

Mini-Cassia Conservation Update



Volume # 2024.1

East Cassia, Minidoka, & West Cassia Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Soil District OFFICES

Burley Office Location

1361 East 16th Street
(In the USDA Service Center)
Burley, Idaho
Monday-Thursday 9:00-2:00
208-572-3375

Minidoka Office Location

85 East Baseline,
(In the McGregor Building)
Minidoka County Fairgrounds
Rupert, Idaho
Tuesday-Friday 9:00-2:00
208-436-4202

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

College Scholarships are being offered from all 3 Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Cassia and Minidoka Counties.

*East Cassia SWCD
Minidoka SWCD
West Cassia SWCD*



Students must be majoring in an Ag related field and have never received the award before.

Apply for the scholarship in the county where you live.

Scholarship applications are available on our website at:

www.minicassiaswcd.com

Click on the scholarship links on the homepage or on the Educational Programs tab.

Order Your SEEDLINGS Before They are GONE!

Plant a row of trees or shrubs this Spring. **Trees and shrubs make a beautiful natural windbreak and they protect your home or property from the wind.**

Here's how:

- What is the best location for your windbreak or beautification project? Study it out.
- Measure the area, decide upon one row or a multiple row of trees and/or shrubs.
- Plan the distance between each tree/shrub and how to provide regular irrigation.
- Order your seedlings.

A combination of trees and shrubs make an excellent multiple row windbreak. A single row of shrubs make an excellent privacy hedge or beautification project down a lane or along a property line.

Helps for planting and instruction guides are available on our website. Information and ideas can also be found through an online search. **Seedling trees will arrive in late April so order now before they are sold out!** You will be contacted for exact pick up dates and times.

The Seedling Tree Sale is provided by the Cassia and Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Photos, descriptions, and **order forms** are available - online at: **www.minicassiaswcd.com** or by email to **minidokaswcd@gmail.com**.



Kathy Poulton Memorial Scholarship

A scholarship will be provided in memory of Kathy Poulton through generous donations from Soil Districts and Kathy's friends.

Kathy was active on the West Cassia SWCD board, serving as a Supervisor for 14 years and as the treasurer for the West Cassia board for 11 years. Kathy passed away on May 27, 2023. Kathy was active in many district projects including educational activities, tree sale distribution, the Land & Soil Evaluation Event, financial matters, and personnel support. She is missed. Applications for the **Kathy Poulton Memorial Scholarship** can be found on our website at **www.minicassiaswcd.com**.



District Board of Supervisors

East Cassia SWCD

Chairman..... Rob Cottle
 Vice-Chair..... Steve Ward
 Treasurer..... Ken Woodworth
 Member..... Hannah Sanders
 Member..... Kurt Heward
 Associate Member..... Mark Webb

West Cassia SWCD

Richard Kunau
 Jordan Searle
 Ken Black
 Chad Searle

Minidoka SWCD

Dusty Wilkins
 Reid Bowen
 Lance Lovell
 Luke Stevenson
 Jeff Schow

District Employees

Sharon Hardy.....Minidoka Administrative Assistant
 Rachele Osterhout.....Cassia Administrative Assistant
 Doreen McMurray.....Cassia Information & Education Specialist

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Burley 208-572-3377 / Rupert 208-436-4777

David Mabey.....District Conservationist
 Carolyn Firth.....ISWCC Ag Program Specialist
 Dinah Reaney.....Soil Conservationist
 John Erickson.....Natural Resource Specialist

CONTACT SWCD OFFICES:

Rupert SWCD Office 208-436-4202
Burley SWCD Office 208-572-3375

Minidoka email:
minidokaswcd@gmail.com
Cassia email: ewcswcd@gmail.com

Web page: www.minicassiaswcd.com

Spanish translation available upon request.

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Supervisors for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are landowners in Cassia and Minidoka Counties who volunteer their time. They are interested in farming issues and want to make a positive difference in their communities. Serving as a Supervisor is a great opportunity to learn how to improve your own operation as well as help to make a positive difference within your own community.

If you are interested in serving on the Soil & Water Conservation District Board in your county, contact a current board member or call one of the NRCS offices for information.

Monthly Board Meetings

East Cassia SWCD - 1st Tuesday of each month
West Cassia SWCD - 2nd Tuesday of each month
Minidoka SWCD - 2nd Wednesday of each month

Any changes to meeting schedules will be posted in our offices and on our website at www.minicassiaswcd.com.

NEWSLETTERS are available by e-mail

To receive this and future newsletters electronically, send your e-mail address to:
ewcswcd@gmail.com

Type "NEWSLETTER" in the subject box.

If you want your name removed from the newsletter mailing list, just let us know.



The "Conservation Update" is published 3 times a year by the East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation Districts and mailed to approximately 1,000 landowners, and sent by email to several hundred more. The distribution mailing list is maintained by the Information & Education Specialist in Burley, Idaho. Names may be added to or removed from the mailing list for the next publication by calling 208-572-3375.

East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation Districts are non-profit organizations. All programs and services of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

Seedling Tree Sale

Plant a windbreak, privacy hedge, or a beautification project

Visit our website for seedling varieties and planting tips
www.minicassiaswcd.com



NRCS Town Hall Informational Meeting

Growers attended an informational townhall meeting on January 30th hosted by the NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) in Cassia and Minidoka Counties. The Town Hall meeting was held in the McGregor Building at the Minidoka County Fairgrounds.

Attendees received information on programs for the NRCS, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Farm Service Agency, Pheasants Forever, and more. Lunch was sponsored by SoilTech and Helena companies. The NRCS hopes to make the Town Hall meeting a yearly event.



PIVOT TRACK FILLER

Pivot Track filler for rent from East Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District. For details, visit our website at www.minicassiaswcd.com or call 208-572-3375.



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RENT

Pivot
Track
Filler

East Cassia
Soil & Water
Conservation
District

CALL OUR
OFFICE FOR
DETAILS
208-572-3375

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www.minicassiaswcd.com

NO-TILL DRILLS - READY FOR SPRING PLANTING

Call to reserve a drill now. The drills are perfect for direct seeding into grain stubble or for no-till plantings of oats, barley, pasture mix, alfalfa, forage mix, orchard grass, crested wheat, or any blend of cover crops.

Contact the Soil & Water Conservation Districts to reserve and rent a drill.

Minidoka office: 208-436-4202

Cassia office: 208-572-3375

Info on our website: www.minicassiaswcd.com



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROJECT

Community Conservation Classes will be sponsored by the Mini-Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Classes are for everyone: Farmers, gardeners, landscapers, and anyone interested in conservation. A variety of topics will be covered over the life of the project. Check our website www.minicassiaswcd.com for details and class information.



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Here to build conservation in our communities.

Here to serve growers.

Here to help educate our youth about conservation.

Here to assist with soil & water conservation.

CUSTOM SEEDING

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No-till or One-pass Drilling
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Minidoka 208-438-4525
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www.rrelectric.com
155 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 617
Malta, ID 83342



Call Before You Dig
811

Rebates available for sprinkler
package upgrades

Thanks to our local
Soil and Water
Conservation
Districts

The safety of our members & employees is our top priority!
Contact us for any safety questions or to schedule a safety demo.

Thanks to our Advertisers

Their support makes this Newsletter possible.

Applications are now being taken to attend

NATURAL RESOURCE CAMP

For youth ages 12-16
June 17-22, 2024

For an Application go to:
www.uidaho.edu/extension/natural-resource-camp

It will be a week of learning and recreation in the beautiful Sawtooth Mountains of Central Idaho. Learn about wildlife, forestry, soils, rangeland, water, and enjoy outdoor sports and fun. **Scholarships available through your local soil conservation district.**



2024 Conservation Theme:

May The FOREST Be With You Always



The Conservation Theme is used for the high school speech contest and the 5th & 6th grade poster contests in the fall.

Details on our website at
www.minicassiaswcd.com

EAST CASSIA & WEST CASSIA
Soil and Water
Conservation Districts

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

- For students planning to attend college this fall
- Majoring in an Ag related field
- Soil Districts supporting agricultural education
- Applications due April 25th

Our Website
www.minicassiaswcd.com

Kathy Poulton Memorial SCHOLARSHIP

For students pursuing license, certification, or a degree program connected to agriculture.

- ✓ \$1,000 one-time award
- ✓ Fall semester of 2024
- ✓ Application Deadline: April 25, 2024

MORE INFORMATION
208-572-3375
www.minicassiaswcd.com

Scholarship Applications available on the Soil District website at www.minicassiaswcd.com or through your local high school counselor.

The Kathy Poulton Memorial Scholarship is for any student pursuing a license, certification, or a degree program connected to agriculture.

LEARN MORE!

ARBOR DAY

Check their website and watch their videos. Search other resources for tree care and ways celebrate. <https://www.arborday.org/>

SOIL TESTING

Learn about soil health properties and about testing soil at <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/nutrient-management/soil>.

WINDBREAKS

Windbreak benefits and management information available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308521X20308933>.

KNOW WHAT'S BELOW

Call before you dig. Call 811 and find out what is below!

LOOK UP!

Look up before you plant trees. Plant away from power lines. Small seedlings need room to grow up, down, and out!

GARDENS & LANDSCAPES

Answers to general landscape and gardening questions can be found at <https://www.uidaho.edu/homegard.aspx>.

CONSERVATION AT WORK

Conservation at Work Video Series can be found at <https://www.farmers.gov./conservation/conservation-at-work>.

CLASS #1

POLLINATORS

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024

7:00-8:30 PM
Location TBA

Sponsored by
The Soil & Water Conservation Districts
in Cassia & Minidoka Counties

Information also available on our
website at www.minicassiaswcd.com

For information or to
register for the class, call us at
208-572-3375 or 208-436-4202

Class Topics:

- What are Pollinators?
- What do you want to attract?
- Which plants should I plant?
- How to keep Pollinators alive!
- In the Life of a Bee
- Sowing Seeds of Stewardship
- Pollinator Seeds to take home



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROJECT

Community Conservation is a new project sponsored by the Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Cassia and Minidoka Counties.

The project will focus on conservation for everyone. The project will include 3-4 educational classes each year spotlighting topics such as Windbreaks, Summer Gardening, Caring for Seedlings, Pest-Trapping, How to plant "Fire-Wise", Improving soil health in your field and your garden, Honey Bees, Healthy Pastures, Drought Resistant Plants, Government Funding, and more. Our first class will focus on POLLINATORS.

Check our website for class updates at www.minicassiaswcd.com or call one of our offices at 208-572-3375 or 208-436-4202.

MOISTURE MONITORING PROJECT GETS UNDERWAY...

The Tri-District Project Committee which is made up of 6 Supervisors (2 members from each of the Soil Districts in Cassia and Minidoka Counties) have begun a new, Cost-Share Moisture Monitoring Project.

The project includes training for growers on the use of the moisture monitors and how to access and use the electronic data provided by the monitors.

Soil Districts will have access to the data and will observe how soil moisture is recorded in fields where cover crops have been used and will include a variety of crops.



Help Spread the Word!

With limited press coverage in Cassia and Minidoka Counties, we need your help! The Soil & Water Conservation Districts offer a variety of educational programs for both adults and youth - and we need help spreading the word!

How YOU Can Help...

- * You can help by sharing our Conservation Activities on Facebook by "following" and "friending" us. Please "like" and "share" our programs and posts with your friends, and encourage them to "follow" us.
- * You can help by forwarding this newsletter to your friends and contacts, and ask them to join our newsletter e-mail list.
- * You can help by sharing our website: www.minicassiaswcd.com.

Our Facebook Pages:

~ East and West Cassia Soil and Water Conservation District ~

~ Minidoka SWCD ~

~ East-West Cassia Swcd ~

~ Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District ~



The Cotterell INVASIVE SPECIES INSPECTION STATION is OPEN

We're open and the water craft are moving! We are seeing snowbirds returning home and have already had our first hotwash on watercraft from Lake Powell! We are excited for the new season and our Inspectors are ready to serve you!

REMEMBER: ALL WATERCRAFT MUST STOP FOR INSPECTION.
(Including kayaks, float tubes, buoys, paddles, all boats, etc.)

There is no penalty if we find invasive species on your watercraft. We will help you get rid of them.
We want to keep Idaho waters clean.



ISP Officer Andy Hitt assists with the Inspection Station by ticketing and/or returning by-pass motorist.



Idaho State Department of Agriculture

5h · 🌐

Governor Brad Little signed into law Senate Bill 1372, a key funding bill to support the State of Idaho's fight against invasive quagga mussels in Idaho waterways. The increase in funding will go toward the ongoing prevention and monitoring of invasive species and future preparedness for ISDA's rapid response.

ISDA is appreciative of Governor Little, Lieutenant Governor Bedke, Legislators and partners who remain dedicated in supporting our fight against invasive species.

[#idahoaagriculture](#) [#invasivespeciesawareness](#) [#CleanDrainDry](#)



2024 SEEDLING TREE SALE

LOMBARDY POPLAR (*Populus nigra*) 40 to 50', Zone 2. A perfect choice for a fast-growing privacy screen or wind break. Wonderful columnar habit with grayish-green foliage that provides a gorgeous backdrop for smaller trees and shrubs. Branches start close to the ground and grow upward, parallel to the trunk. Plant in rows about 6-8 ft. apart for screening. Hardy to -40°F.

NORWAY POPLAR (Cottonwood Siouxland) (*Populus deltoides*) 40 to 60', Zone 3-9. This hybrid poplar is a fast-growing tree used for windbreaks and riparian plantings. Can be used down a property line or roadway. (Up to 6 feet per year with regular irrigation and protection from wildlife and animals.) Requires moist soil but can tolerate dry soil. 20-35' spread. Plant seedlings 8-12 feet apart for single row, 10-12 feet apart for multiple row windbreak.

QUAKING ASPEN (*Populus tremuloides*) 20-50', Zones 1-7. Fast growing deciduous tree provides stunning golden-yellow fall color, movement, and sound when the breeze rustles the leaves. Features striking white bark. Roots spread, often planted in groves. Prefers full sun.

COLORADO SPRUCE (*Picea pungens*) 30 to 50', Zones 3-8. Gorgeous, brilliant, stately. The Colorado Blue Spruce is a slow growing pyramidal shaped evergreen with steel blue foliage. It prefers heavier soils, full sun, and clean cultivation. Will reach a height of six feet in eight years on a good site. Probably the most drought tolerant of all spruce. It is widely used in windbreaks or as an ornamental yard tree or Christmas Tree.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER (*Juniperus scopulorum*)- 30 to 40', Zones 3-8. Rugged, pyramidal tree with silvery-blue green foliage. It is slow growing with foliage is dense and pleasantly aromatic. The fruits are fleshy berrylike spherical cones – they are bright blue with a whitish bloom and sweet tasting, with thin skins (good source of food for wildlife). Survives well in hot dry summers of the western U.S.

WHITE PINE (*Pinus strobus*) 50-100', Zones 3-8. Often called the Eastern White Pine, it is a stately, graceful plume-like tree. Growing from a straight trunk, its branches are horizontal and tiered, 1 row added each year. Tufts of light-to bluish-green needles are borne in feathery clusters of five toward the ends of the twigs. It produces cones 6-8 inches long. Grows in a wide range of soil conditions. Good animal habitat. Wood used for furniture, cabinets, and carvings.

AMERICAN PLUM (*Prunus Americana*) 12-20', Zones 2-9. The American Plum is a fast-growing single-trunk tree or multi-stemmed shrub with many wildlife benefits. It will readily sucker from the ground up around the root zone growing into a large erect shrub and form a dense spreading thicket as it ages. It can be pruned into a small tree. In the spring, clusters of 1" white flowers will form. Fruit will form over summer, and mature in August and September. The plums can be used in jellies, preserves, and even eaten raw and is excellent wildlife habitat.

BLUE ARTIC WILLOW (*Salix purpurea*) to 5', Zones 4-8. Full sun. This compact, rounded, deciduous shrub features attractive purple stems and very narrow blue-green leaves growing in pairs and are 2 to 4 inches long. Light green flowers bloom in late April, eventually with ornamentally insignificant fruit. The stems are smooth and slender. Growth is rapid, reaching from 2 to 5 feet in two years. Slender and supple twigs can be used to make baskets.

CHOCKECHERRY, Common (*Prunus Virginiana*) 20-30', All Zones. Full sun to part shade. Chokecherry is a small suckering hardy tree or large shrub. It has broad leaves and dense, elongated, terminal white flower clusters in the spring. Chokecherry fruits turn dark purple and are edible in July and August. Excellent food for birds. Makes great jelly or syrup.

COMMON PURPLE LILAC (*Syringa vulgaris*) to 12', Zones 2-8. Lovely clusters of lavender flowers grow from the branch tips in mid-spring. They make a wonderful contrast to the dark green leaves. Abundant clusters of sweetly fragrant, purple flowers in mid-spring on a vigorous, upright, multi-stemmed shrub with heart-shaped, green foliage. Ideal as a flowering hedge or screen. Plant near a window or pathway where the fragrant blooms can be enjoyed. Deciduous.

ELDERBERRY (*Sambucus canadensis*) grows 5'-15', Zones 3-10. This thicket forming shrub with bright green leaves has large, flat showy clusters of white, fragrant flowers in spring. The flowers are followed by clusters of dark purple to black, berrylike fruits in late summer and fall. The fruit is attractive to birds and mammals and may be used to make jelly, pie and wine. It is high in antioxidants. Elderberries prefer well-drained soil. The shrub reaches full berry production in the third or fourth year. Canes lose vigor after 3 years and should be removed at ground level during dormancy. They prefer sun but will adapt to part shade. To harvest, cut berry clusters from the plant, then strip berries. Use quickly or freeze to preserve.

NANNYBERRY (*Viburnum lentago*) 12'-15', Zones 2-8. A versatile native shrub with excellent year-round interest, Nannyberry *Viburnum* features showy white flowers in May and burgundy leaf color in autumn with dark blue berries. A large upright shrub, it spreads by roots to form colonies and makes an excellent privacy screen or hedgerow. It can be maintained as a small tree by pruning stems and removing the suckers at the base. Adaptable to a wide range of soils. Very shade tolerant in nature, it grows larger in open sunny areas. Nannyberry offers excellent support for birds and pollinators, and serve as host plants to numerous butterflies and moths. They tend to flower profusely whether or not pollination occurs. The edible berries can be used to make jams and jellies.

REDOSIER DOGWOOD (*Cornus sericea*) 6'-8', Zones 3-8. Full sun to part shade. This red twig dogwood is a rapid-growing, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub with a rounded spread. The bright red stems are showy as they stand out in winter. Tiny white flowers appear in late spring and produce fruit for birds. Dark green leaves turn an attractive reddish purple in autumn.

SMOOTH SUMAC (*Rhus glabra*) 8-15', Zones 3-8. A North America native thicket-forming shrub or small tree with a spreading crown. Dark green foliage turns bright shades of red and orange in fall. Bark is grayish-brown. Flowers late May–July, with dense clusters 5–9 inches long. Fruits August–September, compact clusters, fruit seeded and round, about 1/8 inch in diameter, dark red with red velvety hairs. Birds eat the fruit. Rabbits and deer eat the leaves and twigs.

Cassia and Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation Districts

2024 SEEDLING TREE SALE

(All trees sold in multiples of 5)

VARIETY	SIZE	PRICE <i>(for 5 seedlings)</i>	TOTAL # of Trees	TOTAL \$ DUE
<u>Deciduous Trees</u>				
LOMBARDY POPLAR (columnar)	3' - 4'	\$20.00 <i>(for 5 seedlings)</i>		
NORWAY POPLAR (Similar to Hybrid Poplar)	4' - 5'	\$20.00 <i>(for 5 seedlings)</i>		
QUAKING ASPEN	18"-24"	\$20.00 <i>(for 5 seedlings)</i>		
<u>Evergreen Trees</u>				
COLORADO SPRUCE	7"- 15"	\$20.00 <i>(for 5 seedlings)</i>		
ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER	8"- 15"	\$20.00 <i>(for 5 seedlings)</i>		
WHITE PINE	7"-15"	\$20.00 <i>(for 5 seedlings)</i>		
<u>Shrubs</u>				
AMERICAN PLUM	2' - 3'	\$20.00 <i>(for 5 seedlings)</i>		
BLUE ARTIC WILLOW	2' - 3'	\$20.00 <i>(for 5 seedlings)</i>		
CHOKECHERRY	2' - 3'	\$20.00 <i>(for 5 seedlings)</i>		
COMMON PURPLE LILAC	2' - 3'	\$20.00 <i>(for 5 seedlings)</i>		
ELDERBERRY	2' - 3'	\$20.00 <i>(for 5 seedlings)</i>		
NANNYBERRY	2' - 3'	\$20.00 <i>(for 5 seedlings)</i>		
REDOSIER DOGWOOD	18"-24"	\$20.00 <i>(for 5 seedlings)</i>		
SMOOTH SUMAC	12"-24"	\$20.00 <i>(for 5 seedlings)</i>		

NAME: _____

SUBTOTAL: _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

TAX (x 0.06): _____

EMAIL _____

FINAL TOTAL: _____

CHECK # _____ CASH: _____

PHONE: HOME _____

CELL _____

WORK _____

Make Payment To:

East Cassia SWCD



MAIL in your order form and payment to the SWCD office:

East Cassia SWCD
1361 E 16th St
Burley, ID 83318

OR

Minidoka SWCD
85 East Baseline (Fairgrounds)
Rupert, ID 83350

For Questions call: 208-572-3375 or 208-436-4202.
Please **LEAVE A MESSAGE**. We will return your call promptly.

***PAYMENT IN FULL MUST BE MADE AT TIME OF ORDER.**
ORDERS WILL ARRIVE MID-TO-LATE APRIL.
You will be contacted for pickup.

*****Please be aware that these are bare-root seedling trees/shrubs.***

We reserve the right to substitute one size either up or down depending upon what our supplier sends us.

East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka
Soil & Water Conservation Districts
1361 East 16th Street
Burley, ID 83318

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Return Service Requested

Soil District Board Meetings: Public is welcome.
East Cassia - 1st Tuesday of each month.
West Cassia - 2nd Tuesday of each month.
Call 208-572-3375 for details.
Minidoka - 2nd Wednesday of each month.
Call 208-436-4202 for details.

Minidoka SWCD
Phone: 208-436-4202
minidokaswcd@gmail.com

East & West Cassia SWCDs
Phone: 208-572-3375
ewcswcd@gmail.com

Call our office to get your
name on the list to
rent one of our
Direct Seed Drills

In this issue:

- * Seedling Tree Sale info
- * Scholarships
- * Invasive Species Inspection Station
- * Community Conservation
- * Conservation Theme 2024
- * Pivot Track Filler for Rent

4 Ways to Follow Us on Facebook

- ~ East and West Cassia Soil and Water Conservation District
- ~ Minidoka SWCD
- ~ East-West Cassia Swcd
- ~ Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District

Visit Our **WEBSITE** www.minicassiaswcd.com

East Cassia, Minidoka, & West Cassia
Soil & Water Conservation District

Seedling Tree Sale

Seedling descriptions, photos, and order forms
available on our website at
www.minicassiaswcd.com



**Trees and shrubs can
improve your
property value...**

Trees Provide:

- ◆ Protection from the Wind
- ◆ Beautification Project
- ◆ Habitat for Wildlife
- ◆ Landscaping
- ◆ Shade/Relief from the Sun
- ◆ Protection for Livestock
- ◆ Hold Soil in Place
- ◆ Property Border
- ◆ Shelterbelt along a Field
- ◆ Improved Safety for near-by roads/motorists
- ◆ And much more...

Check inside this issue for the
Seedling Tree Sale Order Form
and tree descriptions

