

Mountain pine beetles, oyster shell scale, poplar vagabond aphids, these and many more insects have been chewing on your trees all year long! We seem to have had a great year - if you raise tree attacking insects! Both trees in-town, and shelterbelts throughout the county have suffered from not only insects, but also from early frosts, extremely cold winter temperatures, and drought. Now may be a good time to consider if you'd like to plant some new trees and shrubs for next year.

The Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery, located in Missoula, is run by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Each fall, they publish a catalog of all the trees and shrubs they will have available for next year. Primarily, this program is for landowners with more than 10 acres of land, but if they have any available, they consider small acreages. Initial purchase requirements are at least 250 trees or shrubs. Most of the selection is bare root trees and shrubs, but they also offer containerized evergreens up to three years old.

The Seedling Nursery works in cooperation with Montana State University Extension offices throughout Montana to deliver these orders each spring to their respective counties. Orders for trees can be taken anytime between now and March 15 of next year for delivery in-county. In-county delivery really saves time and costs. Orders usually arrive in Teton County between April 15-22, depending on frost conditions. I would encourage you to think seriously about what varieties you'd like to order and what quantities, and then get your order into your local Extension office as soon as possible. This program is on a first come, first serve basis, so the sooner your order gets in, the better. Every year, the nursery runs out of several species of trees and shrubs.

The Seedling Nursery has quite a variety of trees and shrubs. They stock a lot of caraganas and lilacs. Other shrubs that will work well in this region include: buffaloberry, snowberry, currants, chokecherry, Nanking cherry, serviceberry and several species of willows. Common trees (bare root one to two year old) include: ash, cottonwood, elm, poplar, and willow. Some common evergreens include: several species and sizes of pine, spruce, juniper, and fir. Larger containerized trees include: aspen, dogwood, and alder. As you can see, they offer quite a selection.

Many of these are gone by the time March 15 comes. I would encourage you to determine what you want, then submit your order as soon as possible. You can find all the information you need by going to the DNRC website found at:

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/nursery/default.asp>.

If you've never ordered trees or shrubs through the Seedling Nursery, the minimum order is 250 trees or shrubs. If cost is more than \$250, half of the cost of these is due at the time the order goes in, with the remaining half at the time of delivery. If your order is less than \$250, this must be paid in full at the time of ordering. A plan must be submitted with your order that has a place for the County Agent to sign. I can help you to develop and implement a shelterbelt plan. You can find the catalog and order forms in our office at the north end of the Teton County Courthouse if you'd rather not bother with the internet, or you don't have online access. Every year, we have thousands of trees that are delivered to Teton County. If you're interested, please contact me at the Teton County Extension office. Happy planting!