

## Loudoun SWCD Tree Planting Program

The LSWCD Non-Ag Reforestation program is targeted at planting trees to permanently reforest currently non-wooded land. Some of the benefits of reforestation included improved water quality (both surface and groundwater), reduced soil erosion, increased wildlife habitat, shade, and of course the beauty of the trees themselves!

- Reimbursement for planting is provided at a rate of up to \$7000.00 per acre including eligible costs of trees, labor, and deer protection.

- Plantings can consist of bare root seedlings, tublings, or 3 gallon containerized plantings.

- Spacing of plantings is 10 foot for bare root seedlings, or 13 feet for tublings or containerized plantings.

- Plantings must contain only Virginia native species.

- Plantings must consist of at least 3 canopy and 2 understory species to provide an overall forest habitat and to avoid "monocultures."

- Planting plans, which are highly recommended, can be obtained from Virginia Department of Forestry. Loudoun is served from the Warrenton office of DOF:

<https://www.dof.virginia.gov/locations/loudoun.htm>

- Deer protection will be necessary to ensure survival. Although no particular type of deer protection is mandated, tree tubes for bare root seedlings or tublings (at least 4 foot with stakes), and 2 foot diameter 4 foot metal cages with wood stakes or t-posts for containerized plantings work best.

- Reimbursement will be provided after planting (Spring or Fall) and inspection showing all the trees have survived the initial planting process.

- Plantings must achieve 75% survival after the first year, at which point the project will be inspected for success. If 75% survival is not met, trees must be replanted to achieve that level or the cost share funding can be returned to LSWCD.

- Projects will not be regularly inspected after the first year, but the expectation is that the area will remain forested in perpetuity (not removed for lawn, building, or sports fields!)

- Projects can contain up to 30% conifers and can also include native shrubs, but the shrubs cannot replace the overall tree density, but can instead be added "in addition."

- If applications exceed funding, LSWCD will rank projects based on water quality benefit and cost effectiveness (overall acreage vs. cost of planting).

To apply or set up a site visit contact [chris.vanvlack@lswcd.org](mailto:chris.vanvlack@lswcd.org)

