

# Mini-Cassia Conservation Update

Volume No. 2022.1



## East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation Districts

### SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

#### Burley Temporary Office

Room # 201  
In the Cassia County Courthouse  
Burley, Idaho  
Monday-Thursday 9:00-2:00  
208-572-3375

#### Minidoka New Office Location

85 East Baseline,  
(In the McGregor Building)  
Minidoka County Fairgrounds  
Rupert, Idaho  
Tuesday-Friday 9:00-2:00  
208-436-4202

### DIRECT SEEDING DRILL RENTAL

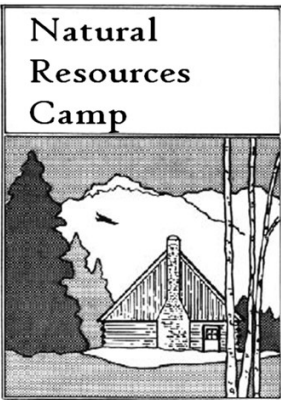
Keep a living root in the soil



Rent a drill from the  
Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
and  
Give DIRECT SEEDING a try.



### NATURAL RESOURCES CAMP FOR YOUTH



The Natural Resource Camp is a week long experience filled with fun and educational activities for teens ages 12-16. Teachers are also invited to participate in the camp. Campers will learn about Wildlife, Forestry, Rangeland, Soil, and Aquatics. The camp will be held June 20-25, 2022 at the Central Idaho 4-H Camp near Ketchum, Idaho.

The cost to attend the camp is \$280, due by May 30; Late registration is \$300. Scholarships may be available through your local Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). Contact the Soil District office in your area for information.

Applications and camp information for the 2022 NRC can be obtained on the MiniCassia SWCD Website at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com) and click on the

Educational Programs tab. Information is also available through your local County Extension Office, visiting the NRC website at <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/natural-resource-camp>, or by calling Randy Brooks at 208-885-6356.



### COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available to students planning to attend college this fall majoring in an Ag related field.

For requirements and applications, go to our website at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com) and click on the Educational Programs tab.



## District Board of Supervisors

	<u>East Cassia SWCD</u>	<u>West Cassia SWCD</u>	<u>Minidoka SWCD</u>
Chairman.....	Rob Cottle.....	Richard Kunau.....	Brian Kossman
Vice-Chair.....	Steve Ward.....	Jordan Searle.....	Dusty Wilkins
Treasurer.....	Ken Woodworth.....	Kathy Poulton.....	Aaron Firth
Member.....	Hannah Sanders.....	Brent Stoker.....	Reid Bowen
Member.....	Mark Webb.....	Ken Black.....	
Associate Member.....		Kyle Bowers.....	Justin Hunter
Associate Member.....			Russ Suchan

### District Employees

Sharon Hardy.....Minidoka Administrative Assistant  
 Rachele Osterhout.....Cassia Administrative Assistant  
 Doreen McMurray.....Cassia Information & Education Specialist  
 Megan Heward.....Cassia Administrative Assistant  
 Melanie Nebeker.....Soil Conservation Technical Assistant

### CONTACT OUR OFFICES:

**Rupert SWCD Office 208-436-4202**  
**Burley SWCD Office 208-572-3375**

**Minidoka email:**  
[minidokaswcd@gmail.com](mailto:minidokaswcd@gmail.com)  
**Cassia email:** [ewcswcd@gmail.com](mailto:ewcswcd@gmail.com)

**Web page:** [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)

*Spanish translation available upon request.*

### Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

David Mabey.....District Conservationist  
 Carolyn Firth.....ISWCC Ag Program Specialist  
 Dinah Reaney.....Soil Conservationist  
 Trec Reed.....Soil Conservationist  
 Brook Morgan.....Pheasants Forever

## NEWSLETTERS

are available by e-mail!

To receive this and future newsletters electronically, send your e-mail address to:  
[\*\*ewcswcd@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:ewcswcd@gmail.com)

Type "NEWSLETTER" in the subject box.

If you want your name removed from the newsletter mailing list, just let us know.

## DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Supervisors for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are landowners in Cassia and Minidoka Counties who volunteer their time. They are interested in farming issues and want to make a positive difference in their communities.

Serving as a Supervisor is a great opportunity to learn how to improve your own operation as well as help to make a positive difference within your own community.

If you are interested in serving on the Soil & Water Conservation District Board in your county, contact a current board member or call one of the NRCS offices for information.

### Monthly Board Meetings

(Public Welcome)

**East Cassia SWCD - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month**  
**West Cassia SWCD - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month**  
**Minidoka SWCD - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month**

*Any changes to meeting schedules will be posted in our offices and on our website at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com).*



*The "Conservation Update" is published 3 times a year by the East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation Districts and mailed to approximately 1,000 landowners, and sent by email to several hundred more. The distribution mailing list is maintained by the Information & Education Specialist in Burley, Idaho. Names may be added to or removed from the mailing list for the next publication by calling 208-572-3375.*

*East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation Districts are non-profit organizations. All programs and services of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.*

## LEARN MORE!

### ARBOR DAY

Arbor Day is celebrating 50 years! Go to their website and watch their video and search other resources for tree care and ways to celebrate.  
<https://www.arborday.org/>

### SOIL TESTING

Learn about soil health properties and about testing soil at <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/nutrient-management/soil>.

### WINDBREAKS

Windbreak benefits and management information available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308521X20308933>.

### KNOW WHAT'S BELOW

Call before you dig. April is National Safe Digging Month. If you are ready to start digging, call 811 and find out what is below!

### LOOK UP!

Look up before you plant trees. Make sure the air is clear! Plant away from power lines. Small seedlings need room to grow up, down, and out!

### GARDENS & LANDSCAPES

Answers to general landscape and gardening questions can be found at <https://www.uidaho.edu/homegard.aspx>.

### CONSERVATION AT WORK

Conservation at Work Video Series can be found at <https://www.farmers.gov./conservation/conservation-at-work>.

## NEW Pheasants Forever Employee

My name is Brooke Morgan, and I am the new Pheasants Forever partner in Burley (Range and Wildlife Conservationist II). I am originally from upstate New York, you know where all the mountains and trees of the state are, but I've bounced around the country since I graduated from SUNY Cobleskill with a degree in Wildlife Management BT in 2017. I have worked in the very southern part of Idaho chasing sage grouse and farther north towards Lewiston collecting alpine lake data, with some various fisheries work in between for IDFG. After some years as a tech, I landed my first permanent position with a private wildlife damage management company working on airports and naval bases in Rhode Island and Nebraska. My goal was to come back west once I left, and I did so after a year in eastern Nebraska (GBR!), when I relocated back to the Magic Valley as a Rangeland Tech with the Shoshone BLM office for the summer, and then dabbled as a Soil Conservationist in the NRCS Arco Field Office the past few months. I plan on making Idaho home for quite some time, and cannot wait to hike, fish, explore, and hunt more with my pack of dogs and humans.



## NO-TILL DRILLS

There are 2 drills available for rent from the Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

The drills are perfect for direct seeding into grain stubble or for no-till plantings of oats, barley, pasture mix, alfalfa, forage mix, orchard grass, crested wheat, or any blend of cover crops.

Contact the Soil & Water Conservation Districts to reserve a drill.

Minidoka office: 208-436-4202  
Cassia office: 208-572-3375

Information is on our website at  
[www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com).

## **INVASIVE SPECIES - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

Spotted Lanternfly, Zebra Mussels, Garlic Mustard, Feral Hogs -- These have been seen in the news and are unfortunately only just a few of the plants and animals that are causing North America problems as invasive species. USDA lists more than 6,500 organisms that are now established in the United States, posing risks to native plants, animals, microorganisms, valued ecosystems, and human and wildlife health. Invasive species are a problem for everyone. Learn what you can do to fight the spread of harmful invasives.

The USDA National Invasive Species Information Center defines an invasive species as plants, animals, or pathogens that are non-native to the ecosystem under consideration, and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm. Human actions are the primary means of invasive species introductions. Plants such as Brazilian Waterweed, Water Hyacinth, and Common Reed are not native to the U.S. and will crowd out native plants. Plants such as Eastern Red Cedar are native but are encroaching on grass- and grazing lands due to a lack of prescribed fire and may be made worse by changing climate conditions. Check out this website for more information on invasive species. <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/what-are-invasive-species>.

The West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District runs the Cottarel Invasive Species Watercraft Inspection Station at the Cottarel Port of Entry on I-84. Inspectors question watercraft owners about the recent waters they have been exposed to and inspect all watercraft for invasive species. If any evidence is found or if there is a concern, inspectors hot wash the watercraft. Idaho law requires all vehicles with watercraft to stop for inspection.

The economic and social impacts of invasive species directly effect property values, agricultural productivity, public utility operations, native fisheries, tourism, and outdoor recreation, as well as costs associated with invasive species control efforts. More information is available at <https://invasivespecies.idaho.gov/watercraft-inspection-stations>.



## **DO YOUR PART TO CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES & NOXIOUS WEEDS.**

### **PERENNIAL PEPPERWEED - A NOXIOUS WEED**

Perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), an introduced plant from southeastern Europe and Asia, is invasive throughout the western United States. It can establish in a wide range of environments and is a common problem in flood plains, irrigation structures, pastures, wetlands, riparian areas, roadsides, and residential sites.

Populations form dense monocultures that are easily spread by root fragments and seed. It is a prolific seed producer. The stems range from 2 to over 4 feet tall, with foliage smooth and green to gray-green in color and the flower is white. Once established, perennial pepperweed is persistent and difficult to control in crops, natural areas, and ornamental plantings. Perennial pepperweed reduces forage quality in hay or pasture. To know how to control this or any other noxious weeds or to report any infestations, please contact Cassia County Noxious weed control at (208) 878-4043.



# CUSTOM SEEDING

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Conservation Districts

The safety of our members & employees is our top priority!  
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## ETIQUETTE IS “IN”

Etiquette is becoming a popular skill for 4-H Ambassador students. Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District Admin. Sharon Hardy presented part of the training for the 4-H Ambassador program held on the Campus at Albion, Idaho March 12, 2022.

The Topic: Etiquette. Hardy presented Dinner, dating, business, theater and travel etiquette to the Ambassadors. It was an enjoyable afternoon, that evening the Ambassadors were able to implement the training techniques at a very nice dinner event.



### 3 Tips for Caring for Newly Planted Seedlings

*Information from [blog.davey.com](http://blog.davey.com).*

1) **WATER!** Newly planted trees are under stress due to their new environment, so they'll need extra love and care! Proper watering is essential to bringing moisture and oxygen to your trees' roots. During the first two weeks, deeply water young trees every other day. Then, water a new tree once a week for the first year, while it still has its leaves. Be sure to take rainfall into account before watering, too, and make sure the soil is draining and drying out some between waterings. Of course, during hot, dry periods or in dry climates, water twice per week during the first year.

2) **Mulch** is just what new trees need to retain moisture, control soil temperature and ward off weeds. You want to avoid piling on too much mulch, though. Known as volcano mulching, this creates a cool, damp environment, which can attract fungi, pests, and diseases.

#### **How to Care for a Newly Planted Tree**

Water deeply\* and regularly. Water newly planted trees every 7-10 days. (One deep watering a week is enough.) Water the tree during dry periods for the first three years. Never give trees or shrubs a light sprinkling. It will encourage shallow root growth and may weaken the plant.

If trees are planted in fertile soil, no fertilizer is needed.

When you add mulch, do not place it next to the trunk of a tree where water can be trapped on the trunk and encourage rot, insects, or diseases.

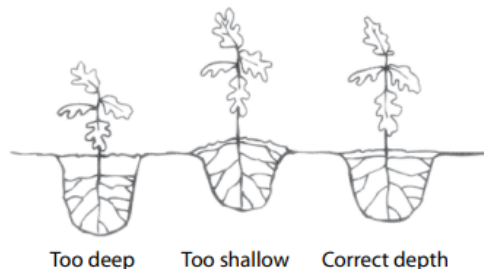
Stake only unstable newly planted trees. After one year, most stakes can be removed.

Prune broken, dead, or rubbing branches. Trim away any secondary or competing “leaders,” but not the main leader! In most cases, applying a wound dressing isn't necessary. The best time to prune trees is when they are dormant and after the coldest part of winter. To prevent spread of disease, **AVOID** pruning oaks or elms during the growing season (April through July). Watch out for power lines!

For long-term tree care, refer to the “Forest Health Web Resources List” at [www.mndnr.gov/treecare/forest\\_health](http://www.mndnr.gov/treecare/forest_health).

#### **Common Tree Planting Errors**

- Storing seedlings in a bucket of water for more than a few minutes
- Allowing roots to circle root ball
- Planting hole too small
- Planting too shallow or too deep
- Not allowing proper root spread
- Air pockets in the soil
- Allowing taproots of seedlings to turn up (“J” roots)
- Planting over rocks or in dry soil
- Planting a species unsuitable for the site
- Failing to mulch
- Not watering enough on a regular basis
- Not visualizing the tree's adult size



All of these factors stress out your new tree. Instead, mulch your trees the right way! Begin by choosing the best mulch for trees... organic whole-tree mulch. Then, apply 2 to 3 inches of mulch around the tree's drip zone, which is as far as the tree's leaves grow out. Use a rake to pull mulch 1 to 2 inches from the tree trunk to provide proper air circulation. Renew mulch by adding 1 inch to the surface each year.

3) **Pruning** is important. Trim away minor branch defects at the time of planting, but hold off on further pruning of young trees for at least a year. Significantly trimming trees in the middle of the growing season can limit their growth potential next year.



## Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission Water Quality Program for Agriculture Fact Sheet

The Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) has funds available through their Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) program to provide cost-share financing for soil and water conservation projects, water delivery and drainage rehabilitation and improvement projects, implementation of agricultural best management practices (BMPs), and other projects to enhance and restore the soil and water resources of the state. **Funding is available for eligible projects which will be completed no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.**

Matching funds must total at least 25% of total project costs. Matching funds include all project time and expenses not reimbursed by WQPA, e.g., time, equipment and materials provided by landowner, §319 grant funds, EQIP and any other state and federal funds. Total program cost-share from all sources may not exceed 100% of the actual project cost.

Conservation districts wishing to sponsor a project must apply to SWCC. Steps to developing an application include:

- Establish a project area for treatment based on a TMDL, Ground Water Quality Management Plan, or similar technical document.  
The project area may be as large as a watershed or as small as a single field.
- Describe the overall goal and expected outcome of the project.
- Identify BMPs the district plans to implement and estimate site-specific actual costs per unit of each.  
Identify other sources of funding available for the project.  
WQPA provides 10% of the value of the cost-share contract to the conservation district for administrative costs.

After an application has been approved for funding, SWCC will enter into a contract with the conservation district. The contract obligates the SWCC to provide cost-share payments up to the estimated reasonable cost for BMP technical assistance, installation, and project administration. The contract obligates the district, as the project sponsor, to:

- Develop conservation plans for landowner participants that address water quality and/or quantity.
- Determine cost-share rates for BMPs.
- Provide for technical assistance to landowners.
- Develop and administer contracts with landowner participants in the project.
- Ensure that the matching share of project costs is provided.  
Request WQPA funds from SWCC and distribute to landowners as cost-share for BMPs completed.

***Note: SWCC staff are available to assist districts with development and implementation of WQPA projects.***

If you want to learn more about WQPA or are ready to begin the process of developing a WQPA project, contact your local Conservation District or your local SWCC staff person or  
Delwyne Trefz at [delwyne.trefz@swc.idaho.gov](mailto:delwyne.trefz@swc.idaho.gov) 208.332.1796.

East Cassia, West Cassia, & Minidoka  
Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
1361 East 16th Street  
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**Soil District Board Meetings:** Public is welcome.

*East Cassia - 1st Tuesday of each month.*

*West Cassia - 2nd Tuesday of each month.*

*Call 208-572-3375 for details.*

*Minidoka - 2nd Thursday of each month.*

*Call 208-436-4202 for details.*

Minidoka SWCD  
Phone: 208-436-4202  
minidokaswcd@gmail.com

East & West Cassia  
Phone: 208-572-3375  
ewcswcd@gmail.com

Seedling tree care  
information inside.

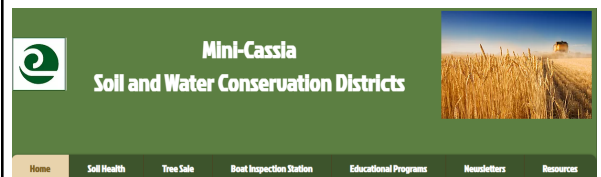


### Soil Health Resources

Online trainings and presentations on a variety of soil health topics are available on YouTube and through internet searches.

You can find several informational training links on our website at [www.minicassiaswcd.com](http://www.minicassiaswcd.com)

## Do You Know What's On Our WEBSITE?



*District Supervisor Boards & Meeting information*  
*Direct Seed & Cover Crop Information*  
*Soil Health Workshops*  
*Drill Rental information*  
*Seedling **TREE SALE** photos & info*  
*Cotterel Invasive Species Boat Inspection Station*  
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