



Conservation Plantings

Today's landowners are stewards of the land. The soil, water, and wildlife that comprise "the land" are a legacy that has been passed to today's landowners to hold in trust for the next generation. Conservation plantings are a means to maintain or enhance the ability of the land to contain fertile soil, clean water, places for wildlife, and recreational opportunities. These plantings may include:

- Windbreaks
- Forest/tree planting
- Prairie/grass planting
- Filter strips
- Waterways
- Food plots

Buchanan County Conservation Agencies

Local agencies and groups provide excellent assistance programs. While working on a conservation planting, landowners should keep the following local resource people and organizations in mind:

Buchanan County Conservation Board (BCCB)
(info., planting assistance, outreach)

- Dan Cohen, Director
319-636-2617/bccbdan@iowatelecom.net

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
(federal financial assistance programs, info.)

- Roger Erickson, District Conservationist
319-334-4105/roger.erickson@ia.usda.gov

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
(state cost-share programs, info., outreach)

- Jim Jansen, District Biologist
563-425-4257/jim.jansen@dnr.state.ia.us
(info. and outreach)
- Bob Hibbs, District Forester
641-752-3352/robert.hibbs@dnr.state.ia.us
(timber stand improvements and tree planting)
- State Nursery; 800-865-2477
(ordering tree seedlings)

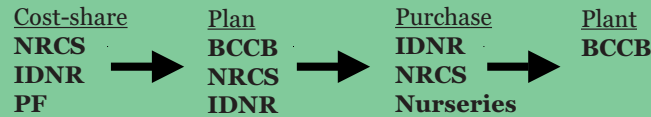
Buchanan County Pheasants Forever (PF)
(seed purchases and local cost share)

- Greg Schmitt, Habitat Chair
563-920-2581/gschmitt@bcch.sbt.net

Trees and Windbreaks

Properly planned tree and shrub plantings provide excellent wildlife habitat with many other side benefits. Trees and shrubs help protect soil from erosion and provide energy saving wind breaks. Seedling stock can be ordered through the NRCS office, IDNR State Nursery, or from one of several private nurseries. Several private nurseries also provide direct tree seeding services – planting nuts or seeds rather than seedlings. The BCCB will provide a tree planter and staff to help with plantings of 500 or more trees. For spring planting, trees should be ordered in the fall or winter, and planting assistance should be scheduled at least six weeks prior to planting. Landowners wishing to enhance an existing woodland should begin by contacting the IDNR District Forester.

Determine if cost-share is available, plan your planting choosing the best species for your site, order seedlings or seed, and arrange for assistance in the actual planting.



Use of Native Trees and Local Ecotype Seed

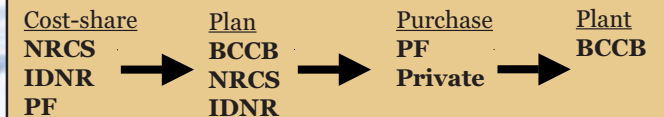
When planning to implement a conservation planting, landowners are urged to consider using native tree seedlings and local ecotype grass and flower seeds. This stock is raised locally, and is therefore adapted to local conditions. The cost of local ecotype seed has come down in recent years, and with the availability of cost-share, should not be prohibitive to landowners. In addition to being hardy, local ecotype plants help preserve the historic integrity of Iowa's flora.



Native Grasses and Wildflowers

Grasses and wildflowers are often used for filter strips, buffers, waterways, and Conservation Reserve (CRP) plantings. The deep, fibrous roots of native plants hold soil in place, and take in excess nitrogen and other chemicals. These plantings also slow surface water movement and provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. Many federal and state programs are available for farmers wishing to convert crop ground to grassland conservation plantings.

Pheasants Forever contracts with Iowa seed producers to order a variety of seed packages, in bulk, at a discount price. These orders can be placed through Pheasants Forever or by contacting the seed producers directly. The Conservation Department has both a 10' and 5' drill specially designed for native grass and flower seeding. Determine if cost-share is available, plan your planting choosing the best species for your site, and arrange for assistance in the actual planting.





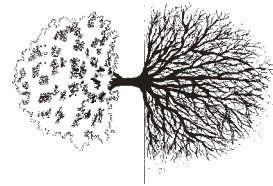
Did you know?

- Iowa has lost approximately 67 percent of its forests, 97 percent of its wetlands, and 99.9 percent of its native prairies since the time of settlement.
- Approximately 98 percent of the Iowa landscape is owned and managed by private landowners. Iowa ranks 49th to 50th in state lands managed in public trust.
- A well developed buffer strip can reduce soil runoff by more than 80 percent.
- Through Conservation Reserve programs, farmers are paid to produce clean water and wildlife habitat – just as if they were producing crops.
- Each year, the Buchanan County Conservation Board assists landowners in planting hundreds of acres of grasslands and thousands of trees.
- Landowners may choose to plant local ecotype plants – those that historically grow in this region of Iowa.
- Properly placed windbreaks can greatly reduce energy costs, add value to a home, and provide wildlife habitat.
- Iowa, the “land between two rivers”, has some of the most impaired waterways in the nation.
- The Buchanan County Conservation Board and Buchanan County Chapter of Pheasants Forever sponsor a program to provide free prairie plantings to schools and businesses (Prairies to Schools/ Prairies to Businesses).

Private Lands - Public Waters:

Printing and distribution of this brochure was made possible through an Iowa Farm Bureau Federation Nonpoint Pollution Grant in cooperation with Buchanan County ISU Extension.

Buchanan County Conservation Board
Fontana Park
1883 125th St.
Hazleton, IA 50641



—“Increasing our quality of life through programs of conservation and education.”

Conservation Planting in Buchanan County

*A step-by-step guide to using
assistance programs available
for implementing conservation
plantings on private land
in Buchanan County.*

Developed by the
Buchanan County Conservation Board
2004

