

Great Faces, Green Spaces

Healthy Forests, Healthier Communities.

A newsletter of the South Dakota Community Forestry Program and the South Dakota Community Forestry Advisory Council (SDCFAC).



Coordinator's Corner

Welcome to 2012! This year is looking to be a warm dry year if the weather trends of these first few weeks of the new year continue. The beginning of this winter sure has been unusual—this January has seen record-breaking temperatures throughout the state. Along with the warmer temperatures, there has been a noticeable lack of snowfall. This has many people wondering what affect this will have on our trees and shrubs come this spring.

We here marked the end of 2011 quietly. Our second quarter UCF Challenge Grant round came to an end, with

only one application for funding. Tree City USA recertification applications continued to stream in from across the state and presentations continued, educating our citizens on urban tree management. When all was said and done, much was accomplished during 2011.

January also brings house-cleaning items to the forefront. Tree City USA applications continue to arrive and are due by January 31st. UCF Challenge grant funds are available and applications are due March 31st.

We here wish all of you a happy, healthy, and green New Year!



“There is, I conceive, scarcely any tree that may not be advantageously used in the various combinations of form and color.” ~ Gilpin ~

Tree City USA Applications Due January 31st!

Every year Tree Cities must report on their accomplishments during the past year and provide a work plan for the year to come. This is the second year that communities have the option to post their reports through the Arbor Day Foundation’s online reporting system. The deadline for reports was December 31, 2011. This allows time for Community Forestry staff and the State Forester to review and approve applications before sending them to the Arbor Day Foundation for final approval. Please visit the Arbor Day Foundation’s online reporting page to sign in or request a password. If you have questions, feel free to give us a call at 605.773.3594.



If this is your first year applying for the Tree City designation, you will need to request a password. Visit the online reporting page for a link:

http://portal.arborday.org/PowertrakWeb/portal_login.aspx

And remember the Arbor Day Foundation will still accept hardcopy (paper) applications if you are unable to report online.

Not a Tree City USA? We can help!

South Dakota’s Tree City Communities		
Aberdeen	Freeman	Redfield
Baltic	Gary	Sinai
Box Elder*	Gregory	Sioux Falls
Brandon	Hartford	Sisseton
Brookings	Huron	Spearfish
Buffalo Gap	Lead	Spencer
Burke	Lemmon	Sturgis
Clark	Madison	Vermillion
Deadwood	Mitchell	Watertown
Dell Rapids	Pierre	Whitewood**
De Smet	Platte	Winner
Ellsworth AFB	Rapid City	Yankton

* Indicates new Tree City USA

** Indicates Tree City USA Growth Award

Please mail applications by January 31, 2012!

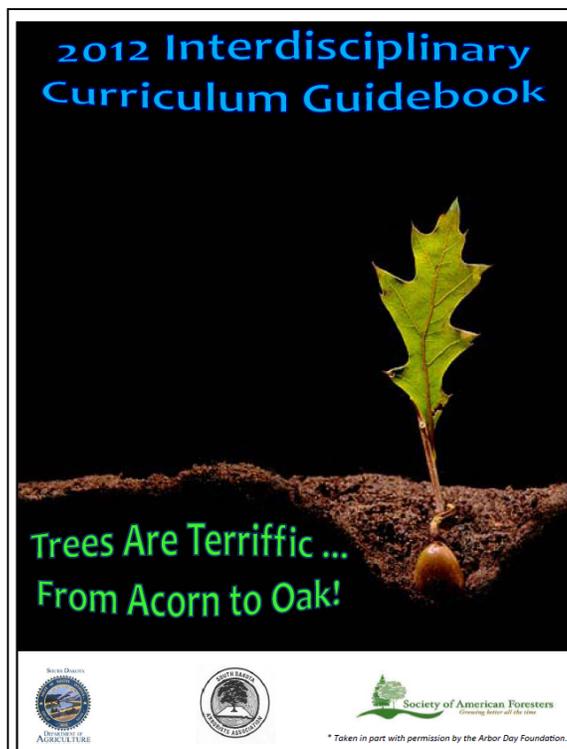
South Dakota Arbor Day Poster Contest

Every year the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry invites all South Dakota fifth-grade students to participate in the annual South Dakota Arbor Day Poster Contest.

2012's contest theme is "Trees are Terrific... From Acorn to Oak!" The guidebook provides all the necessary information, classroom exercises, and assessment guidelines teachers need to educate students about the benefits of trees and their inherent value to communities, people, and environmental health. Once students experience the coursework, they have the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the concepts by creating an interpretive poster and participating in the contest.

The curriculum guide incorporates principles of science, language arts, civics, and art into a fun, hands-on lesson plan that students are sure to enjoy. The top 12 artists will receive a certificate of accomplishment and their posters featured in the annual South Dakota Arbor Day Poster Calendar. The top three artists will receive additional prizes along with their certificates and posters highlighted in the calendar.

Posters are due Friday, March 23, 2012 - contest rules are on page 16 of the guidebook: www.sdda.sd.gov/forestry/educational-information/arbor-day-contest.aspx



Scotch pine

(*Pinus sylvestris*)



Scotch pine is the most widely distributed pine in the world. It grows naturally from Scotland almost to the Pacific Ocean and from above the Arctic Circle in Scandinavia to the Mediterranean. Scotch pine, also called Scots pine, is an introduced species in North America, brought here from Europe probably in colonial days. Its principal value in the United States appears to be as a Christmas tree, as an ornamental, and for erosion control. This tree ranges in height from 25 to 50 ft. with a width of 20 to 35 ft. This useful tree is hardy to USDA Zone 3 and prefers to be grown in full sunlight. The tree's bark is flaky and orange-brown in the upper two-thirds of mature trees. This orange peeling bark provides visual accents year-round in urban ornamental plantings. Like many trees, Scotch pine trees have a few common insect and disease pests which include: *Cyclaneusma* needle cast, western gall rust, *Lophodermium* needle cast, tip moth, sawfly, pine needle scale, and giant

conifer aphid.

Note: We do not recommend the planting of scotch pine south of I-90 due to pine wilt nematode.



SDDA RCF Community Forestry Staff

Pierre: Tiffany Arp, *Community Forestry Specialist*
523 E. Capitol Ave. 605.773.3594
Pierre, SD 57501 Tiffany.Arp@state.sd.us

Watertown: Craig Brown, *Community Forester*
2001 SW 9th Ave. 605.882.5367
Watertown, SD 57201 Craig.Brown@state.sd.us

Sioux Falls: Rick Mayko, *Community Forester*
4305 S. Louise Ave., #107 605.362.2830
Sioux Falls, SD 57106 Rick.Mayko@state.sd.us

Rapid City: Samantha Wangsgard, *Community Forester*
3305 1/2 W. South St. 605.394.5195
Rapid City, SD 57702 Samantha.Wangsgard@state.sd.us



Great Faces, Green Spaces is published quarterly by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. Editorial matters should be directed to Tiffany Arp, Community Forestry Specialist; 523 E. Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501. Office: 605.773.3594; fax: 605.773.4003; email Tiffany.Arp@state.sd.us.

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture is an equal opportunity service provider. Services are provided to all persons with regard to race, color, religion, gender, age, disability, national origin, or political beliefs. To file a complaint of discrimination contact Director, South Dakota Human Rights Division, 118 West Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501 or call 605.773.4493 (voice or TDD). The department is a recipient of federal funds.

What is the warm weather going to do to our trees and shrubs?

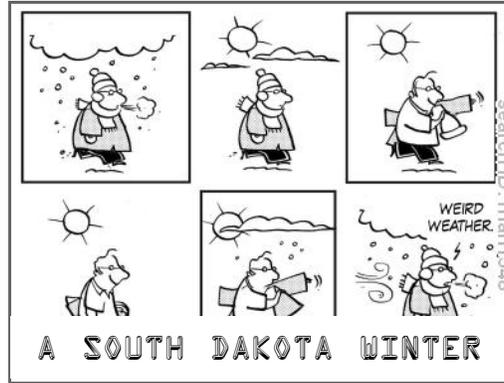
Contributed by: Dr. John Ball, Forest Health Specialist—SD Department of Agriculture
Extension Forester—SD Cooperative Extension



We have experienced some extremely warm weather in recent weeks with many communities routinely exceeding 50°F highs during the day. This is great for us, but what about our trees and shrubs? First, the process for woody plants acclimating to winter begins in late summer as the days become shorter and accelerates as the plants are exposed to autumn frosts. Once trees and shrubs have reached their full hardiness, they are set to endure our cold winters.

Usually by mid-January, many of our woody plants can survive temperatures as low as -40°F without injury. However, much of “winter” injury of woody plants in South Dakota occurs when plants are coming out of dormancy in the spring and we have an unusual dip of cold weather.

This year we may see even more “winter” injury as the unseasonably warm weather is beginning to coax some plants out of their dormancy prematurely. We are already seeing flower buds for many of our spring flowering shrubs expanding as well as the leaf buds on some tree species.



These plants are beginning to lose their tolerance to extremely cold temperatures and if (really when) we experience subzero weather, the tender buds and shoots may be killed.

I expect to see more winter-kill this spring as well as calls from people noticing their flowering trees and shrubs are not flowering as much as normal, if at all.

How much injury a particular plant might receive may not be known until

later this winter after we have the inevitable cold-snap. In early March, some indication of how much injury a plant received can be gleaned by pulling away the bark from a one year old twig. If the wood is light colored, the tissue did not experience cold injury and the plant should be fine, but if the wood is brown, it was injured by the cold.

* Taken in part with permission from Pest Update (January 4-11, 2012) Vol. 10, no.1 by Dr. John Ball, Forest Health Specialist SD Dept. of Agriculture, Extension Forester SD Cooperative Extension

*“Knowing trees, I understand the meaning of patience.
Knowing grass, I can appreciate persistence.”
~ Hal Borland, Countryman: A Summary of Belief ~*



Community Forestry Challenge Grant funds available

Through the Community Forestry Program, the division has provided financial assistance to our communities each year since 1991. These funds are awarded to communities and organizations in the form of Challenge grants. These grants are used to fund projects which solve a specific community forestry problem and demonstrate the importance of trees in communities. The community or service organization must match the challenge grants on a 1-to-1 basis.

The criteria for the challenge grant require increased commitment and effort from a community. This is in place to build long-term capacity within applying communities. The criteria are listed from highest to lowest priority with their top allocation dollar amount:

1. Professional Services—\$5,000
2. Tree Inventory/Assessment—\$5,000
3. Existing Tree Care and Maintenance—\$1,000
4. Education/Training—\$5,000
5. New Tree Planting—\$1,000
6. Other Activities—\$5,000

A good example is the local Webster 4-H Club highlighted in Vol. 1 Issue 2 of the Green Spaces newsletter. This group of young people applied for, received, and completed a \$1,000 tree planting grant.

If your community or organization has an idea you think is a good project to benefit your community’s urban forest, please fill out a grant application and submit to your area community forester. Applications are accepted year-round.

Applications and additional grant information is available at:
www.sdda.sd.gov/forestry/grants-loans/urban-forestry-comprehensive.aspx.