

Spring Seedlings on Sale Now

There may be as many reasons to plant trees as there are people. You might plant trees to make a place for birds, whose numbers are declining; to renew a patch of forest after logging; or with hope that future generations enjoy a tree grown here in this very spot; or just because you value life itself and few living things are as sturdy as trees.

What if you have yet to plant any tree?

A person who has never taken a seedling, dug a hole in the right place for it, and sent that seedling on its way treeward—well, that person has unfinished work in life.

Luckily, there's still time. Spring will be here soon. Every year, like the turning of the seasons, conservation districts around the Northwest hold native plant sales to make it easy for people to buy trees and shrub seedlings—one or 10 or 1,000 of them—for projects from landscaping to reforesting acreage.

Underwood Conservation District serves residents of western Klickitat and Skamania counties. Its annual tree sale is on now.

UCD is accepting orders online now through February 29, 2020. Ordering is as easy as going to the agency's website, www.ucdwa.org, and clicking on "2020 Plant Sale" from the menu along the top. Fill a shopping cart and pay with a credit or debit card.

The website has information on how to decide what to plant,



A ponderosa pine towers above other trees in an oak woodland in Klickitat County. Both ponderosas and Oregon white oak are adapted to withstand occasional moderate fires, and both are drought-hardy.
PHOTO COURTESY OF UNDERWOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

as well as the benefits of native plants—which are substantial.

People without internet access or who want to discuss planting ideas are welcome to call the office at 509-493-1936, or stop by during regular business hours, at 170 NW Lincoln (the Park Center Building) in White Salmon.

Seedlings are generally 2 years old, ready to plant, and sell in bundles of 10. There's a variety to select from, so people can match the right plant to the right place in the

greater Columbia Gorge. A dry Appleton hillside might do best with ponderosa pine and white oak, while a shady Stevenson would be a natural place to plant western red cedar. Also consider the numerous native flowering shrubs, such as the beautiful, hardy serviceberry and the prolifically fruiting blue elderberry.

Prices vary depending on species. Shrub and deciduous tree seedlings are \$2.50 each, and conifer tree seedlings are \$1.50 each. If you are planning

on a reforestation planting, please call the UCD office for information on discounts for large orders (60 bundles or more) of conifer trees, such as Douglas fir and ponderosa pine. Quantities are limited, so order early for best selection.

For those wanting plants in smaller amounts, individual seedlings will be available at UCD's fourth annual TreeFest and fair in White Salmon on Saturday, March 21, 2020. TreeFest also offers seedling pickup for those who order larger quantities online.

UCD helps Washington residents of the greater Columbia Gorge and Mount Adams country enhance, repair and wisely use their natural resources. Residents of High Prairie, Goldendale and points east are served by Central Klickitat and Eastern Klickitat conservation districts, with offices in Goldendale. Information on their 2020 plant sale will be forthcoming later this winter.

Conservation district technicians help residents reduce wildfire hazards to their rural homes, offer advice and program assistance for small farms and family forests, and work to support healthy streams and fish populations. The state's 45 conservation districts are nonregulatory and work with landowners on a voluntary basis. ■

For more information, go to Underwood Conservation District's website at www.ucdwa.org.