



South Douglas News

South Douglas Conservation District

Summer 2022

Assisting cooperators to adopt, implement and promote conservation practices which encourage good land stewardship and the protection of natural resources.

RECYCLE YOUR PLASTIC

- The Waterville Recycling Center and several stores around the area are now taking all that plastic you are guiltily throwing into the trash. All the collected plastic is then made into eco-friendly Trex decking and outdoor products. Plastic bags, newspaper sleeves, bread bags, Ziplock bags and more are now being accepted. Safeway, Fred Meyer, BiMart and Winco are all collection sites. This will fill a need that has been lacking in the area for those who recycle all they can. Go to the Trex website—trex.com/recycling—for the details of what you can recycle.
- Check out SustainableNCW.org for a whole list of what can and cannot be recycled in the area, and where to take it. This new comprehensive website is simple and easy to use. Good information on how to reduce waste and reuse items is also on the website.
- And don't forget 911 Glass Rescue in Chelan for glass and ceramic recycle. (reread our Fall 2021 newsletter)

"If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled, or composted, then it should be restricted, designed or removed from production."

– Pete Seeger, Folk Singer & Social Activist



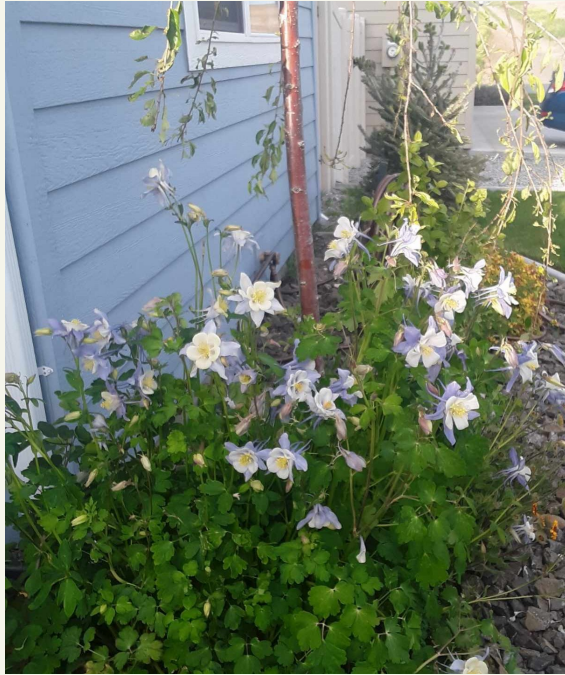
Our May 2022 chipping project helped 24 landowners apply fuels reduction practices to their property. South Douglas provides this service through a grant from the Washington Conservation Commission. We offer this service twice a year, spring and fall. Watch this newsletter for fall signup.



POSTAL CUSTOMER
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PERMIT # 241
Wenatchee, WA
ECRWSS

Where are They Now?



Every year, South Douglas CD has a tree and shrub sale. Most are native, some are adapted to this area and climate. Evergreen and deciduous plants as well as wildflowers are offered. The plants are fairly consistent from year to year, with new surprises offered and old favorites gone forever. Strawberries sold well this year.

Who buys them? The majority of customers are from Douglas and Chelan counties, but Grant and Okanogan gardeners also come. Homeowners from outside the local area buy to plant on property they plan to move to in the future.

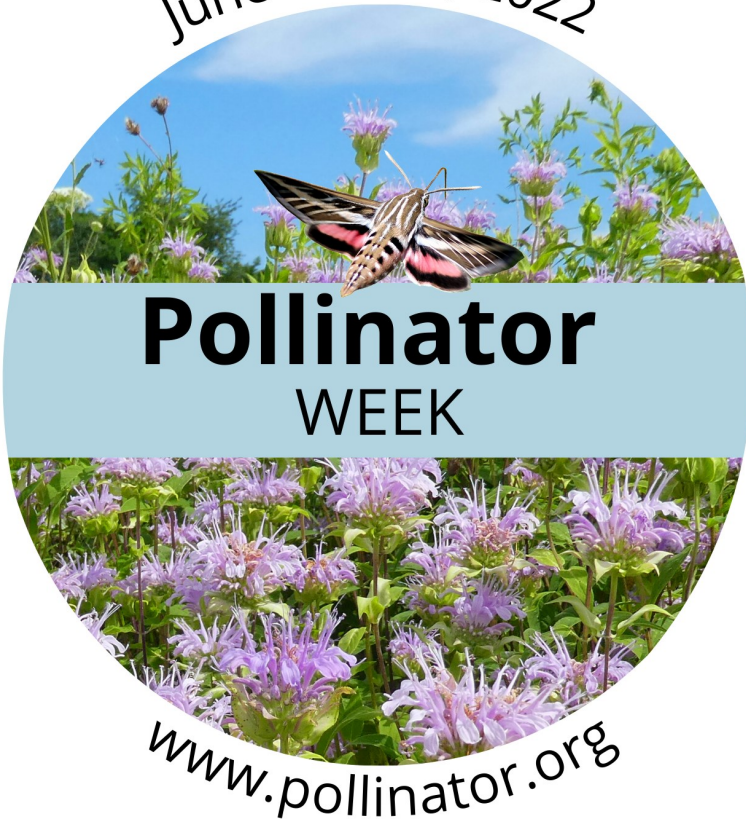
What are the plants used for? Larger plants can be used in windbreaks, shelter belts and wildlife habitat out on the farm. But as people are getting more familiar with native varieties, the plants also find their way into gardens and yards in urban areas.

As you are working in the yard this summer and fall, think about which plants might work well in your yard or garden. The inactive catalog is still up on our website so you can plan. Our sale is first Saturday in April each year.



This is a blue columbine planted in an East Wenatchee garden.

June 20 - 26, 2022



Native or Non-Native? Which are Better for Pollinators?

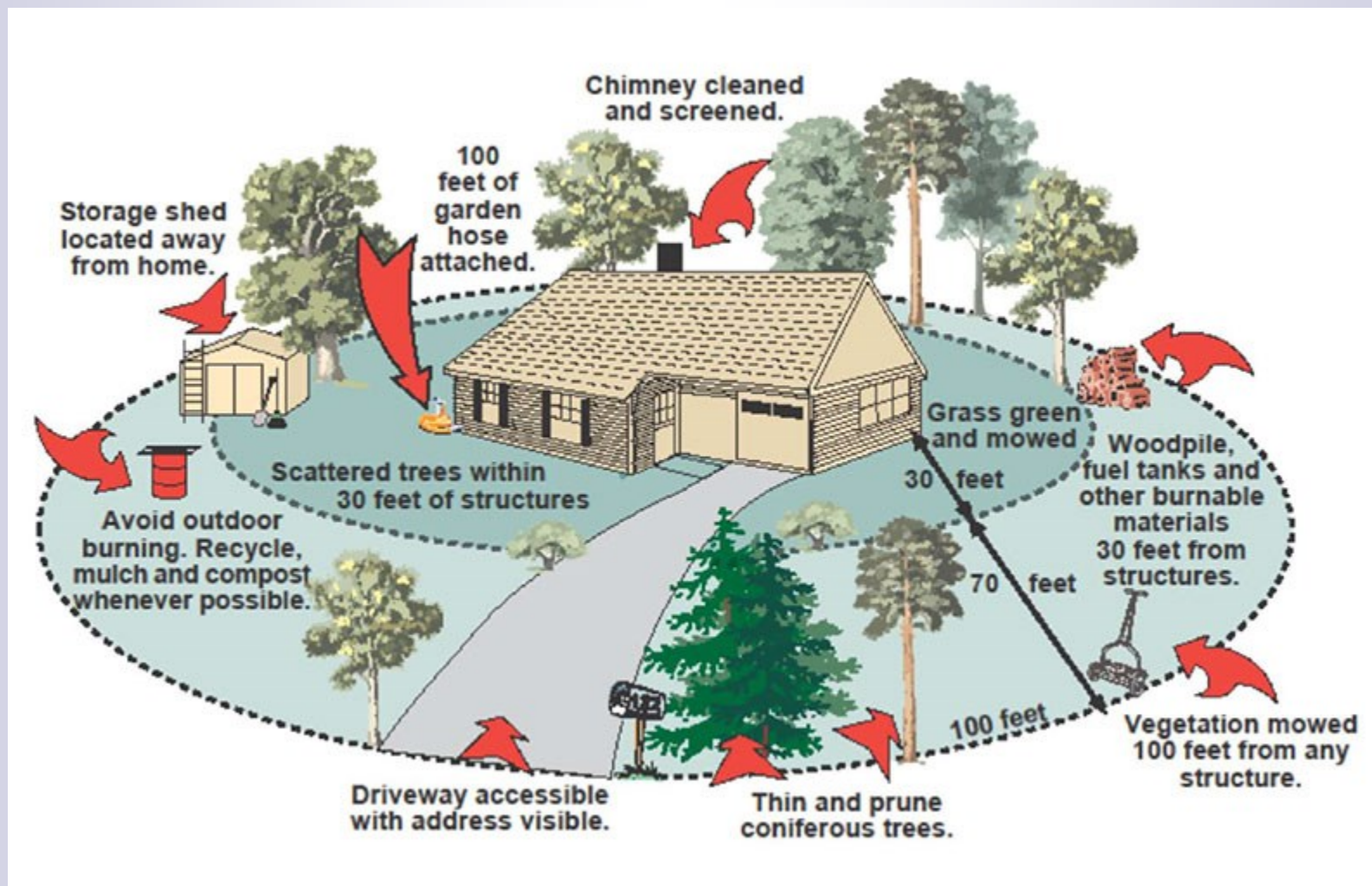
Native, you say. Everyone knows that. But what are natives? Only plants that originated within our region, State, or North America? What about cultivars of native plants? Is a plant that grows in Montana non native to Washington State? Both native and non-native plants can be good for pollinators. If the plant attracts pollinators and is not invasive, it can have a place in your garden. Or plant your lawn with native wildflower seed for a more beautiful, healthier yard.

Regardless of the origin of the plant, include a wide range of flowering plants that bloom at different times of the years. Many plants bloom in the spring but flowers, trees, herbs and other plants that bloom throughout spring, summer and fall will support the pollinator world. An excellent book, Garden Plants for Honey Bees by Peter Lindtner, lists native and nonnative flowering plants that bloom each month. Each plant is graded by the pollen and nectar source—sometimes a plant looks good, but the bees don't like it. (Haven't you bought a plant at Lowe's because it is covered with bees?)

Several factors can make a successful pollinator garden:

- **Plant a wide range of flowering plants** that bloom at different times
- **Plant in drifts.** Pollinators are more likely to find the plants if they are planted in large drifts of concentrated colors. Buy or plant at least three of each type—more if you have room.
- **Avoid landscape fabric and mulch.** Instead, place plants closer together. Plants of varying heights planted close together will form a weed barrier far superior to a bed of mulch. The bonus is that you will have room for many more blooms for pollinators.
- **Save perennial garden cleanup for spring.** Pollinators overwinter in different life stages: eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults. Some overwinter in hollow stems, while others attach to plants or overwinter in the leaf litter. To protect overwintering pollinators, don't cut down your perennial gardens until spring (early April), and keep beds of leaves intact through the winter. The stems and flowers can provide an interesting collage during the long winter days.
- **Avoid using pesticides,** Several biological pest controls are available that are effective and healthier for humans and non-target insects. The release of parasitic wasps to control aphids is an example.
- The loss of native vegetation due to new developments and buildings makes it crucial for us to plant pollinator gardens and protect natural habitat.

Are You Ready for a Fire?



Call it Firewise. Or Fire Adapted. Or Defensible Space. Whatever term you use, it is important that you plan for a possible wildfire coming to you home. Even though it has been a wet and cool spring, it will heat up. And with that heat, the possibility of wildfires is a genuine threat. Think ahead. Plan your escape route. Decide what you will take with you if evacuation is imminent. Have you arranged for outside livestock and pets?

With Covid restrictions eased, we are once again able to get out for Firewise assessments on your property to see where you might improve your fire resistance. Call the office for a free assessment.

Birds, Bats and Bees, Oh My!

- September 10, 2022—NCW Fairgrounds Community Hall
- Speakers on local bats, honey bees, native bees and pollinators, blue bird trail on Waterville Plateau, birds of North Central Washington.
- Watch our website, newsletter and Facebook page for more information.



Do you have a project in mind?

Over 70% of our funding is spent on cost share projects on the ground. Depending on the source, this can help pay for up to 100% of a project. Normally we fund 75%, with the landowner providing 25% of cost, often in time dedicated to the project.

What do we fund? We follow Natural Resource Conservation Services Best Management Practices (NRCS BMP) and can involve conservation practices that protect our natural resources. We have funded fuels reductions, windbreaks, wildlife habitat, dams and terraces, irrigation upgrades, live-stock waterers and more. If you have a project that would safeguard or improve our land and water, give the office a call. If we can't help, we may be able to find someone who can.

Fuels Reduction Cost Share Projects



South Douglas CD, in cooperation with Department of Natural Resources, has funding that can pay for 100% of fuels reduction on Badger Mountain. Thinning your trees, reducing the amount of undergrowth, and opening up the forest floor can help save your forest when fire hits. Improved wildlife habitat and forest health and access to the forest land are benefits that are achieved. Call the office to make an appointment to assess your land and get those forests healthy.

We have currently completed five projects and have another half dozen in line for our next round of grant dollars.

What's in your Soil?

Inflation hit the fertilizer industry even before the current crisis. Costs going up 50% or more has farmers making hard decisions on how much fertilizer may be needed. South Douglas can provide cost share assistance up to \$250 per farmer. Soil tests and plant tissue culture are eligible for the program. Call the office for more information. The forms will be available at Nutrien in Waterville or from the office.

Justin Grillo—New Appointed Supervisor

Justin was appointed by the Washington Conservation Commission to be a new South Douglas Conservation District Supervisor. A fourth grade teacher at Waterville School, Justin brings an enthusiasm for conservation and the outdoors. He has participated in our cost share program enhancing wildlife habitat on his farm outside of Waterville. We look forward to working with him and his new ideas for our board.

Eileen Bone—Good bye and thank you!

Eileen stepped down as an appointed supervisor for the district for six years. We have appreciated her input on projects, help at various events and ideas on how we can better serve our cooperators. She has taught us to reach out to all our public, not just the farmers and ranchers. Thanks Eileen. See you at the Tree Sale!

South Douglas Conservation District

P.O. Box 246, 206 N Chelan
Waterville, WA 98858
(509) 745-9160 •
www.southdouglasscd.org



Staff Member

Carol Cowling, *Coordinator*
southdouglasscd@conservewa.net

Board of Supervisors

Mike Lesky *Chair*
Joe Sprauer, *Vice Chair*
Lindsey Morrison, *Auditor*
Carolyn Kelly, *Member*
Justin Grillo, *Member*

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Please recycle.

August 25-28

The NCW Fair is coming! The animals, crafts, vegetables and all the entertainment will be there. Bring your exhibits—



crafted, home grown, sewn or anywhere in between. And don't forget the District's Douglas County Agriculture contest in the horticultural building. Look on our website for details—prizes for best educational posters will be awarded.

The fair is a wonderful place to meet old and new friends, get caught up on the latest agriculture accomplishments and have some good old-fashioned fun.