

# Winter 2019 Newsletter

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH



## Season Extension

See the article from Barnyards & Backyards for some help getting started earlier and extending your harvest this year

## Tree Pruning

Advice from Jacob McCarthy at Wyoming State Forestry on how to prune your trees.

## Coming Up!

From soil health, office changes, well testing and more, check out what is going on and coming up with CCCD



## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Most of you are well aware of the current government situation. However, the NRCS is exempt from the shutdown. Allison is in her office and ready to help you with your NRCS projects! This does not include FSA. They are still closed as of this newsletter.

# Marlon Winger Brings Soil Health to Life!

**“Is dirt the same thing as soil?”**

Marlon Winger would reply,  
“Soil contains life and is abundant of living organisms, Dirt is simply neglected soil.”



**Wednesday, January 16, 2019 / 10:00 - 2:00 pm**

**Johnson County Fire Hall**

**Lunch Provided**

**R.S.V.P. to the Clear Creek Conservation District: 307.684.2526 ext. 3002 by Jan. 11th.**

If you need an accommodation to participate in this activity or event, please contact  
Amanda Hulet at 307-684-2526 ext. 3002, or by e-mail at  
[amanda.hulet@clearcreekcd.org](mailto:amanda.hulet@clearcreekcd.org) by January 9, 2019. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



# NEED MORE SEASON FOR GROWING YOUR VEGETABLES? WE CAN DO THAT

Vegetable varieties, row covers, location, high tunnels, greenhouses – no-cost to low-cost to high-cost options help promote longer growing seasons

Karen Panter

**M**any in Wyoming would love to have an extra month of growing season. There are several ways to accomplish this, ranging from easy and inexpensive to more complex and capital-intensive. Through various research projects, we're finding it easier to extend the season in the fall than to try to outwit Mother Nature in the spring.

## Simple Choices to Try

The easiest and least expensive ways to increase the growing season don't involve structures or covers. Instead, choose varieties adapted to Wyoming's short growing seasons. Look for short days-to-maturity varieties and stick to plants known to thrive here.

Select garden sites on gentle slopes so cold air moves down away from them. If possible, use the south or southwest side of a building or wall to capture heat and light. The soil type matters, too, as sandy loam soil warms

up more quickly than clay soil. And don't forget mulch! A temporary layer of black plastic will warm soil up quickly in the spring, with the added benefit of keeping weeds to a minimum.

Starting seeds indoors a few weeks before the last frost date in the spring will give a jump-start, too. Just make sure to give the seedlings plenty of light to minimize stretching while they're inside and don't overwater.

Inexpensive items can be placed around spring plantings, like plastic jugs, large cans (remove the bottoms), and hot caps (for example, a cut-out milk jug over a plant). The plants in them will outgrow these items so don't forget to remove them.

## Cold Frames, Hot Beds

Other structures like cold frames can be used a few weeks before the last spring frost date. These are typically wood or plastic set either on or in soil. They are covered at night or during cold days in spring. Covers can

be plastic or fiberglass or any material that will allow some light in on cold days. On sunny days, the covers should be taken off to allow light in and to let excess heat escape. It's easy to overheat plants in cold frames.

Hot beds are similar to cold



Water-filled plastic around a tomato plant helps retain heat, and a plastic covering also can be draped over the metal scaffolding to further increase heat retention.

frames but include some type of heating element on the bottom to keep plants warm at night. Heating elements can be electric or hot water; there are numerous types available, including heat mats. Make sure to purchase a system that won't be damaged by water from irrigation.

Row covers are another inexpensive way to extend the season. These are simple systems consisting of hoops bent over the crop rows. A layer of lightweight, white row cover cloth is spread over the hoops and held down either by clipping to the hoops or by burying the edges in a layer of soil along the sides.

## High Tunnel Option

If a larger, more substantial struc-

ture is what you're looking for, think about a high tunnel. High tunnels are unheated hoop houses intended to be temporary. Most have sides that will roll up during warmer weather to allow ventilation.

Using high tunnels, a gardener can plant two to three weeks before the last frost date in spring. The biggest benefit, however, is in the fall when the season may be extended for many weeks.

We are researching the use of row covers within high tunnels to determine possible benefits. The project is being conducted in high tunnels at the University of Wyoming Sheridan Research and Extension Center and at the Laramie R&E Center.

Crops grown at the LREC under high and low tunnels are 'Ace 55' tomatoes, 'Anaheim Chili' peppers, 'EarliServe' green beans, and 'Thai Asian' basil. In Laramie, we've noticed the plants under the row covers in the high tunnels are developing more quickly than those not under row covers but still inside the high tunnels.

Preliminary results from Laramie in 2015 indicate using row covers



An example of a high tunnel, left, and a row cover.

within high tunnels did not necessarily lead to higher yields of the plants grown in the study. More data will be collected during this growing season.

## Supreme Season Extender

For those wanting to extend the growing season to the entire year, try a greenhouse. These are the most expensive options but do allow for growing all year long.

Keep in mind the larger the greenhouse, the easier it will be to heat and cool. More air volume inside means temperatures will change more slowly. Kits can be purchased from numerous greenhouse supply companies, or they can be built from scratch.

No matter which option chosen, make sure to include not only heating equipment for the winter, but fans and cooling pads for the summer. Believe it or not, it's much easier to heat a greenhouse than it is to cool one.

For further information on these systems, check the following publications available on the Barnyards and Backyards website.

- *Gardening: Extending the Vegetable Growing Season*, Bulletin B-1148, [bit.ly/veggieextend](http://bit.ly/veggieextend)
- *Gardening: Hot Beds and Cold Frames*, Bulletin B-1151, [bit.ly/hotbedcoldframe](http://bit.ly/hotbedcoldframe)
- *Greenhouse Structures*, Bulletin B-1147, [bit.ly/wyogreenhouses](http://bit.ly/wyogreenhouses)
- *Gardening: Vegetables in Wyoming*, Bulletin B-1115, [bit.ly/wyoveggies](http://bit.ly/wyoveggies)
- *High Tunnel Handbook*, Bulletin B-1234, [bit.ly/wyohightunnels](http://bit.ly/wyohightunnels)



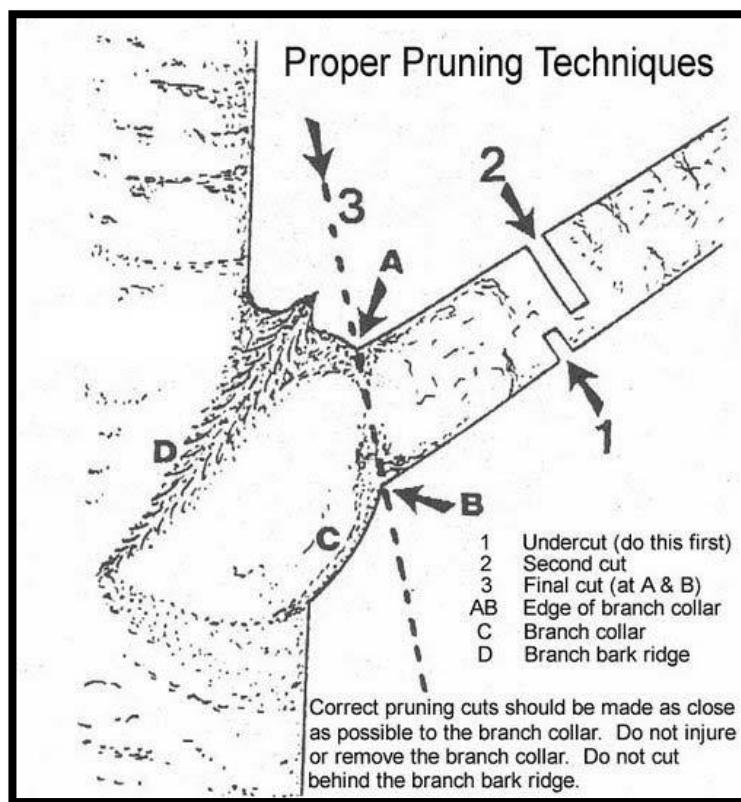
A do-it-yourself row cover lifted to let in light and let heat escape.

## From Winter Solstice to Spring Equinox.

Dormancy in trees is triggered primarily via the length of the day, though it is combined with other secondary triggers (colder temperatures and decreased water availability). Trees begin the senescence phase during autumn by breaking down chlorophyll cellular material in leaves and needles to store these sugars for bud break next spring. However, many do not realize that trees need a certain duration of cold temperatures before beginning growth after winter has released its grip on an area. To complicate the dormancy effect of temperature, if fall is unusually warm for longer periods of time, the required length of cold temperatures can move a tree's "wake up call" into late spring. Brief warming periods during winter often occur before the required cold period for a tree is met allowing the tree to remain dormant, but once the required cold period is met and warming trends and longer days are well established the tree will come out of dormancy and begin to break bud.

As we have passed through the darkness of the longest night of the year, time once again ticks towards longer days and warmer temperatures. Though it may seem far off now, we as humans have a knack for procrastination that can leave us scrambling to complete tree work during the appropriate time of year. The International Society of Arboriculture states that most routine pruning can be accomplished at any time of year with little negative effect on the tree. However, to maximize growth pruning accomplished, before the buds swell, in the late winter or early spring is the general "rule of thumb".

Pruning is the most common tree maintenance procedure. Some of the objectives for pruning include: Reducing tree or branch failure, provide for clearance, reducing shading and wind resistance, maintaining health, influencing flower and fruit production, improving a view scape, and improving the trees aesthetics. There are many pruning techniques that can be used exclusively or in combination to achieve the objectives desired by the tree's owner. Pruning becomes more complex as the tree becomes larger in size. Some pruning techniques may be more advanced and require the assistance of a local tree care company that specializes in tree pruning. The average homeowner can however work with pole pruners and from eight foot step ladders around trees of smaller stature, but pruning is not as simple as cutting off a branch. Time, thought, and the proper pruning cuts must be used to minimize risk to the tree as well as the pruner. Proper equipment and know how is important in using pruning for tree care. If a branch does not need to be cut then don't and if as a homeowner you are not sure how to accomplish pruning please contact a certified arborist, certified tree climber, or state forestry employee at 307-684-2752 and seek help.



# Speaking of Trees...

We are currently taking orders for our 2018-2019 tree season! Order forms can be found on our website or here at the office so stop by if you would like! They can be emailed as well.

[www.clearcreekcd.org](http://www.clearcreekcd.org) or  
amanda.hulet@clearcreekcd.org

CLEAR CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT CLEAR CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT			
2019 Tree Order Form			
Name _____	Day Phone Number _____		
Address _____		Order No. _____	
Orders are subject to availability			
<b>All Shrubs and Trees are CONTAINER GROWN</b>			
	Type	Price	No. Trees Quantity
	GAL	ea.	TOTAL
1. River Birch	5 gal.	\$26.00	
2. Weeping Birch	7 gal.	\$43.00	
3. Purple Red Locust	5 gal.	\$36.00	
	10 gal.	\$60.00	
	15 gal.	\$65.00	
4. Turbans Blood Maple	5 gal.	\$31.00	
	10 gal.	\$55.00	
	15 gal.	\$60.00	
5. Common Ring Maple	5 gal.	\$29.00	
	10 gal.	\$53.00	
	15 gal.	\$60.00	
6. Red Oak	5 gal.	\$31.00	
	10 gal.	\$55.00	
	15 gal.	\$60.00	
7. Honeylocust	5 gal.	\$26.00	
	10 gal.	\$50.00	
	15 gal.	\$60.00	
8. Chinkapin	5 gal.	\$26.00	
	10 gal.	\$50.00	
	15 gal.	\$60.00	
9. Little Leaf Linden	5 gal.	\$26.00	
	10 gal.	\$50.00	
	15 gal.	\$60.00	
10. Crape Redbud	5 gal.	\$25.00	
	10 gal.	\$48.00	
	15 gal.	\$60.00	
11. Siberian Elm	5 gal.	\$27.00	
	10 gal.	\$51.00	
	15 gal.	\$60.00	
12. Weeping Willow	5 gal.	\$21.00	
	10 gal.	\$42.00	
	15 gal.	\$45.00	
13. Colorado Spruce	5 ft.	\$164.00	
	6 ft.	\$184.00	
	8 ft.	\$196.00	
14. Common Hornbeam	5 gal.	\$21.00	

Payment is due upon arrival of trees

THE CLEAR CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS PROVIDING  
SEEDS AND PLANTING MATERIAL FOR COMMUNITY  
SHADE TREES AND PROVIDED AT A REDUCED RATE FOR  
CONSERVATION PLANTINGS ON THE LOCUS MINIMUS,  
BIRCHWOOD, BIRCHWOOD, BIRCHWOOD, BIRCHWOOD,  
RESTITUTION, WILDF BARBERS, EDUCATION AND VARIOUS  
CONSERVATION PLANTINGS IN THE CREEK DISTRICT.  
THE TREES PURCHASED FROM THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
ARE PROVIDED AS A SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY  
AND ARE MADE NO DURABILITY IMPLIED OR OTHERWISE.

THESE TREES ARE PROVIDED FOR RESIDENTS OF  
JOHNSON COUNTY ONLY.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your order!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Garden/Rural Living Expo

Coming up on April 6! Watch the website and our Facebook page for more updates. Get it on your calendar. You won't want to miss it!

## National Well Testing Day

Coming up on March 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be offering water well testing. Stay tuned to the website, Facebook and the newspaper for more information!

## What We've Been Up To

*Zach & Amanda have been busy applying for grants for the Russian Olive Project and Replant Buffalo. Zach has also been working with cooperators on a few other projects as well.*

*We are preparing to move to our permanent office here in the couple of weeks. Be sure to visit us at 500 W Lott St, Suite B. Our office door is over by the A frame building and we will soon have a sign pointing our way.*

*Don't forget about ordering your trees this year! We also have available a number of publications, composters, rain barrels and weed barrier. Come see us! We would love to help out!*



We are pretty lucky to be surrounded by royalty! This past November, Zach was nominated by our Board of Supervisors for Employee of the Year and he was chosen by the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts Board to earn the honor. He has worked very hard to continue the programs we offer and expand our programs in the tougher economic times. In the words of one board member, he is “a very high caliber member of our team.” He is truly passionate about the district and continues to make positive influences wherever he goes.

Also, Allison McKenzie was awarded Conservationist of the Year. There is never a dull moment in Allison’s office and she is always ready and willing to serve the people of Johnson County. Her knowledge and smile have developed numerous relationships with more than just constituents. She is deeply involved in Johnson County. We appreciate her passion and enjoy working with her.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 15 - BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING 6:00 PM @ 500 W LOTT ST

JANUARY 16 - SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP WITH MARLON WINGER 10 AM TO 2 PM  
JOHNSON COUNTY FIREHALL

FEBRUARY 19 - BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING 6:00 PM @ 500 W LOTT ST

FEBRUARY 20-21 - WATERSHED CONFERENCE - CASPER

FEBRUARY 27-28 - SUPERVISOR TRAINING - CHEYENNE

MARCH 13 - WATER WELL TESTING DAY

MARCH 18 - BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING 6:00 PM @ 500 W LOTT ST

MARCH 19-21 - WINTER EMPLOYEE TRAINING - SARATOGA