



Conservation Connection

Wood County LWCD Updates

Staff changes in 2023:

- Lori Ruess, Conservation Administrative Specialist, retired in April just shy of 37 years with Wood County. Lori is enjoying retirement with her husband Dennis, who also retired this year. Barb Peeters transferred to Lori's position in March (see pg. 8).
- Caleb Armstrong, Land Conservation Specialist, transferred to Marathon County in July and continues to stay in touch with programs between the counties. Kendra Kunding filled this position in August (see pg. 8).

Order forms & descriptions for the 2024 LWCD Tree, Shrub & Seed Sale are on pages 2-6. The deadline to submit orders and payment is **Monday, January 15, 2024**. Tree distribution will occur on a Thursday & Friday in April 2024 (letters will be sent with distribution dates/times to those who place an order once the nursery sends notification of when the trees will be ready). Be sure to submit orders early as we do sell out of some species each year. New additions this year include:

- Tree/shrubs: Two new specialty packets have been added to make it easier for those who want to plant just a few species but still add value to their land.
- Prairie Grass & Wildflower Seeds: Several options for food plot mixes have been added.

We had a great turnout for the GRAZING TOUR held at the Behlen farm on Sept. 12th. Key topics included a focus on small scale/low cost beef production through managed grazing, the importance of soil health & nutrient management, and options for late fall and winter bale grazing. A huge thank you to Joe Behlen for hosting the

tour and demonstrating his innovative operations.

Thanks also to Paul Daigle for facilitating the event and sharing his 30 years of grazing experience. If you are interested in starting a grazing operation & opportunities for cost-sharing your grazing operation, call our office at (715) 421-8475.

A Grazing Tour is planned for summer/fall 2024. Watch the Land & Water Conservation website for more details.

LWCD STAFF DIRECTORY

Barb Peeters	421-8475	
<i>(Conservation Administrative Specialist & Newsletter Editor)</i>		
Emily Salvinski.....	421-8536	
<i>(Land Conservation Specialist)</i>		
Kendra Kunding	421-8554	
<i>(Land Conservation Specialist)</i>		
Kyle Andreae.....	421-8472	
<i>(Engineering Technician)</i>		
Rod Mayer	421-8547	
<i>(Conservation Program Coordinator)</i>		
Shane Wucherpfenning	<i>(County Conservationist)</i>	421-8578



Please note ALL Wood County offices are closed for the holidays on:
Thursday & Friday, Nov. 23 & 24, 2023; Friday & Monday, Dec. 22 & 25, 2023; and
Friday & Monday, Dec. 29, 2023 & Jan. 1, 2024.



(PLEASE PRINT)

2024 Tree Sale Order Form

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email Address: _____

* To assure you are able to get the trees/shrubs you want, please return your order early as we do sell out of some species *

SPECIES	# PER BUNDLE	QUANTITY (# of Bundles)	PRICE PER BUNDLE	SUBTOTAL
Red Oak (1-2')	25 per bundle		\$ 23.00	
Sugar Maple (1-2')	25 per bundle		\$ 23.00	
Silky Dogwood (1-2')	25 per bundle		\$ 22.00	
White Pine (8-14")	25 per bundle		\$ 22.00	
White Spruce (12-16")	25 per bundle		\$ 28.00	
Fast Growing Species Packet (Five species—2 Hybrid Poplar, 2 Hybrid Willow, 2 Norway Spruce, 2 Ninebark & 2 Silver Maple)	10 per bundle		\$ 27.00	
Bird & Butterfly Packet (Five species—2 Butterfly Bush, 2 Lilac, 2 Trumpet Vine, 2 Rose of Sharon and 2 Hibiscus Moscheutos)	10 per bundle		\$ 27.00	
TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF TREES/SHRUBS ORDERED				\$ _____
SPECIAL ITEMS				
	<u>QUANTITY</u>		<u>UNIT PRICE</u>	<u>TOTAL SPECIALTY ITEM(S)</u>
Generic Gel (4 oz. @ \$8.53)	_____ X		\$ 8.53 =	\$ _____
Generic Gel (1 lb. @ \$25.59)	_____ X		\$25.59 =	\$ _____
Tree Shelters (\$4.03 each)	_____ X		\$ 4.03 =	\$ _____
<i>(Trees/Shrubs + Generic Gel + Tree Shelters)</i> SUBTOTAL				\$ _____
(5.5% Sales Tax) SUBTOTAL x .055				\$ _____
ORDER TOTAL				\$ _____

ORDER DEADLINE IS MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024

Fillable order form at - <https://www.woodcountyiwi.gov/Departments/LandConservation/TreeSale.aspx>

Payment must accompany your order. Make checks payable to Wood County LWCD. Please mail order form with payment to:

Wood County Land & Water Conservation Dept.
River Block
111 W. Jackson Street
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

**Price reflects increase from the nurseries.

For Office Use Only:
 Date Order Received: _____
 Check # _____ Cash

Tree and Shrub Descriptions—2024 LWCD Tree & Shrub Sale

Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) (Tree): 80-90 feet mature size. A massive shade tree that forms a tall round top with red leaves in fall. Fast growing and long-lived oak. Adaptable to many soil types and environmental conditions. This acorn tree provides food and shelter for wildlife and is also commercially valuable to the lumber market.

Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) (Shrub): Up to 8 foot mature height. Very hardy native shrub. Will grow well in moist to well drained soils in sun or shade. Has white flowers and blue berries. Recommended spacing is 6-8 feet.

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) (Tree): Average 70 feet mature height. Grows best in moist fertile soils with partial to full shade. Produces winged seeds in the fall. The leaves turn a brilliant red, orange or yellow color in the fall. Highest sugar content in sap for Maple Syrup.

White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) (Tree): 50-100 feet mature height. Needles are 3-5 inches long occurring in bundles of 5. Frequent nest site of numerous species of birds. White Pine is ideal for wildlife cover due to its rapid growth. Grows on sandy soils and rocky ridges, but prefers fertile well-drained soils. 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. Thrives in full sun and well-drained moist soil. Tolerates heat and drought better than other spruces. Used in landscape sites and for Christmas tree production. Extremely hardy with stiff short needles. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.

FAST GROWING SPECIES PACKET (2 of each of the 5 species for a total of 10 items)

- **Hybrid Poplar (*Populus deltoids x Populus nigra*) (Tree):** Known as the Imperial Carolina. Grows 50-80'. Crown width can be 30-40'. Resistant to septoria canker. Fast growing shade tree with large glossy green leaves. Adaptable in arid to wet sites. Used to clean the water table in phytoremediation projects. Great for landscaping, windbreaks, privacy screens, firewood lots and the wood is used in the building trade. Deep planting is recommended as they will continue to root along the stem underground. Under ideal conditions grow up to 5' a year. Zones 2-9.
- **Hybrid Willow (*Salix*) (Tree):** Hardy upright erect tree. Great for windbreak or hedge. Fast growing. Dark red bark. Adds color to the landscape after it loses its leaves. Zones 3-8
- **Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) (Tree):** The most widely adapted spruce. Fast growing and long lived. May reach 75 feet in 50 years of growth. Does well in a variety of conditions but needs moisture. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.
- **Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) (Shrub):** 5-9 feet in height having an upright spreading nature with recurved branches. It has large clusters of white flowers in the summer with reddish seedpods in fall. Ninebark will grow in moist to dry sites. It prefers well-drained soil and is resistant to drought. Recommended spacing is 6-8 feet.
- **Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) (Tree):** 75-100 feet mature height. Grow at an extremely fast pace in relation to other trees. The seeds serve as an abundant food source for many birds and small animals. Silver Maples are noted as a preferred nesting tree for Baltimore orioles, cavity nesting birds and mammals. Recommended spacing is 15-20 feet.

BIRD & BUTTERFLY PACKET (2 of each of the 5 species for a total of 10 items)

- **Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*):** Vigorous deciduous shrub producing long spike of blue/purple flowers in July/August. Grows 6' tall. Does best in full sun and moist well drained soils. Attracts butterflies. In cold climates acts as a perennial and dies back to ground. Called the summer lilac. Zones 4-9.
- **Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*):** Fast growing, reaching a height of over 15'. Makes an effective screen in 3-4 years when planted 6-8' apart. Requires well-drained, silty, clayed or loamy soils. Does not tolerate wet soils. Needs full sun to bloom. Drought resistant. Large fragrant flowers in mid-spring after leaves appear. Can be trimmed into hedge. Long lived. Zones 3-7.
- **Trumpet Vine (*Campsis radicans*):** Clusters of orange to orange-red trumpet shape flowers are produced on this vine. Climbs up to 25'. Not particular to soil types but takes full sun. Zones 3-8.
- **Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*):** Upright shrub produces blooms of single and double styles ranging in colors (white, blue, pink). Does best in full sun. Attracts hummingbirds. Great landscaping accent. Grows 7' tall. Zones 4-9.
- **Hibiscus Moscheutos:** The hibiscus moscheutos is a perennial plant that comes back each year from the root system. It is very hardy and has lovely large hibiscus flowers in white, red or pink. Hardy in zones 4-9. Is a great addition to flower garden or landscape. Root systems will produce plants that are 4-6'.


2024 Prairie Grass and Wildflower Mixes Order Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP CODE _____

Email Address: _____

POLLINATOR AND MONARCH MIXES			
Mix Description	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Subtotal
Pollinator (Dry Mesic) (Mix A)		\$122.00 (1/2 acre)	\$
Pollinator (Wet Mesic) (Mix B)		\$152.00 (1/2 acre)	\$
Standard Pollinator & Monarch SAFE (CP1) (Mix W)		\$35.00 (1/2 acre)	\$
Standard Pollinator & Monarch SAFE (CP2) (Mix X)		\$80.00 (1/2 acre)	\$
EQIP / CSP Mesic Monarch Pollinator (Mix Z)		\$258.00 (1/2 acre)	\$
INTRODUCED MIXES FOR LAND RESTORATION EROSION CONTROL & GRASSED WATERWAYS			
Erosion Control (Mix R)		\$30.00 (1/2 acre)	\$
Land Restoration (Mix S)		\$33.00 (1/2 acre)	\$
Grassed Waterways (Mix T)		\$38.00 (1/2 acre)	\$
SIGNATURE SERIES FOOD PLOT MIXES			
Clover Candy (10 lb. bag)		\$86.00	\$
Big Buck Brassica (6 lb. bag)		\$65.00	\$
Whitetail Sanctuary (7.7 lb. bag)		\$160.00	\$
Tree Stand Treat (25 lb. bag)		\$61.00	\$
<p>Payment must accompany order. Please make checks payable to Wood County LWCD. Mail order/payment to: Wood County Land & Water Conservation Dept. 111 W Jackson St. Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495</p> 	SUBTOTAL		\$
	5.5% SALES TAX (x .055)		\$
	ORDER TOTAL		\$

Order deadline is Monday, January 15, 2024

Fillable order form at: <https://www.woodcountywi.gov/Departments/LandConservation/TreeSale.aspx>

ALL MIXES SUBJECT TO SPECIES MARKET PRICE AND AVAILABILITY AT TIME OF ORDER.

For Office Use Only:

Date Order Received: _____

Check # _____

Cash

SEED MIX DESCRIPTIONS

Additional information about the pollinator mixes (soils, plant height, bloom time, life cycle, sun exposure, germination code, photos, etc.) can be found on the Wood County Land & Water Conservation website:

<https://www.woodcountyiwi.gov/Departments/LandConservation/TreeSale.aspx>.

Mix A – Pollinator – Mesic-Dry - Includes: Big Bluestem, Switchgrass, Indiangrass, White Wild Indigo, Fragrant Giant Hyssop, Leadplant, Common Milkweed, Butterfly Milkweed, Canada Milkvetch, Sideoats Grama, Partridge Pea, White Prairie Clover, Purple Prairie Clover, Roundhead Lespedeza, Purple Coneflower, False Sunflower, Alum Root, False Boneset, Wild Bergamot, Evening Primrose, Stiff Goldenrod, Foxglove Beardtongue, Prairie Cinquefoil, Mountain Mint, Grayheaded Coneflower, Black-eyed Susan, Sweet Black-eyed Susan, Little Bluestem, Showy Goldenrod, Heath Aster, Sky Blue Aster, Hoary Vervain.

Mix B – Pollinator – Wet - Includes: Blue Joint Grass, American Mannagrass, Woolgrass, Prairie Cord Grass, Golden Alexander, Alum Root, New England Aster, Smooth BlueAster, Foxglove Beardtongue, Wild Bergamot, Prairie Blazingstar, Common Boneset, Cardinal Flower, Compass Plant, Grayheaded Coneflower, Culver's Root, Cup Plant, Ironweed, Spotted Joe-Pye Weed, Great Blue Lobelia, Canada Milkvetch, Swamp Milkweed, Mountain Mint, Purple Meadow Rue, Rosinweed, Sneezeweed, Black-eyed Susan, Sweet Black-eyed Susan, Blue Vervain, Fox Sedge, Switchgrass.

Mix R – Erosion Control -Includes: Red Clover, Orchardgrass, Timothy.

Mix S – Land Restoration -Includes: Red Clover, Timothy, Orchardgrass, Redtop, Ladino Clover.

Mix T – Grass Waterways - Includes: Alfalfa, Redtop, Timothy, Orchardgrass.

NOTE: Mix R, S & T can all be used for Land Restoration, Erosion Control and Grassed Waterways.

Mix W – Standard Pollinator & Monarch - Includes: Red Clover, Stiff Goldenrod, Common Milkweed, False Sunflower, Black-eyed Susan, Orchardgrass, Timothy.

Mix X – Standard Pollinator & Monarch Mesic - Includes: New England Aster, Showy Goldenrod, Wild Bergamot, Stiff Goldenrod, Common Milkweed, White Prairie Clover, Black-eyed Susan, Indiangrass, Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Sideoats Grama, Canada Wild Rye.

Mix Z –Monarch Dry - Includes: Sky Blue Aster, Smooth Blue Aster, Wild Bergamot, Prairie Cinquefoil, New England Aster, Mountain Mint, Grayheaded Coneflower, Lanceleaf Coreopsis, Pale Purple Coneflower, Rattlesnake Master, Sawtooth Sunflower, False Sunflower, Alum Root, Meadow Blazingstar, Prairie Blazingstar, Common Evening Primrose, Stiff Goldenrod, Leadplant, Canada Milkvetch, Swamp Milkweed, Butterfly Milkweed, Common Milkweed, Partridge Pea, Roundhead Lespedeza, Purple Prairie Clover, Ohio Spiderwort, Black-eyed Susan, Hoary Vervain, Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem, Sideoats Grama, Prairie Junegrass, Switchgrass, Foxglove Beardtongue, Culver's Root, Golden Alexander, Rosinweed, Compass Plant, Cup Plant, Indiangrass.

Continued on next page

Realize what touches the ground enters the water.

Seed Mix Descriptions (continued) - Habitat Seed Designed for Wildlife

Clover Kandy (10# bag) - 1 bag plants 1 acre. Clover Kandy is the perfect blend of high protein clovers and other legumes providing the ultimate green browse for deer and turkey while providing nesting and brood-rearing cover for pheasants and quail as well as forage mix for turkey hunters. Can also be used for green firebreaks. Clover Kandy lasts 2-4 years before needing to replant. Mix components: Alsike Clover, Arrowleaf Clover, Berseem Clover, Crimson Clover, Ladino Clover, Red Clover and Alfalfa.

Big Buck Brassica (6# bag) - 1 bag plants 1 acre. Big Buck Brassica is the #1 seller for hardcore deer hunters. It's the perfect blend of forage turnips, radishes and other brassica varieties to attract and keep deer on your property all fall and winter. The high sugar content in the mature plants attracts and keeps deer where you want them. This mix grows fast, maturing in just 45 days. Mix components: A blend of six brassica varieties including Forage Radishes, Forage Turnips, Purpletop Turnips, Hybrid Forage Brassica, Rapeseed and Kale.

Whitetail Sanctuary (7.7# bag) - 1 bag plants 1 acre. Keep the pressure off and the native browse on by planting a permanent bedding area. Providing whitetails with needed native cover and forage will keep fawn recruitment and mature deer comfortable. Also provides great thermal cover during the fall and winter months. Mix components: Switchgrass, Indiangrass, Big Bluestem, Yellow Coneflower, Black-eyed Susan, Partridge Pea, IL Bundleflower, Wild Bergamot, Canada Milkvetch.

Tree Stand Treat (25# bag) - 25# bag plants 1 acre and is equal to 4 1/4 acre plots. This specialized fall attractant utilizes highly desired species by whitetails and is designed to perform equally well in low light or shaded areas as well as in open area situations. Mix developed to be planted late in summer and early fall with minimal site preparation to provide those late season benefits and will persist through winter and into spring. Mix components: Crimson Clover, Arrowleaf Clover, Rapeseed, Cereal Rye.

NOTE: Additional Signature Series Food Plot Mixes in 25 lb. bags are available for purchase. Contact the Wood County LWCD office for mix components and pricing if interested.

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 to assure proper dormancy (hardening off) before winter. Tree shelters are available any time throughout the year at the Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department. Tree shelters are \$4.03 + tax (includes 3 zip ties and a net cover). PLEASE NOTE: stakes are **NOT** included.



4-foot Tree Shelters

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 to dip roots into the solution prior to planting. Generic gel is available throughout the year at the Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department. Sizes and pricing are:

- 4 oz. bag for \$8.53 + tax (treats 1,000 seedlings)
- 1 lb. bag for \$25.59 + tax (treats 4,000 seedlings)

ATTENTION HUNTERS...DONATE YOUR DEER TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN DROPPING OFF DONATED DEER

Hunters can donate the entire deer free of charge and can retain the head and/or antlers for mounting if desired.

When dropping your deer off at a processor, you will be asked to complete the log sheet indicating your desire to donate the deer. We'll do the rest. The donated deer will be processed and the venison will be distributed to charitable organizations to help feed those in need in Wood County.



Wood County hunters can once again donate any deer legally harvested in Wisconsin to help residents in need. Deer harvested outside Wisconsin cannot be donated.

Deer legally harvested in Wood County must be tested for CWD before or at the time of donation. Participating Wood County processors include:

J & S Processing LLC*
8300 County Road V, Marshfield
Phone: (715) 676-3654

Pittsville Meats
5328 2nd Ave, Pittsville
Phone: (715) 884-6816

*Please note J & S Processing offers CWD testing.

STEPS TO FOLLOW:

1. Field dress your deer. Please handle the carcass as if it were destined for your own table. A couple of bags of ice placed in the cavity will help preserve the carcass in warm weather.
2. Register your deer. Make a note of your registration confirmation number, which you'll need later. Arrange for CWD testing if your deer was harvested from one of the CWD-affected counties that require testing (**deer harvested in Wood County must be tested**).
3. Call ahead! Contact one of the Wood County participating processors listed above before dropping off your deer to make sure they have space to accept it.



Nutrient Management Planning

Want to develop better ways to obtain the nutrients gathered by crops on your farm? Want to get the most out of your manure while minimizing the environmental impact? Wood County is offering a nutrient management writing class in the spring that does just that. In this course you'll learn how to develop and write a nutrient management plan that will meet the NRCS 590 standard requirements. In this plan you'll be able to obtain a full conservation plan of your farm along with field mapping, soil test analysis, manure management, and crop selection.

Participants will receive reimbursements for up to \$750 worth of eligible soil testing costs as well as course cost reimbursement upon completion of a nutrient management plan.

The full course (3-day class, cost \$260.00) will be offered on March 12, 19 & 26, 2024 from 10am-3pm at the River Block building. The refresher class (2 day class, cost \$130.00) will be offered on Tues., March 12 & 19, 2024 from 10am-3pm. If interested in registering call Wood County Land and Water Conservation or go to the Wood County LWCD homepage <https://www.woodcountyiwi.gov/Departments/LandConservation/> for a mail-in registration form.

ONLINE OPTION

Please note that DATCP (Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection) and the Nutrient & Pest Management Program are also offering Online Nutrient Management Farmer Education (NMFE) Classes. Classes are live online from 10:00am-3:15pm. Registration is free. Attendees must register ahead of the class (only need to sign up to attend one training day). Classes are offered on January 3, 2024; February 7, 2024 or March 6, 2024. Register online at: https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYod-2uqTkjGtKqLOSZN_LzjjStBEJL-UCh#/registration

Meet our New Conservation Administrative Specialist

Hi, my name is Barb Peeters, Conservation Administrative Specialist with the Wood County Land and Water Conservation Dept. (a.k.a. “the new Lori”). I transferred from Wood Co. Human Services in March where I’d worked for 2 years. Prior to that I worked 30 years as an administrative & executive assistant at Riverview Hospital. My husband (Chuck) and I have 3 children and 10 grandkids (soon to be 11!). I greatly enjoy working in the Land & Water Conservation dept., and while my father, both grandfathers and uncles are/were farmers, I’m learning more than I’d ever dreamt about land/water conservation. I enjoy spending time with our family, decorating birthday cakes for the grandkids, sewing/crafting, fishing with my husband and spending time up north at our cabin.



Meet our New Conservation Specialist



Hello, my name is Kendra Kunding and I started working as a Conservation Specialist for the Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department in August of 2023. I received a Bachelor of Science in Natural Sciences from UW-Stevens Point and a Professional Science Master’s Degree in Conservation Biology from UW-Stout. In my past experiences, I have been a High School Mathematics Teacher, a Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator and an Executive Director for a non-profit conservation organization. Growing up right here in Wood County, I have experienced the variety of outdoor and recreational activities Central Wisconsin has to offer, contributing to my passion for protecting our environment. I am excited to bring my past work experiences to the department and look forward to helping the residents and protecting the natural resources of Wood County.

Planning Ahead for Conservation

Do you have soil or water conservation projects in need of technical or financial help? If so, there are several different opportunities for obtaining cost-share for conservation projects in Wood County. Cost-share funds can help pay for practices that:

- Reduce soil erosion in cropland, and along stream banks and shorelines
- Reduce nutrient runoff from barnyards and cropland
- Improve wildlife habitat

Wood County receives annual grants from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and Department of Natural Resources that can assist

in funding a variety of practices including:

- Barnyard work, manure storage, and other farmstead practices.
- Cropland practices such as grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, filter strips (buffers), and cover crops.
- Nutrient management planning with soil testing.
- Well decommissioning.

If you are interested in technical assistance or cost share for implementation of conservation practices, please call our office at (715) 421-8475.

Popular Practices

- Manure Storage
- Waste Storage Closure
- Feed Storage Runoff Control
- Roof Runoff Structure
- Streambank & Shoreline Protection
- Sediment Basins
- Critical Area Plantings
- Filter Strip (Buffer)
- Grassed Waterways
- Well Decommissioning
- Cover Crops
- Residue Management
- Nutrient Management