Plan Now (CHECK)…Order Soon…Plant Later…

Last week in this space, I shared information on planning a windbreak from a publication entitled *Windbreaks for Kansas* (online at https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF2120.pdf or available upon request from a District Office). If you've looked at the best management practices included in it, you likely noted recommendations for both the number of rows required for greatest effectiveness as well as the in-row spacing. When you start adding up how many trees that might require, it can get a little daunting.

That's where a program like the Conservation Tree Planting Program from the Kansas Forest Service can be of benefit. Through this program, low-cost tree and shrub seedlings are made available for conservation plantings at a very affordable cost. Approved uses include windbreaks, wood lots, wildlife habitat, timber plantations, and riparian plantings (no landscape or plantings done or resale allowed).

All plants are one to two years old, varying in size from eight to 18 inches (species dependent). The program offers both bare-root and containerized seedlings. As the names imply, bare-root seedlings come without soil and are typically smaller in size. Containerized offerings are a little larger – and a little more expensive – but provide a higher survival rate and quicker establishment. Various deciduous shrubs, as well as both deciduous and evergreen trees, are offered as bare-root options. Only evergreen tree species are offered in containers.

All items are sold in units of 25 plants with bare-root trees/shrubs priced at $30 per unit and container-grown offerings at $65/unit. Each unit is a single species unless purchased in a bundle. Four bundles are available, including a mix of pollinator species for each half of the state and two different game bird bundles.

In addition to the trees offered, the program also offers numerous tree planting accessories, including marking flags, root protective slurry, weed barrier fabric, and protective tubes for both rabbits and larger wildlife species. Tree tubes are a must if deer are an issue and research shows that trees with appropriate weed control efforts establish much faster than those without. Don't forget to include those items in your order as well.

The ordering window is open from now until May 1st. Orders are shipped starting in mid-March. Order soon to ensure the items you want will be available. Orders are accepted from now through May 1st. Order early to ensure receiving the items you want. Order forms are available at your local Extension Office or online at http://kfs.mybigcommerce.com.