertilizers are needed.
- Pick up your pet waste and dispose of it in the trash or compost it. Livestock waste should be utilized as part of a nutrient management plan.
- Never use fertilizer to melt ice, and use salt sparingly. Sand should be applied then swept up in the spring and can be reused.
- Dispose of leftover pharmaceuticals properly.

Every year, staff from the Watershed Management Program samples streams, rivers and lakes across the state to assess their water quality. The program also partners with interested soil conservation districts to monitor local waterbodies to determine if restoration activities are needed.

For more information about the health of the state's waters, check out the *Integrated Section 305(b) Water Quality Assessment Report and Section 303(d) List of Waters Needing Total Maximum Daily Loads*. Every two years the department publishes this report and makes it available to the public. The current document may be found at www.tinyurl.com/NDIntRep.

North Dakota Department of Health
Environmental Health Section
Gold Seal Center, 4th Floor
918 East Divided Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947
701-328-5150
www.deq.nd.gov

WEST MCLEAN SCD

Check us out online @
westmcleanscd.com and give us
a LIKE on Facebook– West
McLean Soil Conservation
District

If you would like to receive our
quarterly newsletters online
please contact the office or send
us an email.

All Programs and Services of the
Soil Conservation District are
offered on a nondiscriminatory
basis without regard to race,
color, national origin, religion,
sex, marital status, age or
handicap.

2019 NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

**Puklich Chevrolet, BHG Inc., RTC, Garrison
Vet Service, Agassiz Seed and Supply,
Jaeger Insurance Agency,
Max Farmers Elevator, CHS-Garrison,
Farmers Union Oil Co., Garrison State Bank
& Trust, S&J Hardware, Sakakawea
Chapter of Pheasants Forever**

If you would like to be a Sponsor for 2019 please contact the office.

*“The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn”
~Ralph Waldo Emerson*

West McLean SCD
140 5th AVE SW
Garrison ND, 5840

Phone: 701-463-2857 Ext.3
E-mail: westmcleanscd@restel.com
corey.bittner@nd.nacdn.net

NDSU EXTENSION
SERVICE

Contact your local agent, Calla Edwards, for any questions
you have about your Farm or Garden needs. Call the office at
462-8541 or email at calandria.jarboe@ndsu.edu



For information about getting habitat
established for pheasants or other wildlife, or to
see how you can support your local chapter call
Rod Stockdill, Sakakawea Chapter Habitat
Chairman (701) 337-6252