

VOLUME 38 NUMBER 1

Skagit Conservation News

Plant Sale Edition

2022 SCD NATIVE PLANT SALE

THE SKAGIT CD PLANT SALE WILL BE SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR

For many reasons related to the pandemic, there will not be an "open" sale again this year. Our sale is pre-order only through our new webstore. Our selection and availability is still limited, so we are not able to carry as many species as we normally do.

- Evergreen species are sold in bulk quantities of 25 seedlings
- Deciduous tree & shrub species are sold in bulk quantities of 10 seedlings

We recognize that there are mitigation & restoration projects that are still being implemented during these times & are hoping to help meet those needs.

PLANT ORDER INFORMATION

- Our plants are available for purchase by pre-order through our online store.
- There is a minimum order of \$50.00
- Plants will be packaged in advance of the pick-up date which will be in mid-March (TBD).
- A contact-less drive-through system for order pick-up will be in place.

PLACING YOUR ORDER

www.skagitcd.org/shop

Once your order is placed and paid, you will receive your invoice with complete instructions and directions for pick-up.

PLANT SALE PROCEEDS

The proceeds from our plant sale are used to support our K-12 education programs that provide students fun, hands-on education about our natural resources. www.skagitcd.org/youth-education

We sincerely apologize to all of our loyal customers for the inconvenience the changes to our plant sale may cause.
Thank you for understanding.

Need help? Call us at 360-428-4313 or email skagitcd@skagitcd.org

SCD NATIVE PLANT LIST

For detailed information on plants and to order visit www.skagitcd.org/shop

ET = EVERGREEN TREE DT = DECIDUOUS TREE S = SHRUB

	Trees/Shrubs	Price/Bundle
ET	Grand fir, <i>Abies grandis</i>	\$30.00/ 25 ct.
ET	Noble fir, <i>Abies procera</i>	\$52.00/ 25 ct.
ET	Western red cedar, <i>Thuja plicata</i>	\$47.00/ 25 ct.
ET	Sitka spruce, <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	\$32.00/ 25 ct.
ET	Shore pine <i>Pinus contorta</i>	\$32.00/ 25 ct.
ET	Douglas fir, <i>Pseudotsuga mezesii</i>	\$30.00/ 25 ct.
DT	Vine maple, <i>Acer circinatum</i>	\$25.00/ 10 ct.
DT	Oregon ash, <i>Fraxinus latifolia</i>	\$25.00/ 10 ct.
DT	Paper birch, <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	\$25.00/ 10 ct.
DT	Quaking aspen, <i>Populus tremuloides</i>	\$25.00/ 10 ct.
DT	Cascara, <i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	\$25.00/ 10 ct.
S	Blue elderberry, <i>Sambucus cerulea</i>	\$25.00/ 10 ct.
S	Red osier dogwood, <i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	\$25.00/ 10 ct.
S	Mock orange, <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i>	\$28.00/ 10 ct.
S	Tall Oregon grape, <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	\$25.00/ 10 ct.
S	Red flowering currant, <i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	\$24.00/ 10 ct.
S	Nootka rose, <i>Rosa nutkana</i>	\$25.00/ 10 ct.
S	Hooker willow, <i>Salix hookeriana</i>	\$22.00/ 10 ct.
S	Kinnikinnick, <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	\$28.00/ 10 ct.
S	Salal, <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	\$28.00/ 10 ct.
S	Evergreen huckleberry, <i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>	\$52.00/ 10 ct.



www.skagitcd.org/shop

BACKYARD CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP SHORTCOURSE

Coming soon...

The annual six-week BYC program is tentatively scheduled to start Wednesday March 2nd. This program will consist of six Wednesday evening classes from 6pm - 8:30pm and two Saturday afternoon fieldtrips -TBA.

The class will be visiting display gardens and hearing from experts on the topics of "rainwise" gardening, native plant landscaping for birds, Integrated Pest Management, invasive weeds of the northwest, rainwater harvesting, and more!

Participants will learn the principles of how to create beautiful landscapes that benefit humans, animals, watersheds, and the environment starting in your own backyard.

Look for sign-up information coming soon on the Skagit Conservation District website at <https://www.skagitcd.org/backyard-conservation>

This program is held in partnership with the cities of Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, and Skagit County.



Winter Time in Your Forest: Seasonal Tips

Get outside and explore!

Reflect on the changes in your woods over the last year, and update your to-do list and forest management plan.



Plant some trees!

When planting trees, it's not as simple as "dig a hole." Make sure that the planting hole is as deep as the roots and at least twice as wide. Protect new tree seedlings from deer and elk.

Do some learning!

Catch up on the latest forestry news and research, and attend the annual WSU Extension Forest Owners' Winter School.

SCD's forestry page: www.skagitcd.org/forestry

Contact: Nick Kunz, Forester, nick@skagitcd.org

Look for a new calendar of events on our website that will include forestry-focused opportunities.



"We Scoop!" Do You Scoop?

This is why we scoop...

Healthy Pets - Healthy Kids - Healthy Environment - Clean Yards - Clean Shoes

Pet waste can present serious issues when not disposed of correctly. Roundworm and other parasite eggs often found in feces can remain in the soil for years, infecting pets and anyone who touches it. Dog feces is also one of the leading sources of E. coli bacteria.

Pet waste is a major contributor to nonpoint source pollution. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "run-off from pet waste will continue to produce harmful effects on our drinking water supply, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife" unless dog owners and community members work "to reduce and prevent this pollution" at its source.

In order to maintain pet access to our public areas everyone needs to be responsible for their pet waste. The majority of the population often has to pay the consequences for the actions taken by the minority of the population. Parks and many public areas are becoming inaccessible to our canine friends because of the actions of the few people who do not concern themselves with their pet responsibilities.

Poop is GROSS and it STINKS. It attracts flies and gnats. Honestly, no one wants to step in a fresh pile when they're out on a walk!

SCOOP IT. BAG IT. PUT IT IN THE TRASH.



Scoopin' Tips

- Clean up your yard daily or at least once a week.
- Always carry extra poop bags.
- Place the poop in the trash, not the compost.

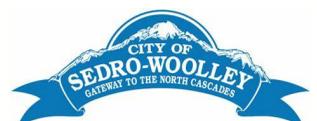


Take the "We Scoop" Pledge!



-  I pledge to scoop the poop at home at least weekly, rain or shine.
-  I pledge to scoop the poop on walks every time.
-  I pledge to bag it, and put it in the trash.

www.skagitcd.org/stormwater
We'll send you a handy poop bag dispenser!
(Limit one per household)



SEPTIC SYSTEM MYTHBUSTERS

There are lots of rumors about how to manage a septic system correctly. Some of them are pretty wild! Let's bust three of the most popular myths we hear.

MYTH

I don't need to inspect my tank because I get it pumped every few years.

FACT

Regular pumping is important, but inspections are critical. An inspection looks at all aspects of your septic system, including checking to see whether water is moving through it too slowly, and the condition of your drainfield. Most failures actually happen in the drainfield, not the tank. So even if your maintenance provider does a quick assessment of the tank as they pump, you're not getting a complete picture of what's happening. Inspections help you catch problems early before they turn into an expensive disaster!

MYTH

Tossing raw cabbage, ground beef, or additives in my septic system helps it work better.

FACT

Nothing will make your septic system work better than treating it well. The only solids that should ever be put into it are poop and toilet paper. Poop and the bacteria of the surrounding soil have all the microbes and enzymes necessary to keep your system working. So eat that cabbage first! Despite common beliefs, EPA found that no septic additive has been proven in independent and unbiased testing to have a significant benefit to your septic system. At best, they're harmless. At worst, they can actually harm your septic system. Save your money!

MYTH

My septic system will last forever.

FACT

The average life span of a septic system is about 30 years, but only if you treat it well! Even new systems can fail if they're abused. Having a garbage disposal, flushing wipes, using too much water at one time, waiting too long to pump your septic system, and skipping regular inspections can all shorten the life of your system.



If you find yourself wondering if what you heard is true, go to the experts! Skagit County's Septic Program Staff is always happy to help. Give them a call at 360-416-1500

SUSTAINABLE FARMING STARTS WITH A FARM PLAN

WHAT IS A FARM PLAN?

A farm conservation plan is a document developed by your conservation district and YOU, the farm owner/operator. Working with SCD to develop a farm plan is both voluntary and confidential.

A farm plan contains a series of actions designed to meet a farm's operational goals while protecting water quality and natural resources.

Considered in a farm plan are the components of SWAPA - soil, water, air, plants and animals. Also included are farm size, slope of the land, and type of livestock or crops available.

The Skagit Conservation District (SCD) works with farms of all sizes - from backyard horse farms to large dairies or crop farms. All farm planning services provided by SCD are FREE and without obligation.

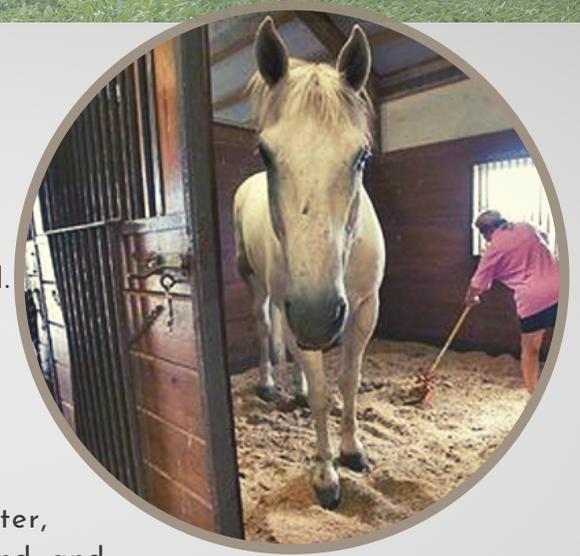
Interested in learning more about our farm planning services? Let's talk about it! You can reach our farm planners at 360-428-4313 or check out our farm planning pages at www.skagitcd.org/livestock-small-farm

COVER CROPS AS A SUSTAINABLE FARM PRACTICE

Cover crops are the superstar of sustainable farming practices. They prevent erosion by helping to hold the soil on fields during our wet winters, and they help to absorb nutrients and pathogens that might otherwise be washed off or leached to waterways decreasing water quality for humans, shellfish, and wildlife.

This year, through the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)/SCD cover crop program participants planted approximately 618 acres at an average seed cost of \$48/acre. As in 2020, Triticale was the preferred cover crop species, with about 425 acres planted. Cereal Rye, Common Vetch, Fava, Austrian Winter Pea, and Annual Ryegrass were other species planted this fall. From the acres of cover crop planted this fall, we can report that approximately 99 tons of soil were prevented from eroding off of those fields.

Be sure to check our website and facebook page next summer for new VSP opportunities.



2021 Conservation Investments

SCD partners with the agriculture community to help get best management practices (BMPs) on the ground. As 2021 comes to a close, we are celebrating the hard work and dollars invested by, and for, our agriculture community to keep our natural resources healthy for future generations.

\$466,851

cost share provided by WSCC

\$200,126

cost share provided by NRCS

\$76,710

cost share provided by VSP

\$216,228

landowner match

Total 2021 investment in agricultural BMPs

\$959,915

- Cover crops
- Roofed manure storage
- Manure transfer upgrades
- Heavy-use protection areas
- Forage & biomass
- Weather stations
- Air filtration systems
- Underground outlets
- Roof run-off collection systems
- Fencing
- Concrete livestock pathways
- Manure solid separators
- Hedgerows
- Micro-irrigation (drip)



"Many thanks for all your help this year on the drainage and gutters project on our farm. With the extra rains this fall, it has been such a relief to have the means of handling all that extra water. And with the completion of the winter confinement area, the cows and calves have a mud-free paddock." - Farmer Janice Bakke



SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD SUPERVISOR ELECTION

Skagit Conservation District (SCD) will hold an election for one position on the Board currently held by Eben Twaddle. There are no term limits and the current candidate may choose to continue on the Board if elected by the public.

To vote, request an absentee ballot by 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 2, 2022, by calling the SCD at 360.428.4313 or cast your vote at our public walk-in poll election, which will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 2021 E College Way, Mount Vernon, WA. Voters must be WA State registered voters and live in Skagit County. To be an elected candidate, you must be a WA State registered voter, live in Skagit County and file an information form with SCD by 4:00 pm Wednesday, January 26, 2022. Candidate information forms are available by contacting Cindy Pierce at 360-428-4313.

In addition, a SCD board seat is available for appointment by the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC). This position is currently held by Dean Wesen. For more information, please visit the WSCC website at www.scc.wa.gov. Applications and supporting materials must be received by the WSCC to be considered for the position no later than March 31, 2022.

More about the Board of Supervisors

The SCD Board is a governing body of five supervisors who are unpaid public officials. The Board oversees the work of the SCD, which provides voluntary, incentive-based options that support working landscapes while protecting and enhancing our natural resource land base. Three of the Board of Supervisors are elected by the voters of Skagit County and two are appointed by the WA State Conservation Commission.



CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE

4:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022

ABSENTEE BALLOTS REQUEST DEADLINE

4:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022

ABSENTEE BALLOTS RECEIPT DEADLINE

12:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022

PUBLIC POLL ELECTION

8 A.M. TO 12 P.M. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022

VALLEY BUSINESS CENTER

2021 E. COLLEGE WAY, MOUNT VERNON, WA

IN THE LOBBY OF THE 2ND FLOOR (NORTH SIDE OF THE BUILDING)

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR APPOINTED POSITION

NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2022

SUBMITTAL INFORMATION AT WWW.SCC.WA.GOV



Kristi Carpenter, Public Information & Education Coordinator Retires

It's Monday again...Oh! Wait! I'm Retired!

I am pleased to announce that I am retiring from the Skagit Conservation District at the end of December with grand new life adventures beginning in 2022! It is with good reason that I am feeling a little emotional as this phase of my life concludes. I've had the great fortune to have a career that I love and for that I am so grateful! I will greatly miss the camaraderie of my co-workers, colleagues, partners, and community volunteers that I have met over the years - your friendship and memories will stay with me forever!

My career began in 1990 when I was hired by Skagit County to assist with the development of the Watershed Action Plans to address nonpoint source pollution in our priority watersheds. I learned so much about our community through that process and had the opportunity to meet and work with so many dedicated people. When we got into the education phase, my position was moved to the Skagit Conservation District in 1996, where I have been ever since. At SCD, I had the pleasure of developing numerous education and volunteer programs, such as the Skagit Stream Team, Watershed Masters, the Marine Biotoxin Volunteer Program, the Backyard Conservation Short Course, Community Backyard Habitat Teams... and it was through the volunteer inspiring and many who our community is in great programs that I had the opportunity to meet so many amazing people - so will be forever friends. You have all been such an inspiration and I know hands because of you!

As I begin this new phase of life, I am looking forward to less time at the computer and more time playing with grandkids (who are growing up before my very eyes!), playing in the great outdoors and in my flower garden! My hubby and I are also hoping to take a few road trips and explore areas we have never been in this great beautiful world! I do plan on continuing on the Board of the Skagit Conservation Education Alliance (SCEA), thus, highly likely our paths will continue to cross at that level - I sure hope so! So glad you have all been a part of my life - I feel so fortunate! I have truly enjoyed my time with SCD - you all will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you for all the wonderful years and memories! Looking forward to new adventures ahead!

Heading
down the
road to
retirement!

We'll miss you,
Kristi!





SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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 WEBSITE: www.skagitcd.org

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We wish to thank the businesses & individuals who help to sponsor this publication of the Skagit Conservation News.

Skagit Conservation News sponsorships cost \$50/year for listed business names or \$100/year for business cards, and are seen by over 3,500 readers.

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SCD Board meetings are held at 2021 E College Way, 2nd floor conference room on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:30am and are open to the public. Please call 360-428-4313 x1000 to verify dates.



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