Plan...then Plant – Conservation Trees/Shrubs Now Available

The following is an excerpt from a University of Missouri Extension Publication entitled Landscape Plantings for Energy Savings (https://extension2.missouri.edu/g6910):

Windbreaks reduce air movement around the home and thereby slow heat loss from the walls. The most effective windbreaks can reduce wind velocity as much as 50 percent.

Windbreaks can also deflect wind movement.

The use of windbreaks for winter climate control around the home can reduce winter fuel use by 10 to 25 percent.

Those figures vary based on where you live, what type of windbreak you plant, and the final windbreak design. Even on the low side of these values, however, it wouldn’t take long to make a windbreak pay – and might be a good reason to start one today.

For years, the Kansas Forest Service Conservation Tree and Shrub sales program has helped landowners start windbreaks (and other tree plantings), so benefits like those previously referenced and other conservation benefits can be realized. Their offering of low-cost tree and shrub seedlings have resulted in the planting of thousands of trees over the years.

Conservation Tree and Shrub program trees can be planted for windbreaks, as well as wildlife habitat, wood lots, timber plantations, or educational and riparian (streambank) plantings. Need a lot of trees for a windbreak. Check it out. Thinking of trying a wildlife planting? They’ve got options. Maybe you’re looking to plant some trees now for harvest decades in the future – this program has trees for you. Most of the species are native to Kansas. Those that aren’t have been evaluated to make sure they thrive here.

Fall is a great time for planting trees. We tend to see lowered pressure from insects, weeds, and disease. The young trees/shrubs also tend to have lower moisture demands than those planted in the spring. That means, however, that you need to start planning now.

Not sure where to even begin? Try the Kansas Forest Service resources page at https://www.kansasforests.org/resources/. Whether you’re leaning towards timber production or a new Kansas windbreak, you can find information to help you get started.

For ordering or other information, visit the conservation trees section of their website at https://www.kansasforests.org/conservation_trees/. The site even includes an interactive map with suggestions and suitable species. Simply put in your address, and you can begin the process of determining what trees might work for you.

Orders can be placed through early October. If planning and site preparation won’t allow you to order and plant in a timely manner, a second ordering window opens in early December with shipping beginning in mid-March. Either way, start the planning process today for a windbreak/woodlot/wildlife planting that can provide benefits for years to come.