



Loudoun SWCD Non-Agricultural Reforestation Program Fact Sheet

The LSWCD Non-Ag Reforestation program is targeted at planting trees to permanently reforest currently non-wooded land (turfgrass or denuded). 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 three gallon containerized plantings. **We highly recommend bare root seedlings/tublings.**

-Spacing of plantings should be 10-13 feet based on the specific recommendations in your planting plan. Plans can be provided by Virginia Dept. of Forestry or your planting contractor. Loudoun's DOF Forester is Sadie Horner.

-Plantings must contain only Virginia native species.

-Planting areas should total at least .25 acre and should generally be at least 30 feet in width. The program is not intended as a landscaping buffer program, but rather is water quality focused to create contiguous forest.

-The Non-Ag Tree Planting Program is NOT an invasive species removal program, it is aimed at converting turf or denuded areas to permanent forest. The Loudoun Invasive Species Management Program should be utilized for targeted invasive removal and replacement.

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

-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 4-5 foot with stakes), and 2 foot diameter 4-6 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 25% conifers and can also include native shrubs, but the shrubs cannot replace the overall tree density, but can instead be added "in addition" and are at the landowners cost.

-If applications exceed funding, LSWCD will rank projects based on water quality benefit and cost effectiveness (overall acreage vs. cost of planting). If you're ready to apply or want to set up a site visit contact chris.vanvlack@lswcd.org!