

Ferry Conservation District to offer Natives, Ornamentals and Edibles at 2015 Plant Sale

Planting trees, shrubs and berries on your property provides multiple benefits. Plants will beautify your property and add to its value. The foliage, fruits, and nuts 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 for harvest in the future. Planting in riparian areas (river and stream banks) helps protect river and stream banks, preventing erosion and degradation of water quality.

For its 2015 Spring Plant Sale, the Ferry Conservation District is offering a variety of plants carefully selected for use in our particular climate. (Plants have been chosen which will thrive in Planting Zones 2-5. Most of Ferry County is Zone 4 or 5). Wholesale nurseries in Washington, Montana 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.

Native trees and shrubs are an important part of the sale. Why natives? Natives are the plants naturally occurring in an area. This means they 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 native wildlife.



The **Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)** is a native deciduous shrub, valued aesthetically for its colorful winter stems. Growing to 5' to 15", it has small white flowers and white berries, attractive to birds, bees and butterflies. Native Americans made use of its berries, bark and branches. This plant does well in full sun to partial shade and tolerates a range of soil conditions, preferring wet soils. Found naturally along streams and in marshy areas, it serves well as a planting to stabilize streambanks.



The **Woods' Rose (*Rosa woodsia*)** is a native deciduous shrub, growing to 6 feet. The pink flowers and red fruit (hips) attract birds, mammals and pollinators. The hips, which were used by Native Americans, are a good source of vitamin C and can be made into jams and jellies. This rose, named after botanist Joseph Woods, tolerates a variety of soil conditions, and prefers moderate to full sun. It spreads by suckers, so it can be very aggressive in your landscape.



Mock Orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*) grows to 9 feet tall, with large clusters of fragrant white blossoms. Because of its fragrance (similar that of orange blossoms), consider planting near a walkway or driveway. The nectar-rich blossoms of this native deciduous shrub will attract pollinators. The mock orange will tolerate partial shade but may blossom more profusely in full sun. Once established, it will tolerate dry soil conditions.



Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus Cerulea*) is a native tree/shrub which can grow to 12 feet or higher. This deciduous plant produces creamy white blossoms which are followed by powder blue berries. The highly edible berries can be made into wine, jam, or pie. Birds love the elderberry, which provides opportunities for perching and nesting, as well as sustenance in the form of berries. The flowers will attract pollinators and many mammals and birds will eat the fruit and leaves. Elderberry prefers full sun, and likes moist conditions, though it will tolerate a drier site.



A smaller shrub, the native **Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*)** grows to between 1 ½ and 5 feet in height. This plant has pale pink blooms, followed by greenish-white berries. Though the berries are poisonous to humans, they are an important winter food source for birds. Bees and butterflies are attracted to the snowberry flower's nectar. Snowberry likes moist, but well-drained soil and full sun. Because it has vigorous and deep roots it is a good plant for bank stabilization.



Another native shrub/tree, the **Mountain Alder (*Alnus incana*)** may grow as tall to 15 feet or taller. Also referred to as the speckled or grey alder, it is a nitrogen fixer. Like beans and peas in your garden, it will actually pull nitrogen from the air and put it into the soil, thus improving the soil quality. For this reason it can grow in poor soil. The alder is generally a wetland plant, preferring moist soil, making it a good choice for streambank stabilization. Native Americans used the mountain alder wood for making a dye, for cooking and smoking meat and fish and for making baskets.



Our only native deciduous conifer, the **Western Larch (*Larix occidentalis*)** may grow to as tall as 150 to 200 feet, with a diameter of over 4 feet. The needles of the larch (also known as tamarack) turn a beautiful golden color in October and drop off in November. This tree prefers north-facing slopes, but is very shade intolerant. It is more fire resistant than other native conifers and is prized as firewood.

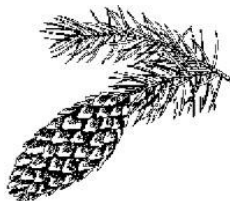


This year we are offering **Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)** for reforestation. The Ponderosa (reaching 50'-100' and sometimes much taller) grows abundantly in our area on dry south-facing slopes and is very tolerant of high summer temperatures. The thick orangey-brown fissured bark is covered with puzzle-shaped pieces and on a hot summer days smells of vanilla. The Ponderosa Pine, a major source of timber in our region, also provides important wildlife habitat, recreational use, and aesthetic value.

The Ferry Conservation District is also offering one ornamental shrub and one ornamental conifer tree.



The **Late Lilac (*Syringa villosa*)** grows to a height of 6' – 9' and blooms after the traditional lilac with rosy-lilac to white colored blossoms. It will add color and attract pollinators to your property.



The **Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*)** is a bluish-green conifer which may reach a height of 50 feet or more. The distinctive color and generally even shape of this conical tree make it an attractive ornamental. Blue spruce trees thrive in full sun to partial shade and moist, well-drained soil.

This year, as in the past, a number of plants with edible fruit or nuts will be available.



If you are starting or adding to an orchard, consider the **Wealthy Apple**. It is not a self-pollinator, so it must be planted in proximity to another variety of apple which blooms at approximately the same time.



For this reason, the **Whitney Crab Apple** has been included this year. This self-pollinating apple does not need another apple tree near it, but it will pollinate other early blooming apples, including the Wealthy. This golf ball-sized crab apple, able to thrive in planting zone 2 or 3, it will make excellent jam and jelly, and its firm, crisp, tangy-sweet, juicy flesh makes it a pretty good eating apple, too.



With its higher elevations and cold climate, Ferry County is a difficult place to grow peaches. To meet this challenge, the Conservation District is offering the **Reliance Peach** this year. Grown successfully where temperatures drop as low as 25 degrees below (F) zero, this excellent canner will produce fruit in most places in the county, without need for another pollinator.



The **White Gold Cherry** is a self-pollinating sweet cherry, adapted for very cold climates. It is also a very good pollinator for other sweet cherries. A cross between the Emperor Francis and the Stella cherry, the White Gold has an attractive yellow-blushed-red color.

The peach and cherry varieties are full size (could grow to 20 ft tall). The two apple trees are semi-dwarf varieties (50%-60% of full size). The mature sizes of all of the fruit trees can be minimized by proper pruning



For the 2015 Plant Sale the Conservation District is offering the **English Walnut (*Juglans regia carpathian*)**. This tree, which originated in Central Asia, may reach 75 feet or higher at maturity. It will produce a rich-flavored nut with a relatively thin shell.

Two different strawberries are featured this year, a June-bearing variety and an everbearing one.



The **Shuksan Strawberry**, developed at Washington State University in 1970, produces ripe berries for a three-week period in late June and early July. These deeply red berries have a wonderfully sweet flavor.



For a long season of fresh strawberries, the Conservation District is again offering the **Tristar Strawberry**. This delicious medium sized berry will produce from early July until the first killing frost in fall (some years into October.)

To order plants, look for a flyer in the mail or visit the Ferry Conservation District website at www.ferrycd.org. Complete the form and mail it back to the Conservation District without payment by January 28, 2015. 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. Plants will be available for pick up at the Ferry County Fairgrounds on Friday, April 17 from 10am – 4pm and on Saturday, April 18, 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).