



Oregon white oaks provide shade and shelter, are wildfire-resistant and do well on dry sites. PHOTO BY UCD STAFF

## Conservation District Offers Tree, Plant Seedlings Now for Spring Planting

It seems like these times encourage people to draw inward, to hunker down, to play it day-by-day. But there is value in looking over the immediate horizon.

If 2020 has been the year to stay home, maybe 2021 will be a good year to improve our property by planting locally-adapted trees, shrubs and flowers.

Local conservation districts, such as Underwood Conservation District, offer native species seedlings every year for spring planting. These are appropriate for landscaping projects, privacy screening, reforesting acreage or projects at any scale.

Underwood Conservation District is accepting orders online now through February 28, while supplies last. Preordered seedlings will be available for planting in mid-March. Ordering is done online on the agency's website, [www.ucdwa.org](http://www.ucdwa.org). Click on the plant sale photo button on the page, fill a shopping cart, and pay with a credit or debit card.

The website also has information on how to choose what to plant, photos of each species and the benefits of native plants.

People without internet access or who want to discuss planting ideas are welcome to call the district's office at 509-493-1936, or to email a technician at [info@ucdwa.org](mailto:info@ucdwa.org). The UCD office is closed to in-person visits as a COVID-19 safety measure.

Seedlings in the sale are generally two years old, ready to plant and sell in bundles of 10. With a variety to select from, people can match the right plant to the right place in the greater Columbia

Gorge. White oak thrives under many conditions, but a red cedar will do best on a rainy, shady site. A Douglas fir responds vigorously to lots of light. In addition to trees, the conservation district sells native flowering shrubs such as the hardy evergreen Oregon grape and the beautiful red currant.

Prices vary depending on species, with shrub and deciduous tree seedlings \$2.50 each and conifer tree seedlings \$1.50 each. People planning on a reforestation planting can 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 the best selection.

UCD assists Washington residents of the greater Columbia Gorge and Mount Adams country with the enhancement and use of their natural resources. It serves residents of western Klickitat and Skamania counties. Residents of High Prairie, Goldendale and points east are served by Central Klickitat and Eastern Klickitat Conservation districts, with offices in Goldendale.

The state's 45 conservation districts are nonregulatory and work with landowners on a voluntary basis. Conservation district programs assist in reducing wildfire hazards to rural homes, small farms and family forests, and support healthy streams and fish populations.

For more information, visit Underwood Conservation District's website at [www.ucdwa.org/shop](http://www.ucdwa.org/shop). ■