

PLANT TREES

FOR FARM AND FOREST

Some Benefits of Conservation Seedling Plantings

A comment often heard by employees at the Forest Regeneration Center (FRC) is “*I have five acres, so what do I do with a hundred trees?*”

A landowner with five acres could easily need 100 or even more trees. Tree numbers, types and placement depend on what you are trying to achieve. These questions can be answered through your local Service Forester. Trees are an inexpensive tool to accomplish great benefits for Oklahoma landowners.

Forestry Services encourages all landowners to be conservation minded and consider planting trees on their lands where appropriate. In this context, “conservation” means wise-use. If we embrace the idea that we are stewards of the land, we will use our land wisely and leave it in better shape for future generations.

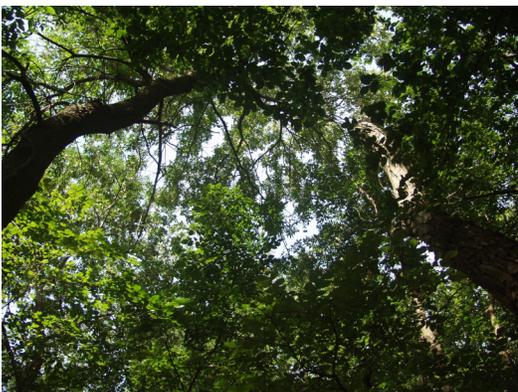
Trees should be planted for a specific purpose. Some examples of conservation plantings described below are: windbreaks, gully erosion control, wildlife habitat enhancement, diversification of income and stewardship.



Windbreaks

Windbreaks are vegetative barriers designed to reduce or eliminate the effects of strong winds. A properly planted windbreak will accomplish the following:

- ❖ Improve crop yields by conserving soil moisture.
- ❖ Conserve energy and utility costs by up to 30%.
- ❖ Reduce soil erosion.
- ❖ Improve wildlife habitat by providing a potential food source and cover.
- ❖ During the winter, livestock feed will be used for weight gain, instead of generating body heat.



Gully Erosion Control

Soils are subject to erosion by the force of moving water in drainage channels and sloping areas. Establishing vegetative cover on these areas can:

- ❖ Reduce or minimize erosion.
- ❖ Heal gullies that have eroded.
- ❖ Protect water quality.

Species selection and spacing is dependent on site conditions such as soil moisture, soil texture, climatic conditions and location.



Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

Wildlife habitat generally consists of food, cover, water, and space. Trees and shrubs can provide food and cover. Plant species selection is determined by the following:

- ❖ Which wildlife species do you want to favor?
- ❖ When do we want to provide food- summer, winter or both?
- ❖ When do we want to provide cover- summer, winter or both?

These plantings are usually applied near a water source, like a creek or pond. Wildlife love areas of transition from one vegetation type to another, which is called “edge effect.” Odd shapes are used to maximize edge effect and mimic nature.



Increase or Diversify Income

Trees can be managed to provide a resource to save or make money. This can be gained from the wood itself or from the fruit a species yields. Some examples are:

- ❖ Growing fence posts or firewood.
- ❖ Planting Pecan and Walnut trees for nut production.
- ❖ Establishing a Christmas tree farm.
- ❖ Growing trees for timber production and biomass.

“Plant Trees Oklahoma!”



Contact your nearest Service Forester for more information.

Central & Western Area

Forest Regeneration Center

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Stewardship

A direct reflection of how we are taking care of our land can be measured through the quality of our air and water. Trees and shrubs are often used to restore riparian areas through plantings in narrow buffer strips along waterways. Trees are also used to reclaim abandoned landfills, mines, oil-well sites and to clean up contaminated sites.

The money and time it takes to plant trees is relatively small when compared to potential benefits received.

If we plant trees for “farm and forest” we are planting for much more than that. We are planting a living legacy. So....

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