



# Conservation Connection

Wood County  
Land & Water Conservation Department

Volume 22 Issue 1

## Why You Should Consider Planting a Cover Crop

(article courtesy of Ozaukee "Dirt")

When a falling raindrop hits bare soil and explodes, it dislodges unprotected soil particles and begins the process of soil erosion. Cover crops and plant residue not only armor the soil from erosion, but they also increase soil organic matter, improve soil structure, and increase soil nutrient supply improving soil health. Cover crops promote biological activity in the soil which in turn promotes nutrient cycling and the formation of organic matter. Each one percent increase in soil organic matter allows soil to hold 20,000 gallons more water per acre. While soil erosion is a common problem, it is interesting to note that we also have a water infiltration problem due to unhealthy soils. Many soils have little structure often due to over tilling, low organic matter, and compaction, resulting in the inability for the soil to readily absorb water, resulting in lower crop yields and lower profitability.

A good first step to improving soil health is to make cover crops an integral part of a cropping system. Cover crops can be managed to improve soil health, as they help develop an environment that sustains and nourishes plants, soil microbes and beneficial insects. Planting several cover crops together in a mixture can increase their impact on soil health. Each cover crop provides its own set of benefits, so it's important to choose the right cover crop mixture to meet management goals.

Cover crops are typically planted in late summer or fall shortly after harvest. Examples of cover crops include clovers and other legumes, rye, wheat, oats, barley, radishes, and triticale.

Remember, biodiversity increases the success of most agricultural systems. Using cover crops and increasing diversity within crop rotations improves soil health, soil function, reduces input costs, and increases profitability. Diversity above ground improves diversity below ground, which helps create healthy productive soils.

### Four basic principles to improve soil health:

- ◆ **Keep the soil covered as much as possible.**
- ◆ **Keep plants growing throughout most of the year to feed the soil.**
- ◆ **Manage soils more by disturbing them less.**
- ◆ **Use plant diversity to increase diversity in the soil.**



If you are interested in planting cover crops in the future, contact the Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department at 715-421-8475 to discuss and learn more about potential cost-share possibilities.

# 2017 Tree Sale Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address : \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIES	# PER BUNDLE	QUANTITY (# of Bundles)	PRICE PER BUNDLE	SUBTOTAL
American Plum - 10" - 20"	25 per bundle		\$19.00	
Antonovka Apple -10" - 15"	25 per bundle		\$21.00	
Black Cherry -12" - 18"	25 per bundle		\$21.00	
Black Walnut -18" - 30"	25 per bundle		\$22.00	
Douglas Fir - 15" +	25 per bundle		\$22.00	
Flame Maple - 12" - 18"	25 per bundle		\$22.00	
Highbush Cranberry - 6" - 12"	25 per bundle		\$18.00	
Midwest Crabapple - 18" - 24"	25 per bundle		\$24.00	
Red Osier Dogwood - 12" - 24"	25 per bundle		\$18.00	
White Birch - 12" - 24"	25 per bundle		\$21.00	
White Cedar - 6" - 12"	25 per bundle		\$20.00	
White Spruce - 15" +	25 per bundle		\$22.00	
<b>TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF TREES - SHRUBS ORDERED</b>				\$
<b>SPECIAL ITEMS</b>				
	QUANTITY		UNIT PRICE	
<b>Generic Gel</b>				
4 oz. - \$7.25, 1 lb. - \$12.25, 3 lb. - \$22.25	_____	X	_____	= \$ _____
<b>Tree Shelters</b>				
	_____	X	\$ 2.50	= \$ _____
<b>(Trees/Shrubs + Generic Gel + Tree Shelters) SUBTOTAL</b>				\$
<b>(5.5% Sales Tax) SUBTOTAL x .055</b>				\$
<b>ORDER TOTAL</b>				\$

**ORDER DEADLINE IS JANUARY 13, 2017**

Payment must accompany your order. Please make checks payable to: Wood County LWCD

Please mail order along with payment to: Wood County Land & Water Conservation Dept.  
 PO Box 8095  
 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095

## Tree and Shrub Descriptions

**American Plum - *Prunus americana*** (Shrub) 10-18 feet mature height. Clusters of white flowers bloom in May producing edible fruit available from August to October. Source of food and cover for many species of wildlife. Sprout from root suckers to form thickets. Good for hedgerows and windbreaks. Resistant to drought. Prefers well-drained soil and partial to full sun. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.

**Antonovka Apple - *Malus renетка*** (Tree) 20-30 feet mature height. Antonovka is a group of late-fall or early-winter cultivars. Known for its ability to sustain long harsh winters typical of Eastern Europe and Russia and for its superior preservation qualities. Very heavy fruit production after 5 years, excellent apple for food plot and shelterbelt plantings as well as eating. This apple tree needs a pollination partner of a different variety nearby. Most white-blossom crabapples will be good pollinators for this variety. Recommended spacing is 10-20 feet.

**Black Cherry - *Prunus serotina*** (Tree) 50-60 feet mature height. The dark green leaves turn yellow to red in fall and white flowers, which bloom in spring. It's an important food source for many songbirds, black bear and deer. Fruit is edible by humans (used for wine and jelly). It will tolerate full to partial sun and moist to dry conditions. Recommended spacing is 15-20 feet.

**Black Walnut - *Juglans nigra* L.** (Tree) 70-100 feet mature size. An excellent source of nuts for both wild-life and human consumption. A fast growing tree in deep well drained soils. Under ideal growing conditions Black Walnut can grow two feet or more in one growing season. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.

**Douglas Fir - *Pseudotsuga menziesii*** (Tree) 50-100 feet mature height. It prefers well drained soils. Provides much needed winter cover for wildlife. Its needles are light green to blue-green about 1 inch with 2-3 inch cones. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.

**Flame Maple - *Acer Ginnala "Flame"*** (Small Tree) 15-18 feet mature height. Tolerates a wide range of soil. Does best in full sun to partial shade. Brilliant autumn foliage ranging from orange-red to deep red. A spectacular choice for its reliable blazing red fall color and bright red fruits in summer, very hardy and adaptable, great as a fall accent in smaller home landscapes. Recommended spacing 15-20 feet.

**Highbush Cranberry - *Viburnum opulus* L. var. *americanum* Ait.** (Shrub) 10-15 feet mature height. Produces a bright red fruit that is eaten by many songbirds, ruffed grouse, chipmunks, and deer. Tolerates full to partial sun and moist to dry conditions. Adapted to broad range of soil types, prefers well drained. Recommended spacing is 4-6 feet.

**Midwest Crabapple - *Malus Baccata* Var. *Mandshurica*** (Shrub/Small Tree) Grows 10-15 feet. A moderately rapid growing medium size tree. Densely branched and oval shaped. Blossoms snowy white. Dark olive green leaves. Fruit size 1/4-1/2 diameter. Excellent for windbreak, wildlife habitat and food source. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.

**Red Osier Dogwood - *Cornus sericea*** (Shrub) 8-10 feet mature height. Has white flowers atop of bright red twigs that produce white berries persisting into winter. Provides food and cover to ruffed grouse, turkeys, cardinals, evening grosbeaks, and rabbits to name a few. Tolerates full sun to full shade. Prefers wet to moist soil, broad range of tolerance to soil types. Recommended spacing is 4-6 feet.

**White Birch - *Betula papyrifera*** (Tree) 50-70 feet mature size. Small to medium-sized tree. Bark on branches and young trees is brown to bronze. Bark on mature trees white, peeling into long, narrow, paper-like strips. Birches are sun-loving, fast growing trees. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.

**White Cedar - *Thuja occidentalis* L.** (Tree) 40-50 feet mature height. Small scale-like leaves appear to make the branches flat. The thick branching pattern and dense foliage provide excellent cover for birds. Prefers neutral to alkaline soils. Makes a good windbreak. Is a preferred food by deer. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.

**White Spruce- *Picea Glauca*** (Tree) 60-80 feet mature height. Provides nesting, roosting and winter cover to a variety of wildlife species; also, good for windbreaks. Will grow in full sun to partial shade and moist to dry soils. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.

## Tree Shelters

The tree shelter we sell ships flat, pops up to a generous, leaf expanding 3.9 inch diameter, and installs quickly and easily with large tie holes for different staking options. The 4-foot tubes are vented to allow superior air exchange for efficient CO2 replenishment and assuring proper dormancy (hardening off) before winter. Tree shelters are available anytime throughout the year at the Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department.



**Tree Shelters - \$2.50/each + tax**

## Generic Gel

Generic gel is a starch absorbent that retains water and gives it back to the plant during dry periods. The gel increases plant survivability. It comes in granular form and is mixed with water. Roots are dipped into the solution prior to planting. Generic gel is available throughout the year at the Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department. Sizes and pricing as follows:



<u>Size</u>	<u># Seedlings treated</u>	<u># Transplants treated</u>	<u>Cost</u>
4 oz.	1,000	250	\$ 7.25 + tax
1 lb.	4,000	1,000	\$ 12.25 + tax
3 lb.	12,000	3,000	\$ 22.25 + tax

## Tree Planters and Tree Spades

The Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department also has four tree planters and two tree spades for rent. For more information on the tree planters and tree spades contact the Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department at 715-421-8475, when planting season nears in the spring of the year.

## Youth Education Opportunities



### Conservation Speaking Contest

Held on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at Pittsville High School in Pittsville, WI. Students can pick a topic that deals with conservation and deliver a speech. Gift cards and trophies will be awarded to the top speeches. Registration and contest rules information can be found on the Wood County Land and Water Conservation website. Registration due Wednesday, November 23, 2016.

### Conservation Poster Contest

This year's topic for the Conservation Posters will be "Healthy soils are full of life!" The rules for the poster contest can be found on the Wood County Land and Water Conservation website. Gift cards and trophies will be awarded to top posters. The posters may be dropped off at the Wood County Land and Water Conservation Department or mailed to us by Thursday December 8, 2016.

### WI Envirothon

Held April 7, 2017 at the Central WI Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI. Wisconsin's annual Envirothon is a combined effort of educators and natural resource professionals who provide the following hands-on, outdoor coaching, and testing areas: soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and an annual current issue. Wisconsin Envirothon gives our middle and high school youth the tools to provide leadership for a more sustainable and environmentally aware community.

If you have questions about any of these programs please contact Tracy Arnold, [tarnold@co.wood.wi.us](mailto:tarnold@co.wood.wi.us)

# 2017 Prairie Grass and Wildflower Mixes Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Short Prairie Seed Mixes				Tall Prairie Seed Mixes			
Coverage	Cost/Unit	Dry Soil	Medium Soil	Coverage	Cost/Unit	Dry Soil	Medium Soil
1/4 pound 1000 sq. ft.	\$ 75.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1/4 pound 1000 sq. ft.	\$ 65.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1/2 pound 2000 sq. ft.	\$130.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1/2 pound 2000 sq. ft.	\$ 110.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 pound 1/10 acre	\$200.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 pound 1/10 acre	\$155.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pollinator Mix				Butterfly Prairie Mix			
Coverage	Cost/Unit	Dry Soil	Medium Soil	Coverage	Cost/Unit	Dry Soil	Medium Soil
1/4 pound 1000 sq. ft.	\$90.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1/4 pound 1000 sq. ft.	\$90.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1/2 pound 2000 sq. ft.	\$170.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1/2 pound 2000 sq. ft.	\$170.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 pound 1/10 acre	\$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 pound 1/10 acre	\$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land Restoration Mix				Erosion Control Mix			
Coverage	Cost/Unit	Dry Soil	Medium Soil	Coverage	Cost/Unit	Dry Soil	Medium Soil
3/10 acre	\$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3/10 acre	\$280.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1/2 acre	\$380.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1/2 acre	\$430.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 acre	\$600.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 acre	\$700.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ _____	→ → → → +		<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ _____	<b>Order Total</b> \$ _____	
<b>(x.055)</b>	\$ _____			<b>(x.055)</b>	\$ _____		
<b>5.5% Tax</b>				<b>5.5% Tax</b>			

\* For more information or a list of seeds included in each mix call our office at 715-421-8475 or go to <http://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/LandConservation/TreeSale.aspx>

## 2016 Deer Donation Program

The deer donation program will be continuing Wisconsin's autumn tradition of helping those in need. Since the program began in 2000, hunters have donated over 87,000 deer which were processed into over 3.89 million pounds of ground venison.

If you deer hunt and are interested in helping feed needy people throughout Wood County, you can do so by following these simple steps.

1. Donate any legally harvested deer by dropping it off at one of the participating processors listed below by January 31, 2017.
2. Prior to donating, field dress the deer, register it and write your registration confirmation number on the carcass tag.
3. Call first! Contact one of the participating processors listed below before dropping the deer off to verify the processor has space to accept your deer.
4. Donate the entire deer to receive the processing for free. (Head and/or antlers may be removed for mounting.) Please handle the carcass as if it were destined for your own table. A couple bags of ice placed in the cavity will help preserve the carcass in warm weather.
5. Donate a pound or as many pounds as you'd like when you pay to have your deer processed at one of the processors listed below. These processors will add the venison to the donated venison batch and package it for local food pantries.
6. When dropping your deer off at a processor, please complete the log sheet indicating your desire to donate the deer. The donated deer will be processed and the venison will be distributed to charitable organizations to help feed Wood County's needy.

### PARTICIPATING PROCESSORS IN WOOD COUNTY

**A & B Butchering - Rudolph -715-435-3893**

**Strictly Wild Processing - Wisconsin Rapids - 715-421-0587**

**Pittsville Meats - Pittsville - 715-884-6816**

