

Mini-Cassia Conservation Update

Winter 2020
Volume No. 2020.3



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

SOIL DISTRICT ACTIVITY DURING COVID-19

District activities continue despite NRCS office lock-down restrictions due to the Covid-19 spread. You can reach us by phone at:

Burley office 208-572-3375
Minidoka office 208-436-4202

SEEDLING TREE SALE

Seedling Tree Sale begins February 1, 2021.

Order Form and seedling details are enclosed later in this newsletter. Windbreak planning and seedling planting helps can be found on our website at www.minicassiaswcd.com. Many helps are also available through an online search.

PLAN NOW! Consider the following:

- Best location for an effective windbreak
- Space required for trees to mature
- Number of rows needed for maximum protection
- Varieties of trees and/or shrubs desired
- Irrigation until seedlings are established
- Protection from animals

Seedlings available in 2021 will be:

Norway Poplar (similar to hybrid poplar),
Lombardy Poplar (column shape),
Colorado Blue Spruce,
Rocky Mountain Juniper,
Cotoneaster Acutifolia,
Redosier Dogwood,
Villosa Lilac,
White Lilac,
Privet, and
Hansen Hedge Rose.

Descriptions and the order form can be found on pages 10-11 in this newsletter and on our website.

Special orders can be requested and ordered if available from the nursery. There is a 5% charge added to special orders placed by February 15th and 10% charge if order is placed after that date.

Please mail your order form with payment to either SWCD office.

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

Minidoka SWCD
98 B 200 West
Rupert, ID 83350



2021 Soil Health Workshop

CANCELLED

Due to covid-19 restrictions, we will **NOT** have a Soil Health Workshop in 2021.

If you want to be added to our workshop email notification list for future events, send an email to dmc Murray6@gmail.com.

SOIL HEALTH RESOURCES

There are many online trainings and presentations to help with your continued soil health education.

You can also find several links on our website at www.minicassiaswcd.com.



Know Your GOVERNMENT

The 2021 KYG (Know Your Government) Conference is a 4-H program which focuses on empowering youth to be well-informed citizens who are actively engaged in their communities and the world.

KYG is held each President's Day weekend while the legislature is in session. The conference is designed for youth in grades 8-9.

This year, with the covid 19 restrictions, some of the activities will be virtual. Youth interested in attending must be registered in 4-H online by January 6th.

District Board of Supervisors

East Cassia SWCD

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

West Cassia SWCD

Richard Kunau
Jordan Searle
Kathy Poulton
Brent Stoker
Ken Black

Minidoka SWCD

Brian Kossman
Dusty Wilkins
LaNae Nalder
Aaron Firth
Luke Adams
Justin Hunter
Russ Suchan

District Employees

Sharon Hardy.....Minidoka Administrative Assistant
LaRae Warren.....Cassia Administrative Assistant
Doreen McMurray.....Cassia Information & Education Specialist
Megan Heward.....Cassia Administrative Assistant
Melanie Nebeker.....Soil Conservation Technical Assistant

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Personnel

David Mabey.....District Conservationist
Carolyn Firth.....ISWCC Ag Program Specialist
Dinah Reaney.....Soil Conservationist
Haydn Carson.....Soil Technician
Samantha Lange.....Pheasants Forever

CONTACT OUR OFFICES:

Rupert Field Office 208-436-4202

Burley Field Office 208-572-3375

Minidoka e-mail: minidokaswcd@gmail.com

Cassia e-mail: ewcswcd@gmail.com

Web page: www.minicassiaswcd.com

Spanish translation is available in the office upon request.

SUPERVISOR BOARD MEETINGS

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 helping to make a difference within your community.

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

Monthly Board Meetings

(Public Welcome)

East Cassia SWCD - 1st Tuesday of each month

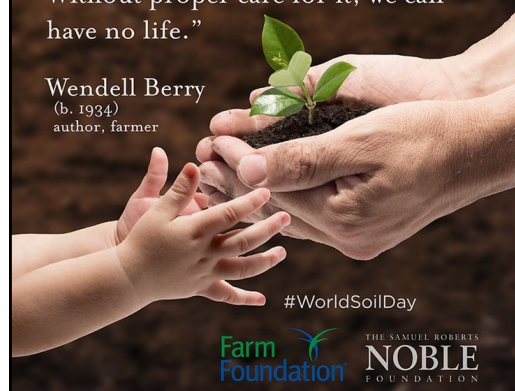
West Cassia SWCD - 2nd Tuesday of each month

Minidoka SWCD - 2nd Thursday of each month

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

"The soil is the great connector of lives,
the source and destination of all ...
Without proper care for it, we can
have no life."

Wendell Berry
(b. 1934)
author, farmer



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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.



2020 SPEECH CONTEST

Minidoka SWCD held their annual Speech Contest for 9-12 grades in the Minico Auditorium in November. The 3-5 minute speeches were researched and written by students around the theme **“Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators?”** Winners were Lydia 1st, Alex 2nd, and McKinlee 3rd.

Local Work Group Discusses Area Concerns

The Local Work Group or LWG met on November 18, 2020. This is a committee of local farmers and representatives from irrigation companies and organizations such as DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality), Idaho Rural Water, and Soil & Water Conservation Districts, who determine natural resource areas of concern.

When guidelines are met, NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) will direct monies for work on projects to be accomplished within Minidoka County, Cassia County, and along part of Blaine County during the coming year.

Areas of concern and priorities that were discussed were:

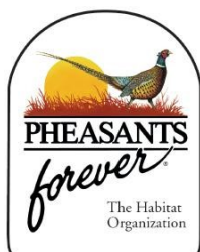
1. Water Quality,
2. Insufficient Water,
3. Soil Quality Degradation,
4. Soil Erosion,
5. Excess Water,
6. Concentrated Erosion, and
7. Degraded Plant Condition.

Questions will be developed by NRCS to provide a point system for qualification for those applying for the various projects.

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEE

Hello everyone! My name is Samantha Lange and I am very excited to be joining the Pheasants Forever team here in Burley, Idaho!

A little about me: I graduated from Colorado State University with a dual degree in Rangeland Ecology and Natural Resource Management with a concentration in Restoration Ecology.



I have previously worked in both the private and federal sector with my most recent position being with the BLM as a Rangeland Management Specialist in Nevada.

Outside of work I have several hobbies including being an avid reader, paddle boarding, fishing, camping, and gardening.



DIVISION and STATE MEETINGS HELD VIRTUALLY

Fall meetings were held virtually due to the Covid-19 health concerns. Division IV, which consists of 11 Soil Conservation Districts in South/Central Idaho met on October 20th. Districts shared updates on activities and events happening within their own districts. Presentations and information was given by Agency personnel from Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, and Natural Resource Conservation Service about programs and issues they are facing.

The Annual IASCD Conference was cancelled due to Covid-19 social distancing restrictions. But, a Business Meeting was held on November 12, 2020 to discuss issues facing districts. One major part of the meeting centered around the Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission and complaints against their agency. A subcommittee was established a year ago and their research was presented to the virtual audience (with a few supervisors physically present at the meeting). There was much discussion about the need for, the value of and productivity of Commission staff. The outcome showed that there is great value in the Commission and the services they provide but some changes and adjustments are needed in how they work with Districts. The 2021 Annual IASCD Conference is scheduled to proceed as planned next November.

Check Out These Soil Health Web Sites:

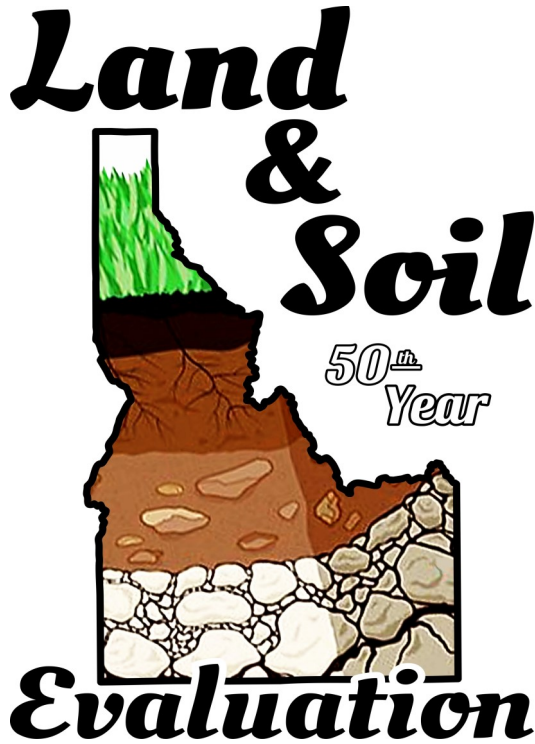
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/soils/health/>
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<https://soilhealthinstitute.org/soil-health-360/>
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<https://rodaleinstitute.org/why-organic/organic-farming-practices/soil-health/>
<https://extension.psu.edu/managing-soil-health-concepts-and-practices>



50 YEARS OF JUDGING SOIL

By Doreen McMurray, East & West Cassia I&E Specialist

It was a windy day in Cassia County when FFA students from all around the state of Idaho gathered together to compete in the **Idaho State FFA & 4-H Land & Soil Evaluation Event**. With the Covid 19 concerns, students and teachers wore face masks on Wednesday as they participated in the **50th Annual Soil Judging Contest**.



The contest was held on Skaggs 6S Ranch in Declo. NRCS workers and Soil District employees, along with Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors, provided equipment and labor to prepare the testing site. Over 30 workers and volunteers assisted with the event, including Soil Scientists and County Commissioners from both Cassia and Minidoka Counties.

Students have prepared to "evaluate" the soil and learn to recognize soil factors and to assess soil characteristics. This training helps students make wise decisions in managing and using soil and land resources. Preparing and competing in this competition

can help participants understand basic soil properties and how this affects crop growth. They learn why various soils respond differently to a variety of management practices, and how soil properties may be used as a basis for selecting a home site.

Students compete in Regional contests held around the state. Winners at the regional contests come to Burley to compete in the Idaho State Contest. 15 FFA Teams attended the 2020 Idaho State competition on Wednesday. Preston FFA placed first and Rigby FFA placed second. Both teams will receive scholarship money to assist

with their travel to attend and compete at the national Land & Soil Evaluation Contest in the Spring.





THE IMPORTANCE OF FARMERS

IDAHO HISTORY DAY

One farmer over 100 years ago could provide enough food to feed 10 people while one of today's farmers can provide enough for 120 people. With only 1/32 of the earth that is farmable, and population continually increasing, it is a huge challenge to provide enough food to feed everyone, and we cannot fully meet the demand. It is projected in the year 2050 there will be 9 billion people in the world. Agriculture must keep up with our growing population as well as meet the demands for the best and healthiest food possible.

Each year, Cassia County School District holds an Idaho History Day for 4th grade students. They learn all about Idaho's past in creative and fun ways. Farming is a major industry in Idaho, especially here in Southern Idaho. Soil & Water Conservation District employee Sharon is shown above teaching 4th graders the importance of our Farmers. "Farmers eat the same food you do, so they will not put anything on their fields or on the food they grow that they will not eat or feed to their own families. They want everyone to be healthy and fed."

Sharon taught the students about our natural resources and everyone's responsibility to protect them. She told the students that "Everyone in their lifetime should plant at least one tree. We need trees to provide us with oxygen, lumber, fiber, and food". Trees also provide shelter and habitat for wildlife as well as beauty and shade for us to enjoy.

There are half a billion people living in countries where there are shortages of water or their water is not safe to drink. It is projected that by 2050, in just 30 years, that that number will be more than 4 billion. Every person shares the responsibility to protect our water.



The Soil & Water Conservation Districts work to provide education and resources that will improve soil and water quality for everyone. We run the invasive species boat station, manage an annual seedling tree sale, encourage no or low till drilling through rental of direct seed drills and annual soil health workshops, and much more. Find out more about what our Soil Districts do by going to their website at www.minicassiaswcd.com.

POSTER CONTEST FOR 5th and 6th GRADE STUDENTS

Students in Minidoka County participated in the Annual Poster Contest. The 2020 theme of the contest was **“Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators?”**



St Nicholas Poster Winners 2020: 3rd Place - Jan, 2nd Place - Fatima, and 1st Place & also Minidoka District 3rd Place Winner - Brooke.



East Minico Middle School Winners 2020: Kessa 1st Place, Lynden 2nd Place, and Matt 3rd Place.



Acequia Elementary Poster Winners 2020: Principle Hepworth standing in for Ella 1st Place, Mylie 2nd Place, and Anna 3rd Place. Ella is also Minidoka District 2nd Place winner.



Rupert Elementary Poster winners 2020: Vivyen 1st Place, Ethan 2nd Place, and Karla 3rd Place.



Paul Elementary Poster Winners 2020 - Tyson 1st Place, Jon 2nd Place, and Karlee 3rd Place. Tyson also won Minidoka District 1st Place.



Heyburn Elementary Poster winners for 2020: 1st Place Jakoura, 2nd Place (Teacher stand in Mr. Greenwalt), and 3rd Place Carson.

The Annual Seedling Tree Sale begins February 1st.

Order forms, detailed photos, and descriptions of tree varieties are available by email or on our website at www.minicassiaswcd.com. Special orders will also be taken if available from the nurseries.

Orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis so order early for best selection. The trees must be paid for at the time the order is placed. The cost is \$35 + tax for a bundle of 10 seedlings. **Send a check for payment with your order form by mail to either the Burley or Rupert office (addresses on front page).** Seedling trees arrive in late April. You will be notified when they are ready for pick-up.

The tree sale is a service for land owners provided by the Cassia & Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation Districts. It is an opportunity to purchase seedling trees for windbreaks, shelterbelts, habitat, and landscaping projects at very economical prices. Proceeds from the tree sale support the educational activities for our youth such as the Know Your Government Conference, Natural Resource Camp, and educational scholarships.

To receive an order form by email, or for further assistance, contact Doreen at dmc-murray6@gmail.com or call one of the district offices at **208-572-3375** or **208-436-4202**, or visit our web page at www.minicassiaswcd.com.



SNOW on the GROUND?

**That's the PERFECT TIME to
PLAN your WINDBREAK...**

With snow on the ground, it's time to begin making plans for your spring plantings!

Consider where trees or shrubs would benefit your property.

You may need:
privacy, windbreaks, or
landscaping improvements.

The Annual Seedling Tree Sale is a great place to get your trees. Order early as amounts are limited for each tree variety.

PLANT A WINDBREAK

*By Doreen McMurray
East & West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District I & E Specialist*

Windbreaks provide protection from blowing wind and snow, habitat for wildlife, and add beauty for increased property value. Windbreaks around your home or livestock feeding areas can make a difference in reducing not only wind velocity, but reducing blowing snow and dirt. They also gentle extreme temperatures by reducing wind chill during cold seasons, or by providing shade in the summer. A windbreak properly placed near a roadway reduces the need for plowing snow and increases visibility. Trees also provide wildlife habitat. Planting trees increases property value and works well as a sound barrier.

The first step is to make a plan. Consider where a windbreak is needed or where you would like trees to be planted. For a windbreak, it is recommended to have 3 to 5 rows for maximum benefit but even one row will provide some positive results. Measure the width of your area and determine how many rows you want or have room for. Decide which variety of tree would be best in each row. A windbreak needs to be dense near the ground. So, select a bushy, dense deciduous shrub for the windward or outside row. Shrubs make ideal single row or double row low windbreaks around yards and gardens. They are often used for living snow fences and provide excellent wildlife habitat. They also provide the needed protection for evergreens in a windbreak. Many varieties also add beautification as they have blossoms.

Planting a different variety in each row provides the greatest benefit. Deciduous trees are often used for a middle row in a windbreak. They are generally faster growing than evergreens and thus provide earlier protection. Evergreen trees are an important part of a windbreak because they provide excellent protection year-round. They should be included in a windbreak whenever possible. You can plant one or two evergreen rows on the leeward side of the windbreak. The final row could be another shrub row. Remember that 3-5 rows are best, but you can plant more or less as room allows.

A few things to remember: Do some research, plan your windbreak carefully taking into consideration the greatest benefits from wind and sun. Measure your area and plan appropriate room for trees to grow. Consider irrigation and protection from animals while trees are getting established. For survival of your trees during planting, take precautions to keep roots damp.

The most economical way to get a windbreak growing is to plant seedlings. Their success rate is very good. Seedling Trees are available to order from the Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Order forms are included in this newsletter or can be found on our web page at www.minicassiaswcd.com. Please mail orders with payment to one of our offices.



NO-TILL DRILLS

There are 2 drills in the Mini-Cassia area for rent from the Soil & Water Conservation Districts. The drills are perfect for direct seeding into grain stubble as well as 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 a drill.

Minidoka office: 208-436-4202
Cassia office: 208-572-3375

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

5 Principles of Soil Health

1. **Soil Armor** - Keep soil covered to control weeds, reduce evaporation, maintain soil temperatures, reduce compaction, and more.
2. **Minimize Soil Disturbance** - This allows soil aggregates to rebuild, increases pore spaces, and improves soil productivity.
3. **Plant Diversity** - use crop rotation and cover crops to provide biodiversity and nutrient cycling, improves water infiltration, and reduces disease and pests.
4. **Continual Live Plant/Root** - Plant cover crops during dormant periods and after harvest. Benefits include building soil aggregates, controlling erosion, increasing moisture holding capacity, nutrient management, livestock integration, and more.....
5. **Livestock Integration** - recycles nutrients, minerals, vitamins, and carbon, provides higher nutritional diet for livestock, reduces livestock waste, and controls crop residues.

ADVANTAGES OF COVER CROPPING

**Building
soil health**



**Nutrient
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**Erosion
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**Weed
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2021 SEEDLING TREE SALE

Cassia and Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation Districts



NORWAY POPLAR - 40 to 60', Zone 3. Fast growing tree used for wind-breaks and riparian plantings. Requires moist soil but can tolerate dry soil after established. 40'-60' tall 20'-35' spread.

LOMBARDY POPLAR - 60 to 80', 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. Plant in rows about 8 ft. apart for screening. Hardy to -40°F.



COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE - 20 to 40', Zones 3-8. Popular for its dense, pyramidal shape, this tree is a favorite among spruce lovers in zones 2-6. A cousin of the White Spruce, the Black Hills Spruce is often called "ornamentally superior" because

of its thick uniform shape. The Black Hills Spruce can also grow in dry or wet soils and is truly cold adapted tree and is very resistant to winter injury.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER - 30 to 40', Zones 3-8. Rugged, pyramidal tree with silvery-blue green foliage. The 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 (edible and best after the second fall). Survives well in hot dry summers of the western U.S.



COTONEASTER- Height: 6'-10', Zone: All. Large deciduous shrub which produces showy red fruit. Flowers are a pinkish-white. Fruits attract many species of birds. This tall shrub can be used for farmstead and field wind-breaks as well as in landscaping.

WHITE LILAC- Height: 10'-12', Zone: 2. This common lilac cultivate is an upright shrub with single white flowers arranges in a dense pyramidal clusters. They have a sweet fragrant white flower which appears in May.



REDOSIER DOGWOOD- Height: 5'-8', Zone: 3. Rapid growing, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub with a rounded spreading habit. The outstanding ornamental feature of this plant is its bright red winter stems which are particularly showy against a snowy backdrop.

PRIVET- Height: 12'-15', Zones 4. An ideal hedge for a neat clipped appearance. It can be maintained at any height, making a thick dense hedge right to the ground. The more it's trimmed, the thicker this hedge gets. The lustrous green leaves stay on until late fall. It has very hardy dark green foliage.



VILLOSA LILAC – Height: 6'-10', Zone 3. A dense bushy lilac, with erect branched and leggy towards the bottom. Foliage is dark green in summer, no fall color. Large showy clusters of rosy-pink to white blooms appear for early summer blooming, in mid to late June. Villosa

Lilac is a non-suckering medium shrub.

HANSEN HEDGE ROSE - 3 to 5', All Zones. A living fence selection. Single pink to white fragrant blossoms appear in June and bloom all summer. The rose grows at a rate of up to two feet per year and will grow up to 6 feet tall. Disease resistant and winter hardy. Suitable for most any well drained soil. Space plants 24 inches apart in the row to create a fast growing hedge.



Cassia and Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation Districts
2021 SEEDLING TREE SALE

VARIETY	SIZE	PRICE PER BUNDLE	TOTAL # OF BUNDLES	TOTAL DUE
NORWAY POPLAR (Similar to Hybrid Poplar)	4'- 5'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
LOMBARDY POPLAR	4'- 5'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE	7"- 15"	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER	8"- 15"	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
COTONEASTER, ACUTIFOLIA	2'- 3'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
REDOSIER DOGWOOD	3'-4'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
VILLOSA LILAC	2'- 3'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
WHITE LILAC	18"-24"	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
PRIVET	2'- 3'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
HANSEN HEDGE ROSE	18"-24"	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		

NAME: _____

SUBTOTAL: _____

TAX (subtotal x 0.06): _____

STREET CITY ZIP

FINAL TOTAL: _____

EMAIL

CASH: _____

PHONE:

HOME _____

CHECK# _____

CELL _____

WORK _____

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

**Covid restrictions may limit the amount of time the office is open to accept orders and payments in person.*

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

OR

Minidoka SWCD
98 B South 200 West
Rupert, ID 83350

***PAYMENT IN FULL MUST BE MADE AT TIME OF ORDER. ORDERS WILL ARRIVE MID-TO-LATE APRIL.**

You will be contacted for pickup once the trees arrive.

For Questions call: 208-572-3375 or 208-436-4202.

Please LEAVE A MESSAGE if no one is available to answer at that time. Your phone call will be returned promptly.

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

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

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.

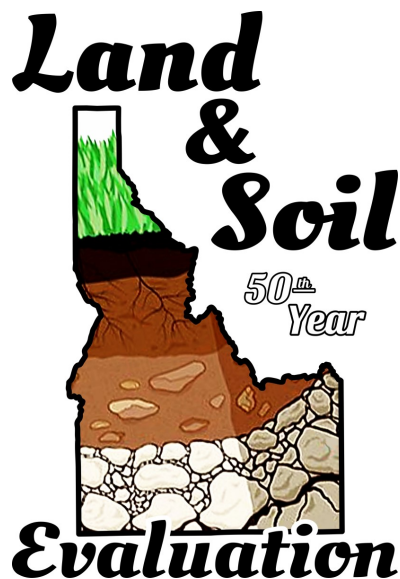
Call 208-572-3375 for details.

Minidoka - 2nd Thursday of each month.

Call 208-436-4202 for details.

Minidoka SWCD
98B South 200 West Rupert
Phone: 208-436-4202
minidokaswcd@gmail.com

East & West Cassia
1361 East 16th Street Burley
Phone: 208-572-3375
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Do You Know What's On Our WEBSITE?

District Supervisor Boards & Meeting information

Direct Seed & Cover Crop Information

Soil Health Workshops

Drill Rental information

*Seedling **TREE SALE** photos & info*

Cotterel Invasive Species Boat Inspection Station

Educational Programs

Envirothon

Know Your Government

Land & Soil Evaluation Event

Natural Resource Camp

Poster & Speech Contest

Scholarships

Newsletters

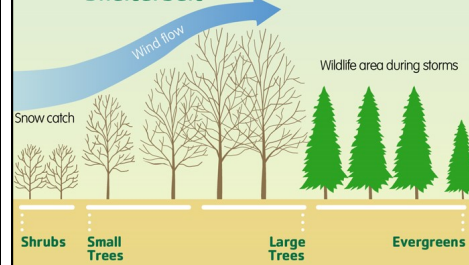
Announcements, Events, & Awards

And much more.....

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Cross-Section Of a 10-Row Shelterbelt



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