

March 2016

Powder River News

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PRCD Offering Cost Share Programs

The PRCD is offering two Cost Share Programs: the first is for large rural projects that make a positive difference on the land. This is a cost share program where the PRCD matches 65% up to \$20,000, on a reimbursement basis. Projects will be reviewed by staff, then it must be approved by the PRCD board before they are initiated. The deadline to turn in applications is 4pm on Thursday, June 30, 2016. Some examples of projects that qualify under this program are: Solar pumping units, fencing for implementing rotational grazing systems on pastures, or fencing riparian areas to reduce impacts of livestock grazing.

The second cost share program provides incentive for residents and businesses to conserve soil, water and energy. The program also encourages beautification of the landscape. This program matches 50% up to \$1000, on a reimbursement basis. Some examples of projects that qualify under this program are: planting trees and shrubs, xeriscaping to replace traditional lawns, and installation of efficient drip systems for trees and shrubs. These applications are reviewed monthly and can be applied for at any time during the year.

For more information on these cost share programs or for an application please contact the PRCD office at (307) 738-2321 or stop by the office at 350 Nolan Avenue, Kaycee, WY.

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Spring Planting Tips

As winter loosens its grip after a long, cold season, many gardeners are anxious to start working outside. We have compiled a handy list of garden to-dos to get your lawn and garden ready for the coming warmer weather.

Shrubs and Trees

- Shrubs and trees can be pruned, shaped and thinned of older growth to allow new young growth to appear.
- Remove debris from around plants.
- Use a fertilizer with a good dose of iron between spring ground thaw and the first week of June and should be watered in well to get healthy growth and good color. In areas where rock or wood mulch and fabric has been used, fertilize as usual over the surface and around the drip line of the plant and water in well.
- Most trees in lawn areas will receive enough nutrients from your lawn fertilizer application and will require no additional fertilization.

Perennial Gardening and Flowerbeds

- Remove all the old leaves and dead plant material
- Sprinkle a balanced flower garden fertilizer, in granular form, over the soil or mulch around the plants. Take care in not placing granules on the crown of the new growth, as it will harm the plant.
- Use a garden cultivator or hoe to lightly scratch the granules into the surface regardless of mulch.
- Loosen the mulch in perennial areas to aerate the soil.
- Use wood chips or cedar mulch to help retain moisture. Try to keep a good two to three inch layer over all.

Remember

There are certain things that you want to remember when it comes to your spring gardening, such as that you never want to be in a rush to remove winter mulch or to cut back your evergreen plants, such as lavender, until the temperatures are warm enough, because otherwise they could be destroyed.

Zone three experiences severe winters with temperatures as low as minus 40. The ground freezes and frost occurs as late as April and may begin again in September. Choose vegetables that are hardy in cold weather and can withstand a light frost. Some vegetables such as peas, lettuce and spinach like cooler weather and will produce more if you plant them early in the growing season. Tomatoes and cucumbers like warm weather and may not produce until late in the season. Vegetables have many varieties with some specific to colder climates. Consult a seed catalog or local nursery for the best types to grow locally. High elevations also impacts the type of vegetable that can be grown.



March 2016

Native Landscaping Workshop

Come join the PRCO and Jenifer Thompson, Small Acreage Outreach Coordinator on **April 12, 2016 from 1pm to 4pm**, at the HJP for a Native Landscaping Workshop.

This workshop will cover native plant characteristics to keep in mind to grow them successfully and to have realistic expectations. We'll cover varieties of native plants, sources, planting from seeds, transplanting, and dividing.

Also, we will discuss the basic principles of water-wise landscaping, site inventory and general garden design.



Each participant will get to take home great information and a copy of the Plants with Altitude Guide Book. And the Range Land Plants: Wyoming Tough Book. Also, everyone will have a chance to win a composter.

A poster for Storm Spotter Training. The background is a dramatic sky with purple and blue hues, featuring a large radar dome on a metal tower in the foreground. The text is in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The National Weather Service logo is on the right. At the bottom, it says 'Free to the Public!' with a stylized 'RW' logo.

Storm Spotter Training

6pm Thursday, April 7
Harold Jarrard Park

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Free to the Public!

March 2016

Creating a Defensible Space for Your Home

A defensible space is an area around a structure where fuels and vegetation are treated, cleared, or reduced to slow the spread of wildfire towards the structure. It also reduces the chance of a structure fire moving from a building to surrounding areas. A defensible space also provides room for firefighters to do their jobs. Your house is more likely to withstand a wildfire if grasses, brush, trees and other common forest fuels are managed to reduce a fire's intensity. This does NOT mean your landscape must be barren.

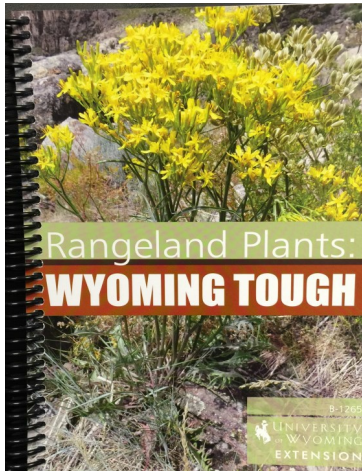
Fire is unpredictable. It can find the weak link in you home's fire protection scheme and gain the upper hand because of a small, overlooked factor. While you may not be able to accomplish all measures below, each will increase your home's safety. Begin you work closest to you house and move outward.

- ◆ The dimensions of a defensible space are subjective and depend on site characteristics, but typically extends a minimum of 75 feet around a home. This distance should be extended if the structure is located on a slope.
- ◆ Thin out continuous trees and brush cover around structures in the initial 15 feet.
- ◆ Beyond the initial 15 feet, trees should be thinned to 10-12 foot crown spacing. Occasionally, clumps of 2 or 3 trees are acceptable for a more natural appearance if additional space surrounds them.
- ◆ Mow dry grass and weeds to a height of 6 inches or less for a distance of 30 feet from all structures.
- ◆ Dispose of all slash and debris left from thinning by either chipping, hauling away or piling and burning (check with your local fire department for burning restrictions).
- ◆ Remove shrubs and small trees, or other potential "ladder" fuels from beneath large trees. Left in place, these fuels can carry a ground fire into the tree crowns.
- ◆ Trim branches which extend over roof eaves.
- ◆ Remove branches within 10 feet of chimneys.
- ◆ Maintain the defensible space annually by removing debris, shrubs and other vegetation which has accumulated during the year.
- ◆ Clean pine needles, leaves, and other debris from roofs and gutters. This will eliminate any ignition source for firebrands, especially during hot, dry weather.
- ◆ Stack firewood and wood piles at least 30 feet from any structure. Clear away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of these woodpiles.
- ◆ Make sure an outdoor water supply is available, complete with a hose and nozzle that can reach all parts of the house.

Even small steps to protect your home and property will make them more able to withstand fire. Quite often during a wild-fire threat, fire agencies will pre-deem a home a "casualty" because of bad defensible space. This decision is made before the fire gets there!!! This means the agency will use resources on a home with a better chance of survival and leave yours to withstand the fire on it's own.



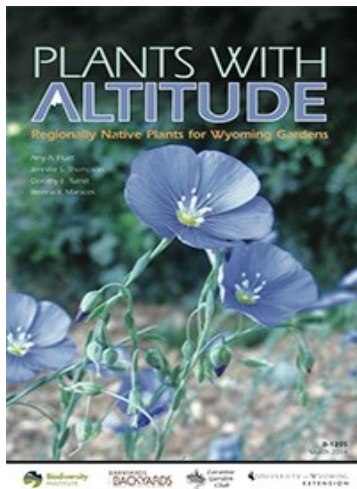
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Rangeland Plants: Wyoming Tough

This booklet highlights many native tough, well-adapted plants that are suited for our climate.

Stop in the Powder River Conservation District Office and pick up your **FREE** copy today.



Plants with Altitude

Regionally Native Plants for Wyoming Gardens

This booklet highlights many native tough, well-adapted plants that are suited for our climate.

Stop in the Powder River Conservation District Office and pick up your **FREE** copy today.

RECYCLING BINS

Powder River Conservation District is offering stackable recycle bins to promote recycling efforts that will increase our landfill's life span.



Recycling Bins 18 gal./72 qt. stacking bin with an easy access front flap. Ideal for recycling or dry storage - indoor or outdoors. Stacks with or without the lid. Front lid stays open when desired.

Recycle bins are being offered for \$7.50 a 50% cost-share rate—original price \$15.00.

*Powder River Conservation District
P.O. Box 48
Kaycee, WY 82639*

Non-Profit
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PRCD Board Meeting: Thursday, April 14th at 6:30 pm at the District office

Weather Spotter Training: Thursday, April 7th at 6 pm at the HJP

Native Landscaping Workshop: Friday, April 12th from 1-4 pm at the HJP

PRCD Board Meeting: Thursday, May 12th at 6:30 pm at the District Office

Office Closed Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day



The PRCD is an equal opportunity employer.

Find us on the web: www.powderrivercd.org