

# FORESTRY CONNECTION

Wadena Soil & Water Conservation District

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Website: [www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/wadena/](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/wadena/)



This is an issue dedicated specifically to presenting forestry information to landowners. We gathered articles from several sources and listed websites and phone numbers as well. We hope that you will find them useful.

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## **Carbon Sequestration**

This is a new term that landowners might not be familiar with. Carbon sequestration is "the capture and storage of carbon dioxide that would otherwise be emitted to or remain in the atmosphere." Planting trees or perennial grasses are two ways of transforming atmospheric carbon to a fixed-state carbon.

## **Carbon Credits**

These are "credits that you as a rural landowner can receive in exchange for implementing perennial vegetations on your land which result in high levels of carbon sequestration. These credits are then sold on the Chicago Climate Exchange for cash payments." Acres planted or converted to forest after 1990 can be eligible. **For more information:** [www.cinram.umn.edu/publications/landowners\\_guide1.5-1.pdf](http://www.cinram.umn.edu/publications/landowners_guide1.5-1.pdf)  
**OR call Dean Current, U of MN, at 612-624-4299.**



**Jack pine budworm** defoliated 17,300 acres of jack pines across the northern counties, down from over 70,000 acres last year. The huge outbreak of jack pine budworm in Ontario was still active this year, so we may see budworm yet again next year. Trees killed by budworm are less likely to be merchantable within 18-20 months of death and are also a fire risk. Be sure to evaluate your stand of jack pine regularly and consider replanting if necessary.



Go to the US Forest Service's website: [www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/fidlwest.shtm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/fidlwest.shtm) for leaflets on more forest insects and diseases.

**Sustainable Forest Incentive Act:** Minnesota's Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) can provide "property tax relief to private forest landowners who are serious about making a long-term commitment to good stewardship and management of their forest land." A landowner who enrolls property in SFIA annually receives a check (called an incentive payment) from the Dept. of Revenue depending on how many acres are enrolled. To be eligible, you must have 20 contiguous acres covered by a forest stewardship plan, be willing to record a covenant to protect it from development for 8 years, and agree to follow forest management guidelines when conducting management activities on your property.

The minimum per acre payment you can receive is \$1.50. The 2007 payment rate was \$7.18/acre. Last year's payment was \$5.24/acre.

**For more information:** Call 651-556-6088 OR go online

[www.taxes.state.mn.us/taxes/property/publications/fact\\_sheets/html\\_content/sust\\_forest\\_fact\\_sheet.shtml](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us/taxes/property/publications/fact_sheets/html_content/sust_forest_fact_sheet.shtml)

## Recent DNR Timber Auction Results

Average prices\* per cord for several selected species and products are shown below for two recent auctions. For complete information on recent DNR timber auctions, go to:

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/timbersales/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/timbersales/index.html)

### Park Rapids Area Regular Auction 9/18/07

Trembling aspen woodsrunk cordwood: \$39.55

Jack pine woodsrunk cordwood: \$41.74

### Park Rapids/ Detroit Lakes Area Intermediate Auction 9/18/07

Trembling aspen woodsrunk cordwood: \$35.97

Jack pine woodsrunk cordwood: \$35.94

There are two auction types:

**Regular** auctions vary in the number of cords offered, last up to five years in length, and are open to all purchasers.

**Intermediate** auctions offer up to 3,000 cords per tract, last up to five years in length, and are open only to individuals and to firms with 20 or fewer employees. These are small business set-aside sales.

*\*Prices calculated for selected species and products using bid species volumes only. Readers should use caution when comparing prices shown with actual prices for any specific timber sale. Individual sale prices will vary considerably due to physical and market conditions.*



## Forest Stewardship Planning Available

This assistance is provided by the Wadena SWCD at no cost to landowners of 20 acres or more in Wadena County. We will inventory your land, talk with you to learn your long-term goals, and prepare a detailed Forest Stewardship Plan that meets your needs and goals while assessing the health, capability, and care of the property. Individual goals could include tree planting, timber stand improvement (thinning, pruning, invasive species control), harvest, improving wildlife habitat, or enhancing recreation opportunities. Sometimes there are cost-share funds available to help implement activities recommended in the plan. So, if you are interested in keeping your forest land as healthy and productive as possible – both for your own enjoyment and for future owners – then contact us or DNR Forestry for more information!

Do you have less than 20 acres but would still like to learn how you can develop a plan to manage it? We have a publication called *Beyond the Suburbs: A Landowner's Guide to Conservation Management*. You can download a copy at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry). Scroll down the page to Tree Care & Management, or call us for a copy.

The MN SWCD Forestry Association Tree Handbook explains how to plant and care for a tree seedling. It also has a section on the general characteristics and planting requirements of the tree and shrub species commonly planted for conservation purposes in Minnesota. You can purchase a copy from our office for \$1.00, or view/print it off our website from our Tree Program page. The DNR also has tree care advice: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/index.html)



Minnesota SWCD Forestry  
Association Tree Handbook

## Biomass

Biomass is any organic material not derived from fossil fuels that can be converted to a fuel useful for generating electricity. Energy crops, also called "bioenergy crops", are fast-growing crops that are grown for the specific purpose of producing energy (electricity or liquid fuels) from all or part of the resulting plant. If you are interested in experimenting with one or more of the most likely candidate bioenergy species in your area, you can start by gaining some working knowledge of growth characteristics and management responses under local conditions - this will be useful if a later opportunity for commercial production and sale of biomass occurs in your area. The plants that have been selected by the U.S. Department of Energy for further development as energy crops are mostly perennials such as switchgrass, willow and poplar. They were selected for their advantageous environmental qualities such as erosion control, soil organic matter build-up and reduced fertilizer and pesticide requirements. You would have to check with local electric utility companies or fiber processors (paper and board manufacturers) to see if there is market for these intensively managed crops before establishing them. **For more information: Call Linda Ulland, Central Region Partnership, at 218-894-5192 OR go online [www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/pdf/FAQs%20biomass.pdf](http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/pdf/FAQs%20biomass.pdf)**



### DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD!

#### **Emerald ash borer**

The *emerald ash borer* (EAB) is a tiny bug that is devastating forests and neighborhood trees in Canada and several of Minnesota's neighboring states. To date, EAB has killed more than 15 million ash trees and infested over 40,000 square miles in Michigan, Ohio,

Illinois and parts of Canada. Our state forests and neighborhood trees are at particular risk from EAB. Minnesota has the third largest volume of ash timber in the nation and ash trees were also used extensively as street trees to replace elms lost to Dutch elm disease in the '70s and '80s.

Movement of firewood has been closely associated with the spread of several very damaging forest pests, including the emerald ash borer, European wood wasp, gypsy moth, Asian long-horned beetle, and a number of other wood-boring insects, plus decay and wood-stain fungi as well as the pathogens that cause Dutch elm disease, oak wilt, and sudden oak death. Approximately 50 percent of overnight visitors typically bring firewood to Minnesota state parks and state forest campgrounds annually, putting state lands at risk for pest infestations.

#### **What can I do to help slow the spread?**

- When camping or picnicking, purchase your firewood from the park or a local vendor. Don't bring firewood from home.
- Check with the state park or state forest campground before you leave home to make sure you know the latest recommendations and regulations on firewood movement to and within Minnesota. Some parks mandate you only bring in firewood from a certified vendor.
- Don't transport wood from your home area to your lake cabin or other recreation sites around the state. Buy your firewood locally from someone who harvests Minnesota-grown trees. Never buy firewood from outside of Minnesota.

#### **Emerald ash borer trap trees**

During the last four years, several agencies, including the DNR, have established emerald ash borer (EAB) trap trees around the state. During May and early June, ash trees are girdled near the ground, which causes the trees to slowly die. During that time, these stressed trees give off volatile compounds that are known to attract EAB adults, if they are present. In the fall, the trap trees are felled and the bark is laboriously peeled off with a two-handled drawknife. The presence of EAB larvae is indicated by S-shaped feeding galleries that wind back and forth in the phloem and outer sapwood. The galleries are usually packed with frass (insect debris). Other signs of EAB are D-shaped exit holes, 3-4 mm in diameter, and the exit holes can be found anywhere on the tree trunk or large branches. This year, 1250 trap trees were established by the Dept. of Agriculture. To date, no emerald ash borers have been found in Minnesota. For more information on EAB: **[www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info) OR [www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eabplanning.htm](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eabplanning.htm) OR Call Mark Abrahamson, MDA, at 651-201-5605.**



**Firewise addresses the risk of homes in the wildland/urban interface to wildland fire.**

As more homes are built in the woods and fields of Minnesota, the existing firefighting resources are less able to protect everyone's property while trying to control a wildfire.

Homes close to evergreens and the tall grasses of prairies or marshes are most at risk. Making your home able to survive an approaching wildfire is the goal of the Firewise program.

### **Creating an Effective Survivable Space**

Are you worried about the wildfire threat to your home, but aren't sure how to get started making your home survivable? Follow these recommendations to an effective, survivable space.

***Is there at least a 30-foot-wide area surrounding your home that is "Lean, Clean and Green?"***

**Lean...**small amounts of flammable vegetation.

**Clean...**no accumulation of dead vegetation or other flammable debris.

**Green...**plants are healthy and green during the fire season.

**Prune:** Branches and limbs 6-10 feet off the ground on all trees within a 30 to 100 foot radius of buildings.

**Remove:** Limbs within 10 feet of chimney, and dead limbs overhanging buildings.

**Screen:** Half-inch mesh screen on chimney outlet.

**Clean:** All needles and leaves off roofs and out of gutters.

To learn more about Firewise and ways you can protect your home, contact your **local DNR Forestry office at 218-472-3262 OR visit [www.dnr.state.mn.us/firewise](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/firewise).**

## **Buckthorn: An invasive species you don't want on your land**

As many landowners saw our beautiful fall colors on the trees come and go, they noticed that there were some green leaves out in their woods that hung around longer than others. Those green leaves can be a disastrous problem, not allowing any sunlight to reach our native seedlings in the woods, eventually taking over the complete understory. Buckthorn leaf out earlier in the spring than most shrubs and retain their leaves longer in the fall.



There **IS** buckthorn in Wadena County. We know of several hot spots in the county (Leaf River, North Germany, Rockwood, and Wing River Townships). Hopefully you don't have it, but if you do, we can give you tips to start getting it under control. Currently the Natural Resources Conservation Service has cost share to treat buckthorn. The next ranking period ends Jan. 31, 2008 so if you're interested, please call 218-631-3195 ext 3.

For more information: [www.fbiw.org/JoinIn/Buckthorn2007.pdf](http://www.fbiw.org/JoinIn/Buckthorn2007.pdf) (Janet Larson's buckthorn primer)  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn/index.html) (MN DNR buckthorn site)



## COST SHARE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE:

**State Cost Share:** This program through the SWCD works to assist landowners in offsetting the costs of tree plantings, well sealings, and erosion control. Tree plantings include but are not limited to windbreaks, living snow fences and shelterbelts. We can cost share with land owners at the maximum rate of **75%** of the eligible costs of a tree planting.

**Clean Water Legacy:** The SWCD received \$70,800 in “protection” funds from the Clean Water Legacy to keep our forested areas in Wadena County healthy and sustainable while addressing our water plan priorities. This is a **50%** cost share program to do tree planting, timber stand improvements, and bud capping. Our local DNR Forestry office has a similar 50% cost share program each year.



Minnesota woodland owners now have access to a new one-stop source for woodland stewardship advice. This website is managed by UMN Extension with funding from the Blandin Foundation.

## Where to purchase “conservation grade” trees and shrubs?

The Wadena SWCD’s tree program was developed to provide landowners with an affordable and convenient way to purchase trees and shrubs for **conservation practices** such as, windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences, and wildlife habitat. There are many varieties available. "Conservation grade" means that they are bareroot seedlings and transplants. The Wadena SWCD tree order form is available online or at our office in Wadena.

**Sustaining  
Minnesota Forest Resources:**  
Voluntary Site-Level  
Forest Management Guidelines  
for Landowners,  
Loggers and Resource Managers

If you’re interested in learning more about making informed decisions about forest use, forest management and forest sustainability, this Guidebook could be what you’re looking for. It was developed by the MN Forest Resources Council as a way to inform landowners, resource managers and loggers on how to sustain forest resources for future generations. We have copies in our office, or you can view it online at [www.frc.state.mn.us/FMgdline/Guidebook.html](http://www.frc.state.mn.us/FMgdline/Guidebook.html).



Want to know more about forest stewardship through classes and volunteer activities? Check out Woodland Advisors:  
[www.cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wa/](http://www.cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wa/)

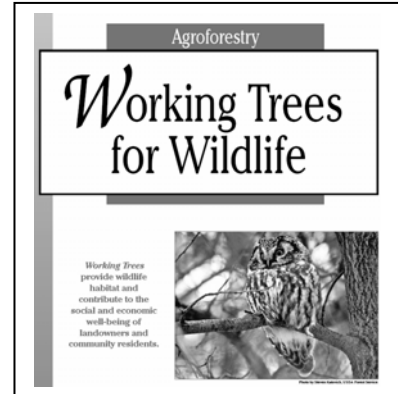
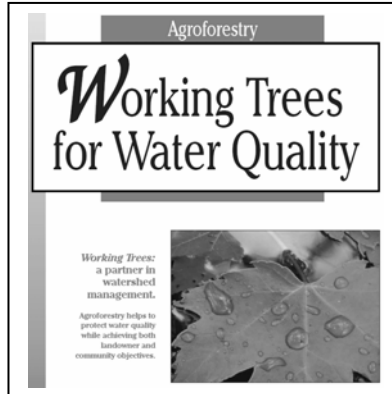
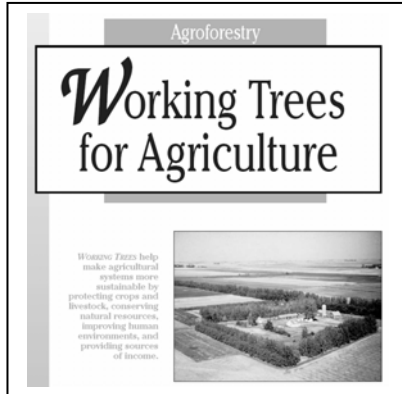
## **Benefits of Trees**

- Increase property values
- Save homeowners money
- Conserve energy
- Provide beauty
- Reduce noise
- Decrease erosion
- Protect water quality



**SWCD WEBSITE: [www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/wadena/](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/wadena/)**

The USDA National Agroforestry Center has a series of brochures created for landowners showing how trees can benefit agriculture, communities, livestock, water quality, and wildlife. We have copies in our office or at [www.unl.edu/nac/workingtrees.htm](http://www.unl.edu/nac/workingtrees.htm).



**Productive Conservation on Working Lands (PCWL):** This is a new program through Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development in Mankato. This will provide 50% establishment payments, not to exceed \$150/acre for the establishment of productive conservation crops: native grasses, willows, hybrid poplar, hazelnuts, and potentially other crops. For more information please go to: [www.threeriversrcd.org](http://www.threeriversrcd.org) OR call Joe Domeier at 507-345-7418.

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## ***SPECIAL FORESTRY ISSUE***

THE WADENA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION IN ALL ITS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, RELIGION, AGE, DISABILITY, POLITICAL BELIEFS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR MARITAL OR FAMILY STATUS.