Mini-Cassia Conservation Update

Volume No. 2023.1



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

DISTRICT OFFICES

Burley Temporary Office

Room # 201 In the Cassia County Courthouse 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

<u>MINIDOKA</u> SUPERVISOR HONORED

Minidoka Supervisor Brian Kossman was honored at their March Board Meeting as he retired from 10 years of service on the Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation District Board. Brian served as Chairman of the Minidoka board for 6 of the 10 years. Continued on

Brian was an active



COTTEREL WATERCRAFT

The Cotterel Boat Inspection Station is open for the 2023 season. All Inspectors have return from last season and we are fully staffed.

Inspectors attended a 2 day mandatory training as a refresher course. The first day was classroom training where employees went over boat edict, data from the past

season, and current workplace information. The second day of training was held at Idaho Water Sports. Their employee, Brad Street, put on a very informative hands-on training demonstrating



SEEDLING TREE SALE is UNDERWAY

Order your seedlings now as numbers are limited. Order forms and details about seedling varieties can be found later in this newsletter and more information is available on our website at

www.minicassiaswcd.com.

Tree and shrub varieties still available include Norway Poplar, Lombardy Poplar, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Common Purple Lilac, Elderberry, American Plum, Arctic Blue Willow, and Smooth Sumac.

See page 10-11 in this newsletter for order form and seedling details, and page 9 for Windbreak Planning Helps.

Pictured right: Lombardy Poplar, Pictured left: Blue Arctic Willow.



NATIONAL ARBOR DAY

National Arbor Day is April 28, 2023. Mark the occasion by planting a tree, participating in a local planting event in your area, or by walking in a local park and appreciating everything trees do for us.



College Scholarships Available

Application requirements and deadlines for both Minidoka and Cassia Scholarships can be found on our website at minicassiaswcd.com



District Board of Supervisors

	East Cassia SWCD	West Cassia SWCD	Minidoka SWCD
Chairman	Rob Cottle	Richard Kunau	Dusty Wilkins
		Jordan Searle	
Treasurer	Ken Woodworth	Kathy Poulton	Lance Lovell
		Brent Stoker	
Member	Mark Webb	Ken Black	Aaron Firth
		Kyle Bowers	

District Employees

Sharon Hardy	Minidoka Administrative Assistant
	Cassia Administrative Assistant
Doreen McMurrayCa	assia Information & Education Specialist
Megan Heward	Cassia Administrative Assistant

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

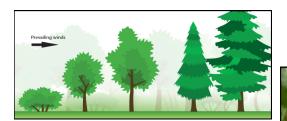
David Mabey	District Conservationist
Carolyn Firth	ISWCC Ag Program Specialist
	Soil Conservationist
Trec Reed	Soil Conservationist
Brook Morgan	Pheasants Forever

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.

CONTACT OUR 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

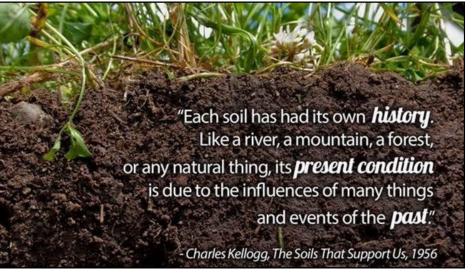
Supervisors for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are landowners in Cassia and Minidoka Counties who volunteer their time. They are interested in farming issues and want to make a positive difference in their communities. Serving as a Supervisor is a great opportunity to learn how to improve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



Grower SURVEY

WHAT REDUCED TILLAGE EQUIPMENT WOULD BE USEFUL?

The East Cassia, Minidoka, & West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts are considering a new piece of equipment for growers to rent...

An All-In-One-Pass vertical tillage tool.



WE NEED YOUR INPUT

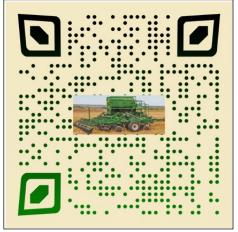
Please answer the survey on our website www.minicassiaswcd.com

or use the QR code.

This aggressive all-in-one-pass vertical tillage system would replace traditional tillage methods. It is designed to achieve complete fracture at shallower depths.

Organic residue is mixed into the soil as it rolls over, breaking up the traffic pan layer.

This tillage tool does the job of several other tools thereby reducing soil compaction caused by multiple passes of tractors and implements. It combines all necessary implements into one unit creating a perfect seed bed ready for planting.



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

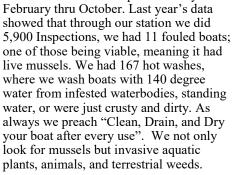




how to locate certain components on boats that will be handy for our inspectors.

Our Opening Day at Cotterel was March 6, where we inspected 3 boats, making it a great start for the 2023 season. The inspection station is still located at the Cotterel Rest Area even though the Port of Entry has moved to their new location. We ask that you follow the signs as you pull in to the inspection area. We are excited to see our returning and new boaters at our station.

The State of Idaho has 20 Stations, 5 Roving Crews, and 5 Regional Offices. Dates of operation vary from



Our Law Enforcement partners are the Idaho State Police and Cassia County Police. They are on a designated shift just for our station to return any bypasses and educate the public on our state's laws about

stopping to be inspected at all watercraft inspection stations. We had 410 bypasses returned by Law Enforcement for the Cotterel Boat Station in 2022. Statewide we 1,793 Bypasses, we ask that you please read signs and know before you go about Idaho state laws on watercraft. Motorized and Non-Motorized watercraft such as kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, inflatable rafts, paddle

WATERCRAFT

boats, catamarans, drift boats, inflatable cataraft, inflatable kayaks, and row boats all need to stop and be inspected; If it touches the water it needs to stop and get a inspection certificate. Also there is a sticker that is required in order to launch your watercraft in Idaho the cost is: \$30 for Nonresident Motorized vessels and \$7 for non-motorized vessels in

or out of state. Idaho Resident Motorized Vessels have the fee included in registration. Idaho has the most river miles in the USA and rely mostly on irrigation to pump water to crops, it would cost billions of dollars a year if our waters were to be infected by zebra and quagga mussels. To help keep our waters clean, remember to CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY.









MINIDOKA SUPERVISOR HONORED (Continued from page 1.)

board member focusing on building a strong soil district and providing conservation and soil health education to the public.



Brian Kossman served on the Mini-Cassia Direct Seed and Cover Crop Project Committee taking a lead role in promoting cover crops and soil health

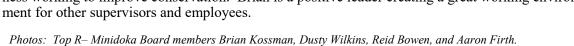


improvement practices. Brian actively supported soil health education giving many presentations on the Direct Seed and Cover Crop Project and on his own soil health journey. Brian was proactive in the Local Work

Group annual meetings, looking for ways to promote farmer's and cooperator's conservation improvement practices.

Brian took an active part in Soil District Meetings on the local level,

worked well with nearby districts, and was active in Division IV and state level meetings and business working to improve conservation. Brian is a positive leader creating a great working environment for other supervisors and employees.



Above R-Supervisors attending IASCD state conference: Dusty Wilkins, Brian Kossman, Richard Kunau (West Cassia), and Russell Suchan. Photos L– Brian Kossman was presented a gift from co-supervisors at Minidoka SWCD Board Meeting.

Below L- Ken Woodworth (East Cassia) and Brian Kossman installing a seed box on one of the direct seed drills. Below R– Brian Kossman speaks to a group of growers about cover crops on a Direct Seed & Cover Crop Tour.











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Thanks to our local Soil and Water Conservation Districts



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HENBANE - A NOXIOUS WEED



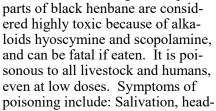
Black henbane is a member of the nightshade family and a native of the Mediterranean. It was introduced as an ornamental and medicinal plant in the 17th century. It can reach heights of up to 3 feet. It spreads by seed and flowers from

May to September. The entire plant is covered with greasy hairs. The calyx forms a 1-inch, urn-shaped "fruit" that has a thickened lid that pops off at maturity, spilling

black seeds (10,000-500,000 per plant). Leaves grow up to 8 inches long and 6 inches wide. They are alternate, shallowly lobed, coarsely

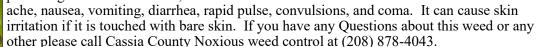


toothed, and heavy scented. Black henbane has become a common weed of pastures, fence rows, roadsides, and waste areas. It produces a persistent litter that effects the germination and growth of native species. It also creates shade that will help black henbane out compete native species for light. All plant



that has a that pops y, spilling 8 inches , coarsely ed, and y scented. k henbane become a mon weed stures, e rows, sides, and e areas. It uces a per-





DIVISION IV MEETING HOSTED BY MINIDOKA SWCD

Minidoka SWCD hosted the Spring Division IV meeting on March 2nd. Eleven Soil and Water Conservation Districts make up Division IV including: Balanced Rock SCD, Blaine SCD, Camas SCD, East Cassia SWCD, Gooding SCD, Minidoka SWCD, North Side SWCD, Snake River SWCD, Twin Falls SWCD, West Cassia SWCD, and Wood River SWCD. These districts bring conservation ideas and programs to southern Idaho.

Dusty Wilkins, Minidoka SWCD Chairman was the host for the meeting welcoming Supervisors from Division IV and Agency personnel from around the state. Speakers included Kody Bingham from Amalgamated Sugar addressing WQPA projects, Sharon Hardy, Minidoka SWCD Admin, providing Supervisor and Admin training on keeping vital district information, and West Cassia Supervisor Kathy Poulton telling about the Idaho State Land & Soil Evaluation Event held in the area each year.

The meeting was then turned over to Richard Kunau, Division IV Director and West Cassia SWCD Chairman for Division business. Topics presented included IASCD Conference highlights, District Updates and activities, and Agency Reports.

8th SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP - A SUCCESS

The 8th Annual Soil Health Workshop was held on January 10, 2023. The workshop was sponsored by the East Cassia, Minidoka, and West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts as part of their Mini-Cassia Direct Seed & Cover Crop Project. This year's workshop focused on "Managing Water for Tomorrow's Agriculture". The workshops provide soil health and conservation education free of charge to farmers and growers.

Speakers included a project overview given by Doreen McMurray (District I&E Specialist), grazing expert Jim Gerrish, Soil Technician Ehsan Soltan, Cover Crop and Soil Health Specialist Marlon Winger, Water Operations Manger Brian Stevens, Katie Dennis, a producer active in grazing cover crops, and Lacy Phelps sharing information on the Food Safety Modernization Act. 136 people attended the educational workshop.



Call one of our offices to rent a direct seed drill this spring.



LEARN MORE!

ARBOR DAY

Check their website and watch their videos. Search other resources for tree care and ways to 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/

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.

SOIL HEALTH FORUM

Magic Valley Soil Health Forum was held in January. The Forum is an opportunity for landowners to get together to share their growing season successes and failures. Growers were able to share ideas and perspectives on improving soil health and their upcoming soil health plans.

If you are interested in participating in a Soil Health Forum in the Mini-Cassia area, just call one of our offices and let us know.



PLANT "BABY" SEEDLINGS - A SMALL START FOR BIG SUCCESS

By Doreen McMurray, I&E Specialist

Windbreaks provide many benefits that will improve your property value, your comfort, and increase livestock performance. But how can you plant a windbreak economically? **The answer is simple – plant seedlings**.

Seedling trees are very small – just "babies", but their cost is minimal and their survival rate is excellent. Nearly all windbreaks are started with seedling-size plants to keep the costs down. Starting your windbreak with seedlings is a good choice but you need to do some careful planning before you begin. You can find many excellent sites on the internet that will give you guidance and direction to help you plan your windbreak.

A windbreak must be located properly in order for it to do the right job for you. Take into consideration the direction of prevailing winds. Planting in the wrong position can cause problems in years to come. Plan the distance between the windbreak and the area you want to be protected - like a roadway, a yard, or a feedlot. The windbreak should be at least 100 yards away, depending upon your situation and if there are other obstructions.

Other things to consider when planning your windbreak include ground preparation, irrigation, how many rows of trees and/or shrubs to plant, and the varieties that would be best. Provide protection for the seedlings from livestock or other animals during the first few years. With good conditions, your "babies" should produce noticeable protection within 4-5 years. (7-12 years on dry-land).

One element that will help your "babies" survive is the care you give them before planting. Make sure the seedlings are kept cool and damp until ready for planting. The bare-roots are fragile and need to stay moist. Take only the num-



ber of seedlings to the field that you can plant within about 2 hours. Keep the rest of the seedlings cool and shaded. Just before planting, you can help hydrate each plant by soaking the roots, but only for about an hour. Another tip for success is to add water to the hole before planting the seedling and irrigate again after the seedling is planted. The main points to remember when planting seedling trees include:

- *Keep the bare roots moist. Check them often until they are planted. Moisture can be kept on the roots by applying damp newspaper, peat moss or finely shredded old straw and cover with a plastic bag.
- *Plant the trees at the right depth. Some seedlings have a color change on their stems indicating the depth they were planted at the nursery. Evergreens should never be planted so deep that part of their foliage is covered.
- *Place the seedling so the roots are in a natural growing position. Do not clump the roots or "J-root" your seedling. J -rooting is where the roots are too deep for the hole and the roots are curled back up toward the top of the hole.
- *Cover the roots with moist soil and press it down firmly. This will remove pockets of air and retain moisture.
- *If possible, water the trees immediately and regularly.

Seedling trees are available from the Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Burley and Rupert. This Annual Seedling Tree sale is offered as a service to the community in helping improve the conservation of our natural resources. The seedlings come in bundles of 5 trees per bundle for a cost of \$20 plus tax. Order as soon as possible as supplies are limited. **Current availability along with detailed photos and descriptions can be found on our website at www.minicassiaswcd.com**. The seedlings will arrive late April.



2023 SEEDLING TREE SALE

Cassia and Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation Districts

NORWAY POPLAR - 40 to 60', Zone 3. 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.

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 6-8 ft. apart for screening. Hardy to -40°F.

COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE - 20 to 40', Zones 3-8. Gorgeous, brilliant, stately. The Colorado Blue Spruce is a 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.

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.

SMOOTH SUMAC – to 15', Zones 2-8. 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 ½ inch in diameter, dark red with red velvety hairs. Birds eat the fruit. Rabbits and deer eat the leaves and twigs.

AMERICAN PLUM – 15-25', Zones 3-8. The American Plum is a fast-growing 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. 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.

NANNYBERRY – 15 to 20', 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.

ELDERBERRY – to 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.

COMMON PURPLE LILAC – to 12', Zones 3-7. Lovely clusters of lavender flowers grow from the branch tips in midspring. They make a wonderful contrast to the dark green, heart-shaped 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.

BLUE ARCTIC WILLOW – 10-20', Zones 3-6. It features blue-green leave in pairs, almost opposite that are elliptical in shape 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. They are purplish in the first year's growth but later change to gray or olive-gray. Growth is rapid, reaching from 2 to 8 feet in two years.

Cassia and Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation Districts 2023 SEEDLING TREE SALE

VARIETY	SIZE	PRICE PER BUNDLE	TOTAL # OF BUNDLES	TOTAL DUE
NORWAY POPLAR (Similar to Hybrid Poplar)	3'-4'	\$20.00 (5 PER BUNDLE)		
LOMBARDY POPLAR	4' - 5'	\$20.00 (5 PER BUNDLE)		
COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE	7"-15"	\$20.00 (5 PER BUNDLE)	SOLD OUT	
ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER	8"- 15"	\$20.00 (5 PER BUNDLE)		
SMOOTH SUMAC	12"-24"	\$20.00 (5 PER BUNDLE)		
AMERICAN PLUM	2'-3'	\$20.00 (5 PER BUNDLE)		
NANNYBERRY	2' 3'	\$20.00 (5 PER BUNDLE)	SOLD OUT	
ELDERBERRY	18"-24"	\$20.00 (5 PER BUNDLE)		
COMMON PURPLE LILAC	2'- 3'	\$20.00 (5 PER BUNDLE)		
BLUE ARCTIC WILLOW	2'-3'	\$20.00 (5 PER BUNDLE)		

NAME:			SUBTOTAL:
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PHONE:			CASH:
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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 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 <u>LEAVE A MESSAGE</u> 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 NONPROFIT U.S. POSTAGE PAID BURLEY, ID PERMIT NO. 9

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

2023 Seedling Tree Sale

Going on NOW

Order forms inside this newsletter and online at **www.minicassiaswcd.com** or use the QR code below.



Call our office to get your name on the list to rent one of our <u>Direct Seed Drills</u> for the 2023 planting season.

Grower Survey Would an all-in-one vertical tillage tool be useful to you?

Use the QR code to find the survey link on our website.





In this issue:

- *Seedling Tree Sale
- *Invasive Species Inspection Station
- *Scholarships
- *Growers Survey
- *Minidoka honors retiring Supervisor
- *and more....

Visit Our WEBSITE



District Supervisor Boards & Meeting information

Direct Seed & Cover Crop Information

Workshop information & Sign-ups Drill Rental information

Seedling TREE SALE photos & info

Invasive Species Watercraft Inspection Station

Educational Programs Land & Soil Evaluation Event

Poster & Speech Contests Scholarships

Newsletters

Announcements, Events, Awards, & much more.......

Check us out at

www.minicassiaswcd.com