

2019 Spring Plant Sale

Ferry Conservation District Event to Offer Natives, Fruit Trees, Berries, Grapes and other Edibles

Planting trees, shrubs and berries on your property provides multiple benefits. Plants will beautify your property and add to its value. The foliage and fruits of plants provide food for wildlife and for your family. Flowering shrubs attract pollinators, such as butterflies and bees, enhancing the entire ecosystem. Trees can provide shade or act as a windbreak. Reforestation trees enhance the landscape and provide timber and firewood for harvest in the future. Planting in riparian areas (river and stream banks and lakeshore) helps protect the banks, preventing erosion and degradation of water quality.

For its 2019 Spring Plant Sale, the Ferry Conservation District (District) is offering a variety of plants carefully selected for use in our local climate (most of the plants chosen will thrive in Plant Hardiness Zones 2-5. Most of Ferry County is Zone 5, with microclimates ranging from Zone 3-6). Wholesale nurseries in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho supply healthy, hardy planting stock grown in the Northwest. By purchasing in bulk the District is able to provide excellent plants at good prices.

Natives

Native plants have always been an important part of the annual sale. Why natives? Because they naturally occur in an area, native plants are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions and need less irrigation and fertilization than non-native plants. They are more resistant to pests and disease and will better provide food and shelter for local wildlife. This year's selections include four native trees (two conifers and two deciduous) and two native shrubs.



This year we are again offering **Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)** for reforestation. The Ponderosa (reaching 50'-100' and sometimes much higher) grows abundantly in our area on dry south-facing slopes and is very tolerant of high summer temperatures. The Ponderosa pine, a major source of timber in our region also provides important wildlife habitat, recreation use and aesthetic value. The very thick bark of mature trees makes them fire resilient, though they are not truly fire resistant. Deer-resistant. Zone 4. Mature size: height 60-100 ft+, canopy spread 25-30 ft.

Our only native deciduous conifer, the **Western larch (*Larix occidentalis*)**, may grow to 150 feet with a trunk up to 3 ft. in diameter. The needles of the larch (also known as tamarack) turn a beautiful golden color in October and drop off in November. A popular reforestation tree, it thrives in deep, moist porous soils with northern or western exposure. The larch is the conifer least prone to disease and pest issues in our area. The very thick bark of mature trees makes them fire resilient, though they are not truly fire resistant. Deer-resistant. Zone 4-8. Mature size: height 100+ ft., canopy spread 25-30 ft.





Black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera ssp trichocarpa*), is a member of the willow family and a close relative of the quaking aspen. The tree is well known for its resinous, sweet-smelling buds, its fuzzy fruit and cottony white fluff (hence the name) which blows down from the tree in the spring wind like snow. The cottonwood is a very fast-growing tree that can reach a mature height greater than 100 feet with a canopy spread of 25 to 30 feet. It prefers wet soil, and thrives in riparian areas, its aggressive root system serving to anchor the banks of streams and lakes. Cottonwoods provide nesting opportunities for birds, browse for mammals and shade for streams and other bodies of water. Because of its widespread roots, it is recommended that you plant 100 feet or more from buildings, drainpipes, and septic systems. Fire-resistant. Zones 1-8.

Western paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*). Often planted as an ornamental tree because of its graceful form and attractive bark (bark turns white at about three years). It can also be planted to reclaim badly disturbed sites. It prefers normal moisture but will tolerate both wetter and drier conditions. The wood makes excellent firewood. The white birch can reach 60-80 feet in height with a canopy spread of 15-25 ft. and will live for 100+ years. Fire resistant. Zones 2 to 6.



Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) is a native deciduous shrub or small tree, growing to about 20 feet. Also called Sarvisberry, Saskatoon, Juneberry, or Shadbush, members of the *Amelanchier* genus can be found across North America. Known for its very early fragrant white flowers and its dark purple berries, it is a magnet for birds. The berries, eaten for centuries by native people, are prized today for their high vitamin C content. Though somewhat dry in texture, they are flavorful and can be eaten raw, baked into desserts, dehydrated like raisins or made into juice, wine or syrup. The serviceberry is extremely cold-hardy and drought resistant. Fire-resistant. Zone 4-5. Mature size: height: 12' tall, spread: 8'.

Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), is a native evergreen shrub which will grow to 10', producing attractive clusters of yellow flowers followed by blue berries. Native people used this shrub's bark as a dye and also ate the tart berries. Very attractive to birds, the plant can adapt well to partial shade and dry conditions. Deer-resistant and fire resistant. Zone 4-8. Mature size: 8'x 8'.



Fruit Trees



The Red McIntosh apple (*Malus domestica*). The "Mac" is the national apple of Canada. An all-purpose red and green skinned apple with a tart flavor, it is suitable both for cooking and eating raw. It was discovered by John McIntosh in Canada in 1811. The Macintosh line of personal computers was named after the fruit. *

Manchurian crab apple. Fragrant white flowers open from pink buds in spring. Small fall fruit attract birds and may be made into jelly. Manchurian crab apple will pollinate many apple varieties, including the McIntosh. *



*Both apples are grown on M-7 rootstock, which is very winter hardy (Zone 4), does well in a variety of soils (prefers well-drained soil) and is moderately disease tolerant. Both are semi-dwarf, growing to 10-15 feet, but may be held to desired height by pruning. They may need support in their early years.



Early Italian plum (*prunus domestica*). Originating near Yakima, Washington, in 1935, this variety produces fruit that's larger and sweeter than the standard Italian type. It also ripens earlier, in mid to late August. The large, oval, blue plums are good for canning, drying or eating fresh. Leave the fruit on the tree until it fully colors up to get the best flavor. Grows to 20 feet but may be held to desired height by pruning. Hardy to Zone 5. Self-fertile.

For 2019, we are once again offering a “pair of pears”. Purchased and planted together, these pears, the Columbia Red Anjou and the Flemish Beauty will serve to pollinate each other. Both pears are semi-dwarf (grow to 12-15 ft but may be held to desired height by pruning).

Columbia red anjou pear (*Pyrus communis*) Semi-dwarf. Discovered in Hood River, Oregon, this dark maroon pear is juicy and firm, with a fresh, sweet, and slightly tangy flavor. Decorating with these festive pears is almost as much fun as eating them. Displayed in a fruit bowl or basket on a counter or as a table centerpiece, their color sets a brilliant tone.



Flemish beauty pear (*Pyrus communis*) Semi-dwarf. A large, highly flavored variety that produces tasty fruit. The skin is creamy yellow in color and sometimes lightly blushed with bright red. Originally known as "Sweetmeat of the Woods", this wonderful pear was introduced in this country in the early 1800's.

Berries and other Edibles

Tristar strawberry (*Fragaria x ananassa*). This sweet strawberry is a “day-neutral” berry, producing large, glossy red berries from the end of June until fall frost. This winter hardy plant is self-pollinating. Zones 4-8.



Jewel strawberry (*Fragaria x ananassa*). This strawberry, developed at Cornell University, has a large, firm, sweet fruit. Considered a June-bearing strawberry, it ripens a bit later than other June-bearing strawberries. Zones 4-8.



Fall gold raspberry (*Rubus hybrid*). Large, conical, very sweet, somewhat soft, golden berries. Excellent for processing and fresh eating. First crop ripens in July. Second crop from late August until frost. Zones 4-8.

This year we are excited to introduce the **Haskap berry (a.k.a. Honeyberry)**. This plant (*Lonicera villosa var. caerulea*) is a honeysuckle variety native to northern countries such as Canada, Japan, and Russia. This very winter-hardy shrub produces blue berries in early summer, which have a tart/sweet taste, like a raspberry or blueberry. The skin is blueberry-like, but quite thin and melts in the mouth. The plant is touted as being easy to grow, more tolerant of a wide range of pH and soil conditions than a blueberry plant. Each variety of haskap requires a pollination partner of another variety. Therefore, we are offering two varieties sold as a pair of plants:



The **Taka** (photo on left) and **Tana** (photo on right) varieties of haskap are both moderately vigorous growers, with a high fruit yield in mid-June. The Taka berry is described as “sweet-tasting”, while the Tana berry is described as “tart/sweet tasting”.



Grapes

Because of the great demand for grapes last year, we are offering two varieties again this year.

Kettle Falls resident (formerly of Rose Valley here in Ferry County) and vintner Joe Barreca will provide both Himrod and Leon Millot grape plants. With our cold winters and short growing season in mind, Joe has suggested these two grapes for their hardiness and early ripening characteristics. In addition to providing fruit for table consumption and wine making, grape vines have great ornamental value in a garden or landscape.



The **Himrod** (*Vitis vinifera*) is a seedless table grape which makes wonderfully sweet raisins with a little bite to them. The wine from this variety is light and dry. The plant is extremely vigorous, growing up to 20 feet in a year, so allow plenty of room. Highly productive. Zone 5-8.

The **Leon Millot** (*Vitis vinifera*) is a red variety of hybrid grape used for wine. It was created in 1911 in the Oberlin Institute in Colmar, Alsace by crossing the Millaeredet et Grasset with Boldriesling. It is named after winemaker and tree nursery owner Leon Millot. It is an early season harvest grape. Zone 4.



Other Edibles



Tulelake horseradish (*Armoracia rusticana*). Another first-time offering in the plant sale, horseradish is a plant of the Brassica family. Native to southeastern Europe and western Asia, it is cultivated for its large white, tapered root. Hardy to zone 3. Grows to 5 ft. tall.



Crimson cherry rhubarb (*Rheum x hybridum*). This rhubarb variety produces brightly colored red stalks. Hardy and easy to grow, rhubarb is good for eating, baking, jellies and jam. Zones 4-8. Height: 2-4 ft, Spread: 3-4 ft.

Plants which are fire resistant, deer resistant, and plants that provide pollinator habitat are designated as such. Though fire-resistant does not mean fire-proof, careful use of these plants along with other “firewise” practices may reduce your risk from wildfire. Neither is the designation of “deer resistant” a guarantee. All trees and shrubs are vulnerable to deer damages until they reach about 4 feet in height. The best deer-proofing is a proper deer fence. The Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife website (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/deer.html>) provides some good information on the subject.

To order plants, look for a flyer in the mail or visit the District website at www.ferrycd.org. Complete the form and mail it back to the District without payment by January 31, 2019. Orders will be filled on a first come-first served basis. Confirming invoices will be sent out detailing the plants ordered and the cost. Most plants arrive as dormant, bare root stock (plugs and potted plants are noted). Plants will be available for pick up at the Ferry County Fairgrounds on Friday, April 12 from 10am – 4pm and on Saturday, April 13, from 9am – 1pm. If you have any questions regarding plant availability or what type of plant(s) would best suit your needs, please contact the District at 775-3473 (ext. 100).

Ferry Conservation District is a non-regulatory agency. Our services are available to all without discrimination.