

Grafton County Conservation District

The Grafton County Conservation District assists interested land users with technical, educational and financial conservation services to protect, improve and sustain our natural resources.

Grafton County Conservation District Supervisors

Gary Peters, Chair - Bath
 Linda Brownson, Vice-Chair - Wentworth
 Ray Lobdell - Landaff
 Harry McGovern - Landaff
 Dave Thompson, Treasurer - Lincoln
 Associate Supervisors
 Mike Dannehy - Woodsville
 Dick Fabrizio - North Haverhill
 Dick McDanolds - North Haverhill
 John O'Brien - Orford
 James Seidel, Lyman
 Pam Gilbert, GCCD Office Administrator
 NRCS Staff
 Beth Ann Finlay - District Conservationist
 Donna Doel - Soil Conservationist
 Kelly Eggleston - Soil Conservationist
 Mitch Hess - Soil Conservationist
 Jack Highland - Civil Engineer Technician

IMPORTANT DATES -

- ◆ **Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 1:00pm** Growing Blueberries, UNH CE Conference Room, Grafton County Complex, North Haverhill.
- ◆ **Wednesday, March 14, 2012** Deadline for Conservation Plant Sale orders
- ◆ **April 2012** GCCD Annual Meeting. Call for more information. (603) 353-4652, ext. 103
- ◆ **Friday, April 13, 2012** Deadline for Page Conservation Scholarship applications.
- ◆ **Friday, April 27, 2012** Deadline for Trout Sale orders. Call to be added to the mailing list.
- ◆ **Friday, April 27, 2012** Planting and Pruning Workshop, **5:30pm**, Windy Ridge Orchard, 1775 Benton Road, North Haverhill
- ◆ **Saturday, April 28, 2012** Plant pick up **9:00am to 11:00am**, at Windy Ridge Orchard, 1775 Benton Road, North Haverhill
- ◆ **Monday, May 7, 2012** Trout pick up 1:00pm, Grafton County Farm Stand, across from the County Courthouse.

Check our website for more information:

www.graftonccd.org



Grafton County Conservation District 2012 Conservation Plant Sale

GROWING BLUEBERRIES WORKSHOP PLANTING AND PRUNING WORKSHOP

Grafton County Conservation District (GCCD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension (UNH CE) of Grafton County are excited to offer an indoor workshop **Everything You Need to Know About Growing Blueberries**. The workshop will be held on **Wednesday, February 29 at 1:00pm** at the UNH Cooperative Extension Conference Room, Grafton County Complex, Route 10, North Haverhill. Whether you are thinking about buying blueberries, or are an experienced grower, Heather Bryant, UNH CE Agriculture Resources, and Donna Doel, NRCS Soil Conservationist, will provide the information you need to grow GREAT blueberries.

What does it take to grow blueberries? Blueberries like a soil pH of 4.5-4.8, but what does that mean for you? Heather Bryant will discuss soil testing and amendments, ideal sites, recommended varieties for our area, planting, spacing, pruning, mulching and other techniques to get the most from your blueberry plants. NRCS offers the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to assist eligible landowners with technical and financial assistance on approved conservation practices. Recent practices have included bird netting to protect blueberries, irrigation and season extension high tunnels. Donna Doel will provide information on current conservation practices for blueberry growers. Finally, GCCD is offering two types of blueberries in the 2012 Conservation Plant Sale: Patriot and Bluecrop. Plant Sale information will be available at the workshop.

Please join us **Friday, April 27, 2012 from 5:30-7:00pm** for our **Planting and Pruning Workshop** at Windy Ridge Orchard for our Planting and Pruning Workshop. Our host, Dick Fabrizio, will demonstrate planting and pruning methods for apple trees, and share his knowledge and expertise on apple tree care. Dave Falkenham, UNH Cooperative Extension Forest Resources Educator, will demonstrate planting techniques and discuss site considerations. Dick and Dave are ready to answer your questions. Feel free to join us at this informal, but informational workshop. We ask that you call Pam at 353-4652, ext. 103 to register so that we will have enough handouts for everyone.

The workshop is free and open to all. Please join us for this informative workshop. Call Pam at: (603) 353-4652, ext. 103, or email: Pamela.gilbert@nh.nacdnet.net. if you plan to attend so that we have handouts for everyone.

Federal Conservation Assistance Available to New Hampshire Farmers and Forest Landowners

Agriculture or forest landowners in New Hampshire interested in protecting, conserving, or restoring the natural resources on their property through technical or financial assistance, or a conservation easement, should contact their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office to begin the conservation planning process. Applications for Farm Bill programs may be submitted at any time year-round; however, there are certain cut-off ranking dates. If you miss a ranking cut-off date, your application will be retained at your request, and reviewed for the next cut-off date. **In order for your application to be considered for funding, landowners/operators must submit a complete application and have cleared all landowner eligibility requirements to be considered in each evaluation round.**

“NRCS conservation programs help farmers and forest landowners promote production and environmental quality on farm and forest land, address water quality and quantity challenges, and protect valuable wetland ecosystems, agricultural lands, and wildlife habitat,” said Rick Ellsmore, NRCS State Conservationist for New Hampshire. “NRCS conservation professionals will discuss with you your conservation objectives, help you identify resource concerns, and suggest options and alternatives for treatment. We will also identify conservation programs that may provide you with financial assistance for the implementation of many conservation practices.” Contact the Orford USDA Service Center at (603) 353-4651 for more assistance.

What's New at the USDA Service Center?

GCCD welcomes new NRCS field staff Beth Ann Finlay and Mitch Hess to the Orford Service Center. Beth Ann stepped into the NRCS District Conservationist position in July. Previously, Beth Ann was an NRCS Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Coordinator in Vermont, and a District Conservationist before that. Beth Ann has a background in forestry and agriculture, and also brings strong facilitator skills to the county. Mitch Hess joined the NRCS staff in September as a new Soil Conservationist. Mitch has a background in wildlife management and moved to the northeast from Indiana. Both Beth Ann and Mitch will join existing soil conservationists, Donna Doel and Kelly Eggleston to assist landowners with conservation planning needs. Stop in and meet Beth Ann and Mitch!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Grafton County Conservation District
 19 Archertown Road, Suite 1
 Orford, NH 03777
 (603) 353-4652, ext. 103
 Email pamela.gilbert@nh.nacdnet.net

ORFORD, NH

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GCCD Conservation Plant Sale

The Grafton County Conservation District (GCCD) holds a Conservation Plant Sale every spring offering plants selected for environmental benefits such as, reforestation, wind protection, shade, bank stabilization, wildlife food and cover. The plants are sold as bare-root stock, or in small pots. Healthy, hardy plants adapted to our growing conditions are chosen for sale. Whenever possible, we select native species. The Plant Sale is our biggest fund raising activity each year. The money raised from this sale is used to support District programs and educational activities including distribution of stewardship materials to elementary schools, North Haverhill Fair display, tours and workshops.

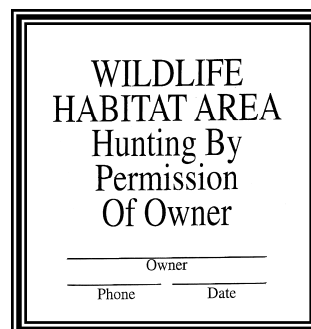
Each year, GCCD relies on volunteers to help get the plant orders sorted and ready for our Saturday pick-up. Preparing for the spring planting season is a fun and exciting time for us. We could not provide this service without the generous help of our volunteers each year. Windy Ridge Orchard has donated space for the District Plant Sale for over 20 years! Thanks to everyone for making our Plant Sale a success each year!

Selecting the Right Plant

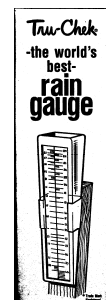
- When choosing a plant, consider the site conditions. Different plants have different requirements for soil type, drainage, available sunlight, growing space, and soil pH.
- Consider the rate of growth, density and mature size when considering what to plant.
- Soil is composed of sand, silt and clay. Soil with too much sand drains easily and may cause moisture retention problems, while too much clay may cause drainage and aeration problems around the roots. Organic matter may be mixed into the soil dug from the hole in small amounts and at the greatest depth possible. Avoid adding amendments that alter the texture dramatically, as this change can affect the movement of moisture from roots to surrounding soil.
- The bare-root stock will come as seedlings, transplants, or grafted fruit trees. A seedling has been grown entirely in its original seedbed. A transplant has been removed from its original seedbed and replanted in a new area to allow for more growth. Most of the evergreens GCCD offers are transplants that have large root systems, branching foliage, and a solid main stem. Although these transplants have yet to develop a conical, Christmas tree shape, they are superior in appearance to evergreen seedlings. The numbers listed next to the evergreens on the order form indicate that a (2-3) transplant is a 5 year old plant that was grown 2 years in a seedbed and 3 years in a transplant bed.
- Bare-root plants are economical. A large portion of roots are retained after harvesting, and can be easily inspected at planting time. Any damaged roots can be removed before planting. Bare-root stock should be planted while dormant.
- Container-grown plants retain all their roots, and can be planted all season. Any roots that encircle the plant should be freed or trimmed before planting.

ITEMS FOR SALE

Grafton County Conservation District Office
19 Archertown Road
Orford, NH
(603) 353-4652, ext. 103



Wildlife Habitat Sign \$2.00



Rain Gauge \$8.00

Planting Information

Store seedlings in a moist, cool location, protected from wind until planting. Plan to plant your seedlings as soon as possible after picking them up. Keep roots moist by covering with moist burlap, peat moss or shredded paper, and remove only as needed when planting. The best days to plant are humid days with no wind. Water plants three hours before planting. Trim away any dead or damaged roots.

In compacted or poorly drained soil around your home, a planting site can be improved by digging deeply, amending the soil with a sandy-loam and loosening the soil to aerate. Prepare a planting hole that is two times wider and slightly deeper than the root system. Roots of containerized plants should be freed and spread so the roots do not grow in a circle. Hold the seedling vertically in the hole with the roots hanging down. Roots should not be allowed to curve around the wall of the hole or up the sides of the hole. Backfill the hole while supporting the plant, working the soil in and around the roots, tamping lightly. Compacted soil will reduce fine air spaces needed for root development. The root collar, where the stem and roots meet, should be at or just below grade. For fruit trees, the graft should be 2 inches above the soil level. Stabilize the plant by filling in soil in layers and tamping lightly.

Immediately water plants to saturate the soil. Create a temporary dyke under the drip line of the plant, fill with water and allow it to settle slowly. Continue to water plants each week during the first growing season if local rainfall is inadequate. Loose mulch may be applied 2-4 inches deep over the planted area to reduce competition from weeds and conserve water. Do not mulch heavily around the trunk. This creates a favorable environment for insects and pests. Good mulches for trees and shrubs are aged wood chips or bark chunks. Plants can be fertilized one month after planting. A well planted tree or shrub requires less maintenance and is more tolerant of adverse conditions.

2012 Conservation Plant Sale Reminders

- **Deadline for placing orders is Wednesday, March 14, 2012.** Make checks payable to Grafton County Conservation District and mail with completed order form to: Grafton County Conservation District, 19 Archertown Road, Suite 1, Orford, NH 03777. Call Pam at (603) 353-4652, ext. 103, or email: pamela.gilbert@nh.nacdnet.net with any questions or for additional order forms. A postcard will be sent summarizing your order 1-2 weeks before the pick up date. Any changes we are aware of will be noted on the postcard.
- **Planting and Pruning Workshop is Friday April 27, 2012 5:30pm-7:00pm** at Windy Ridge Orchard with owner, Dick Fabrizio, and UNH CE Forester, Dave Falkenham. Call Pam at (603) 353-4652, ext. 103 to register.
- **Plant pick up date is Saturday, April 28, 2012, 9:00am to 11:00am** at Windy Ridge Orchard, Route 116/Benton Road, North Haverhill. From the monument at the intersection of NH Route 10 and NH Route 116 in North Haverhill, head east on Route 116 three miles.

No mixing of species to receive per quantity price. No refunds for any orders not picked up. Grafton County Conservation District (GCCD) will not be responsible for typos, or plants once they leave the pick-up site. GCCD reserves the right to refund money for trees or shrubs or other items that become unavailable. GCCD will not be responsible for any plants not picked up on the delivery date.