

# Mini-Cassia Conservation Update

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

Volume No. 2017.1  
December 2016

### Soil Health Workshop

The Soil Districts are sponsoring A **Soil Health Workshop** on February 15, 2017, which will include soil health training and provide free **Pesticide Credits**. The workshop is part of



the educational goals of the Direct Seed & Cover Crop Project that Minidoka, West Cassia, and East Cassia Soil & Water

Conservation Districts are implementing.

The Soil Health Workshop will spotlight Regional Agronomist Marlon Winger. Marlon is a soil health specialist educator and presents a very engaging and passionate approach to soil health and soil education.

Also included in the workshop will be a panel discussion from land-owners using cover crops, and presentations on integrating pest management programs, and bio-fumigation and pest trapping.

**Pesticide Credits** will be available to those attending the workshop. The workshop includes lunch. **The workshop, credits, and the luncheon are free of charge but you must RSVP** as space is limited. RSVP to [dmcurray6@gmail.com](mailto:dmcurray6@gmail.com) or 878-5556 to secure your spot.

### Seedling Tree Sale

The Annual Seedling Tree Sale will begin February 1st, 2017. Seedlings are an excellent way to get started on a windbreak or shelterbelt project. Seedlings are inexpensive and hardy. Seedlings we carry are selected for their high rate of survival in our climate.

Start planning your project now. Select the desired location where you need protection from the wind such as around a feedlot, on a property line, down a roadway or lane, surrounding your yard or livestock pens, or along a field for either wind protection or wildlife habitat shelterbelt.



Continued on page 5.

### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

#### JUDGE THE SOIL

Judging SOIL is a valuable skill students are developing as they compete in the annual Land & Soil Evaluation Event. The soil judging contest is hosted each year by the Soil & Water Conser-



Continued on page 4.

### IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO RESERVE DRILLS

Renting the Direct-Seed/No-Till Drills is a great way to try out the direct seeding practice and cover crops on your farm. The benefits are many. Information is available in both Burley and Rupert NRCS offices. The upcoming workshop is also a good place to learn from farmers currently working with cover crops.

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### SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available to high school students graduating spring of 2017 and plan to attend college in an Ag related field. The Soil & Water Conserva-



Continued on page 4.

# District Board of Supervisors

	<u>East Cassia SWCD</u>	<u>West Cassia SWCD</u>	<u>Minidoka SWCD</u>
Chairman.....	Mark Webb.....	Richard Kunau.....	Brian Kossman
Vice-Chair.....	Steve Ward.....	K. Wells.....	Russ Suchan
Sec/Treasurer.....	Ken Woodworth.....	Kathy Poulton.....	Dusty Wilkins
Member.....	Brook Holtman.....	Brent Stoker.....	Justin Hunter
Member.....	Jonathan Harper.....	Ken Black.....	Aaron Firth
Associate Member.....			John Firth
Associate Member.....			Tyler Hanssen

### District Employees

Megan Heward.....Cassia Administrative Assistant  
 Madi Patterson.....Cassia Office Assistant  
 Sharon Hardy-Mills.....Minidoka Administrative Assistant  
 Doreen McMurray.....Cassia Information & Education Specialist

### Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Personnel

David Mabey.....District Conservationist  
 Carolyn Firth .....ISWCC Ag Program Specialist  
 Dinah Reaney.....Soil Conservationist  
 Connor White .....Range & Wildlife Conservationist  
 Haydn Carson.....Soil Technician

## NEWSLETTERS

are available by  
e-mail!

If you are interested in receiving this and future newsletters electronically, send your e-mail address to:  
[ewcswcd@pmt.org](mailto:ewcswcd@pmt.org)

Type "NEWSLETTER" in the subject box.

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



## SUPERVISOR BOARD MEETINGS

Supervisors for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are landowners in Cassia and Minidoka Counties. They are interested in farming issues and want to make a positive difference.

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 our community.

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

Monthly Board Meetings: (Public Welcome)

- East Cassia SWCD** - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of ea month
- West Cassia SWCD** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of ea month
- Minidoka SWCD** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month

Burley Office — 678-1225 ext 100  
 Rupert Office — 436-4202



### CONTACT OUR OFFICES:

**Phone:**  
 Minidoka Office 436-4202  
 Burley Office 678-1225 x100

**Minidoka e-mail:**  
[minidokaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:minidokaswcd@gmail.com)

**Cassia e-mail:**  
[ewcswcd@pmt.org](mailto:ewcswcd@pmt.org)

**Web page:**  
[www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)

*The "Conservation Update" is published quarterly by the East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation Districts and mailed to approximately 1,100 landowners. 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 878-5556. 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.*

## TitleOne

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## DIRECT SEED DRILLS

It's not too early to reserve the Direct Seed/No-Till Drills. The drills are available to rent so farmers can try out cover crops on their own farm without the need to purchase their own drill. These drills can be used for any planting but are excellent for **Direct Seeding** into stubble from previous harvest. Contact either the Burley (678-1225 x100) or Rupert (436-4202) office to reserve a drill or for details.

Districts are also offering **seed rebates**. A generous portion of your seed cost will be paid to those landowners meeting the minimum requirements: that of renting a drill from the districts and planting a minimum of 3 seed varieties as a cover crop. (Check our website [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com) or come into one of the offices for details.) Seed recommendations are available by contacting the NRCS offices in Burley or Rupert.

Minidoka and Cassia Soil & Water Conservation Districts continue working together to help educate farmers on soil health issues and the benefits of planting cover crops. Supervisors from all 3 local Soil Districts donate their time to serve on the **Direct Seed/Cover Crop Project** Committee to run and supervise the project which provides education to landowners, seed reimbursements, and access for rental use of direct seed drills for cover crop plantings.



Direct Seed Drill Information & contracts can be picked up in either the Rupert or Burley USDA offices, or can be found online at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com).

## Cover Crops Diversity Brings Benefits and Spreads Out The Risk

Cover Crops allow crops to be grown with:

- **less soil disturbance**,
- Increased **water holding capacity** in soil,
- Increased **organic matter** in the soil,
- **Decreased wind erosion**,
- **Decreased water erosion**,
- More **soil stability**,
- Natural **Weed control**, and
- **Increased nutrients in the soil** provided by certain cover crop varieties chosen ie: legumes for nitrogen or plants with long tap root systems which pull mobile nutrients and moisture back up to the surface from lower layers of the soil and provide moisture pathways.

Visit our webpage at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)

**THE PURPOSE** of the **Mini-Cassia Direct Seed/Cover Crop Project** is to increase education in:

- ◆ The use of **direct seed farming**,
- ◆ The use of **cover crops**,
- ◆ How to **improve Soil Health**,
- ◆ To provide access to **equipment, seed information**, and **seed rebates** toward implementing these practices.

## **- WINDBREAKS -** **THINGS TO CONSIDER:**

Number of **rows**,  
**Distance** between rows,  
**Variety & Number** of seedlings needed,  
**Irrigation**, and  
**Protection** from weeds/animals.

Look us up on **FACEBOOK @ East & West Cassia Soil and Water Conservation Districts** or on the **Web** at [minicassiaswcd.com](http://minicassiaswcd.com)

## WE ALL NEED TREES - THEME FOR POSTER CONTEST

5th and 6th grade students in Minidoka and Cassia Counties had the opportunity to participate in the



Oakley Elementary (above): Jodelle Hansen, Viviana Carranza, Alacia Lind, Hope Payton, Laryah Atkinson, Kassidy Thomas. Also shown is 2nd place winner William Praegitzer.



Raft River Elementary (above): Eleri Lloyd, Heidi Harper, Allie Black, Ashley Barnes.

Declo Elementary: (right) Trevor Willingham, Madison Thornton, Treysen Wynn, Austinn Parish, Bridgers Duncan.



Declo Jr High (above): Alexis Heward, Raquel Perry, Winter Hansen, Kyler Dalton.



annual Poster Contest. This year's theme was "We All Need Trees".

### Minidoka Winners:

1st Place Tiffany Harper, (far left)  
2nd Place Hagan Bailes, (left)  
3rd Place Jacobie Savage (far left)



### East Cassia Poster Winners:

1st Place Kyle Hill, (top right)  
2nd Place Britan Zollinger, (top right)  
3rd Place Ruby Miller, (top right)



### West Cassia Poster Winners:

1st Place Kennedy Chavez, (right)  
2nd Place William Praegitzer, (left)  
3rd Place Shai Aguinaga, (right)

### Honorable Mention Winners:



White Pine Intermediate (above): Lola Browler, Alexis Rosado, Mya Gillette, Candace McCann, Camilla Yearsley, Kestle King, Sara Beck, Trevyn Kay, Malia Tolley, Kacie Mower, Sage Baker, Brinley Yeck, Angel Garcia, Addison Crawley, Tate Larson, Brookline Ramos, Alyssa Gonzalez.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

It is time for our High School Seniors to start looking for scholarships. The Soil & Water Conservation Districts provide several scholarships to students planning to major in Ag related fields.

### Minidoka SWCD Scholarships:

The Minidoka scholarship is for Seniors with at least one year in FFA, who will major in Agriculture, Natural Resources, or related fields. Applications must be returned to the Minidoka Office by April 4, 2017. E-mail [minidokaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:minidokaswcd@gmail.com) or Call the office at 436-4202 for information.

### East Cassia & West Cassia SWCD Scholarships:

East Cassia SWCD will provide up to 2 \$500 scholarships and West Cassia SWCD will provide up to 3 \$500 scholarships to qualified High School Seniors planning to major in an Agriculture related field. These scholarships are to be used the fall term following graduation from high school. Applications are available at the Burley NRCS office at 1361 East 16th Street, by email to [ewcsxcd@pmt.org](mailto:ewcsxcd@pmt.org), by phone to 678-1225 x100, or on our web page at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com). Application deadline June 2, 2017.



## **TREE SALE** continued from page 1.

The seedlings selected are primarily for windbreaks but can also be used for beautification projects on your property or in your community.

Here's a few things to remember before ordering your seedlings:

1. *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.*
2. *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 with your plans. Consider proper location. Careful planning of the distance between the windbreak and the area you want to be protected is important.*
3. *Ground preparation,*
4. *Irrigation,*
5. *How many rows of trees and/or shrubs to plant, and the varieties that would be best.*

Also take into consideration the protection for the seedlings from livestock and animals during the first few years. With good conditions, your seedlings should produce noticeable protection within 4-5 years. (7-12 years on dry-land).



*L to R: Soil District Supervisors Richard Kunau, Aaron Firth, Ken Black, John Firth, and Russell Suchan preparing seedlings for distribution.*

vation Districts. FFA and 4-H Students from around the state compete in their local and

## **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS JUDGE THE SOIL** (continued from page 1)

regional contests. Winners at the regional contests continue on to the state contest held here in Burley in October.



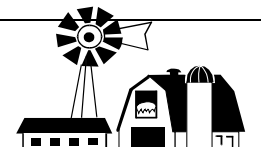
The students have studied and worked to gain a good working knowledge of our soil resource. They learn to look deeper than the plow layer to make determinations about the soil and learn to recognize soil factors and soil characteristics. This knowledge teaches students to make wise decisions in managing and using the he land. It also teaches management, understanding, and an appreciation of the soil which will bring about informed decisions that can affect the future for all of us.

This year, (fall 2016 contest), 17 FFA Teams and one 4-H team participated at the state level. The top team award was won by Preston FFA. Troy FFA placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and Rigby FFA placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. The top 2 teams will receive scholarship money to help with the expenses in attending the national event which will be held in Oklahoma City next Spring.

**Thanks to the volunteers and businesses who help to make this event possible!** It takes the work of

many people to handle the regional and state events. Appreciation for the success of these events goes to the Land owners, NRCS personnel, FFA Advisors and their school districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and to the

**Thanks to our Advertisers.**  
Their support makes this Newsletter possible.



## **TIRED OF THE WIND?**

Are you tired of the wind? Then plant a row of trees this Spring. Trees make a beautiful natural windbreak and protect your home or property from the severity of our Idaho wind. Start your planning **now**.

Study and research the best location for your windbreak.

Measure the desired area, deciding upon one row or a multiple row windbreak.

Plan the distance between trees and how you will provide regular irrigation.

Order your seedlings.

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](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com) or
- ◆ on the East Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District FACEBOOK page, or
- ◆ The Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation District FACEBOOK page,
- ◆ by email to [ewcswcd@pmt.org](mailto:ewcswcd@pmt.org) or [minidokaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:minidokaswcd@gmail.com)
- ◆ At the NRCS offices Burley (1361 East 16th Street) or Rupert (98 B South 200 West),
- ◆ or by Calling 208-678-1225 x100 or 436-4202. **Leave a clear, detailed message.**

## **HOW TO TEMPER IDAHO'S WIND**

Protecting your property, crops, or animals from Southern Idaho's winds is a major concern. Providing protection from winds can increase property value and increase productivity. Windbreaks are a natural way to "TEMPER" Idaho's wind.

A living windbreak is one or more rows of trees and/or shrubs used to block and redirect the wind. The wind is "lifted" up and over, creating a protected area where wind speeds are drastically reduced.

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

Other important concerns include: ground preparation, irrigation, how many rows of trees and/or shrubs to plant, the varieties you need, and providing protection for the young seedling trees from livestock during the first few years. With good conditions, you should produce noticeable protection within 4-5 years. (7-12 years on dry-land).

Planting seedling trees and shrubs is an economical way to put in a windbreak. Seedling trees are available from the Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Burley and Rupert. One of the soil districts' main goals is to improve conservation in Cassia and Minidoka Counties. This Annual Seedling Tree sale is offered as a service to the community to help improve and conserve our natural resources.

The seedlings come in bundles of 10 trees per bundle for a cost of \$35 plus tax. You should begin planning now and get your trees ordered as soon as possible. The seedlings will arrive mid April. Special orders are also available for an additional cost. The supplies are limited and will be available on a first come-first served basis until they are gone. Detailed photos and information on the seedlings are available in the Burley & Rupert offices or online at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com) or can be e-mailed to you at [ewcswcd@pmt.org](mailto:ewcswcd@pmt.org). You may also call our offices at 678-1225 x100 or 436-4202. Leave a clear, detailed message.



Ad page goes here.

## **2017 SEEDLING TREE SALE**

**Information and pictures of each variety is on our website at  
[www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)**

### **DECIDUOUS TREES**

**NORWAY POPLAR-** (Hybrid style) Fast growing tree used for windbreaks and riparian plantings. Requires moist soil but can tolerate dry soil. Height- 40-60'. Spread- 20-35'. Full Sun. Zone 3.

**LOMBARDY POPLAR-** (Theves style) – Fast growing tree. Similar to the common Lombardy poplar but has less dead wood. Not recommended in urban communities because its roots can damage water pipes and permanent structures such as patios and walkways. Height- 60-80'. Full Sun. Zone 2.

### **CONIFERS**

**COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE** –Gorgeous, brilliant, stately. The Picea Pungens, is a pyramidal shaped evergreen with steel blue foliage. It prefers heavier soils, full sun, and clean cultivation. Picea Pungens will reach a height of six feet in eight years on a good site. The Picea Pungens is probably the most drought tolerant of all spruce. It is widely used in windbreaks or as an ornamental yard tree. Height- 30-90'. Full Sun Only. Zone 3 to 7.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER** - Rocky Mountain juniper is an evergreen large shrub or small tree to 50 ft (15.2 m) tall, but usually much smaller. Specimens are variable in habit, sometimes squat and shrubby, but usually narrowly cone shaped. The trunk is short and stout, often dividing near the ground. The branches are rather thick and spreading to partly erect. Rocky Mountain juniper has reddish bark that is stringy in narrow strips but does not exfoliate. Most of the leaves are like overlapping scales, closely pressed to the twigs. Juvenile leaves, usually only found on young seedlings, are more like needles, and they spread away from the twigs. The foliage is dense and pleasantly aromatic. Trees may have male or female cones, but not both. The fruits are fleshy berrylike spherical cones, about 1/3 in (0.8 cm) in diameter. They are bright blue with a whitish bloom and sweet tasting, with thin skins. Rocky Mountain juniper is closely related and quite similar to eastern redcedar, and was once believed to be the same species. But eastern redcedar has fruits that mature in a single season, whereas those of Rocky Mountain juniper take two year to ripen. Also, eastern redcedar had exfoliating bark. The two species hybridize where their ranges overlap. Height- 30-40'. Sun to Partial Shade. Zones 3 to 8.

### **SHRUBS**

**COMMON PURPLE LILAC** – 12-20', Zone 3. Fragrant lavender colored blossoms in May. Attractive green foliage. Good for privacy screen or windbreak.

**GOLDEN CURRANT-** an upright, drought tolerant shrub with arching stems reaching a height of 5-6 feet, native to the Midwest and Intermountain west. Fragrant yellow flowers produce a dark purple to black fruit suitable for wildlife and jellies. Self pollinator.

**REDOSIER DOGWOOD** – to 10', Zone 2. Colorful all year. Grows rapidly to medium sized multi-stem shrub. Stems are dark to bright red, white fruit clusters are taken rapidly by birds. Can hedge. Ideal for holding soil on steep banks.

**BLACK CHOKEBERRY** - 3-6', All Zones. Open, upright, spreading deciduous shrub featuring clusters of white flowers in spring followed by blackish purple, blueberry-sized fruits in early autumn. Dark green foliage turns an attractive purplish red in autumn. Full sun to partial shade. Tolerates both wet and dry sites. Fruit is extremely tart and bitter, but makes tasty jams and jellies.

Cassia and Minidoka Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
**2017 SEEDLING TREE SALE**

VARIETY	SIZE	PRICE PER BUNDLE	TOTAL # OF BUNDLES	TOTAL DUE
NORWAY POPLAR (Similar to Hybrid Poplar)	3'-4'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
LOMBARDY POPLAR	3'-4'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
COLORADO SPRUCE	7"-15"	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER	8"-15"	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
COMMON PURPLE LILAC	2'-3'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
GOLDEN CURRANT	2'-3'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
REDOSIER DOGWOOD	3'-4'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		
BLACK CHOKEBERRY	2'-3'	\$35.00 (10 PER BUNDLE)		

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: HOME \_\_\_\_\_

CELL \_\_\_\_\_

WORK \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBTOTAL _____ + TAX (X .06) _____ = <b>FINAL TOTAL</b> _____  CASH _____ CHECK # _____
--

Check box if you want to be notified of pick-up date and time by e-mail.

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: EAST CASSIA SWCD**  
**1361 EAST 16<sup>TH</sup> STREET**  
**BURLEY, ID 83318**  
**208-678-1225 X100**

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

**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 and Water Conservation Districts**  
**1361 East 16th Street**  
**Burley, ID 83318**

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***District Board Meetings: Public welcome.***

*East Cassia — 1st Tuesday of each month.*

*West Cassia — 2nd Tuesday of each month.*

*Call 678-1225 x100 for details.*

*Minidoka — 2nd Thursday of each month.*

*Call 436-4202 for details.*

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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Scholarship Information  
Students Judge the Soil in State Contest

