

2015 CONSERVATION TREE AND SHRUB PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Winter has arrived and as difficult as it may seem, spring will be here before you know it! In preparation, the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District has released their Conservation Tree and Shrub species list for the spring of 2015.

This year, property owners will have the opportunity to pre-order more than 59 different species of bare-root conifers, hardwood trees, shrubs, wildflowers and groundcovers, as well as seed mixes and other products used for conservation projects. Packages range in unit size and price, from a bundle of 10 plants for as low as \$11, to bundles of 100 plants for an average cost of \$84. New species this year include:

American Hornbeam, Coralberry, Fraser Fir, Hackberry and Tulip Tree.

The District has also updated their selection of multi-packs where homeowners can choose from 8 pre-packaged plant combinations that help accommodate a homeowner's conservation needs. Rather than receiving a single pack of ten trees/shrubs composed of one species, the multi-packs offer two plants of five different species; perfect for the suburban conservationist! Many of these multi-packs have been revamped this year with new species options. As always, species adapted to Monroe County site conditions have been selected to provide a variety of conservation uses.

"Planting trees and shrubs is perhaps the most effective way for individuals to help keep our environment clean and green," said District Executive Director Kelly Emerick. "In addition to providing shade, privacy, wildlife habitat, borders, windbreaks and snow fences, trees provide many environmental benefits not visible to the eye." She explained, "They work as filters to help protect drinking water, clean the air of pollutants, stabilize soil to prevent erosion, and reduce noise by acting as sound barriers. Trees can help cool your home in the summer, and break cold winds in the winter, helping to reduce energy use. They can even add value to your property."

The Conservation Tree and Shrub Program is a pre-order program with a deadline for ordering on March 10, 2015. We have a limited availability of plant stock, so to ensure we can meet your needs we encourage you to order early! The distribution of the plan material will occur at the Monroe County Ecopark on April 23-24th from 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Those interested in this program can find the order form and our full color catalog on the District's website: www.monroecountyswcd.org or you can pick up an order form at any local Town/Village Clerk Department. Check it out!! If you have any questions or you'd like the form sent to you, contact the Monroe County Soil and