

Westlock County Tree Makers Shelterbelt Program 2025

Tree Descriptions

Black Hills White Spruce

- Native to the North Dakota region
- Cold tolerant
- Compared to other spruce species it is more compact, dense, and has a conical form. This makes it more suitable for smaller spaces.
- Max height: 25m (82ft), spread 4m (12ft)
- Seedling size: 14-35cm



Scots Pine

- A very hardy tree
- Makes a good shelterbelt tree as well as an accent tree
- Has distinctive orange, flaky bark
- Prefers dryer soil, will not tolerate un-drained sites
- Max height: 15m (49ft), spread 5m (15ft)
- Seedling size: 8-27cm



Sea Buckthorn

- Nitrogen-fixing shrub
- Best if grown in a hedge
- Attractive berries high in vitamin C
- Pale silvery-green leaves and large thorns
- Max height 5m (15ft), spread 4m (12ft)
- Seedling size: >15cm



Okanese Hybrid Poplar

- One of the very best shelterbelt trees
- Grows very fast, is drought and cold tolerant, disease resistant
- Does not produce “fuzz” in the spring
- Max height: 18m (59ft), spread 8m (26ft)
- Seedling size: 15-60cm



Laurel Leaf Willow

- Fast growing (multiple feet per year) under good growing conditions
- Maintains its green leaves late into the fall
- Cannot tolerate drought
- Prefers moist, well drained soils
- Max height 26m (49ft), spread 15m (25ft)
- Seedling size: 18-50cm



Saskatoon Berry

- Hardy and dependable for berry growth
- Expect fruit in its second or third year of growth
- White flowers in the spring
- Max height: 3m (10ft), spread 2.4m (8ft)
- Seedling size: >15cm



American Elm

- Grows very quickly in its early years
- Its unique umbrella canopy shape makes it a nice accent tree.
- Can tolerate poor soil conditions (salt tolerant)
- Tall tree at maturity. Often planted in a row alongside country driveways
- Max height: 30m (98ft), spread 15m (50ft)
- Seedling height: >15cm



Villosa Lilac

- Late bloomer (mid-late June) compared to other lilac varieties
- Establishes and grows very quickly
- Very drought tolerant but will not do well in wet areas
- Does not sucker like other lilac varieties
- Max height: 5m (16ft), spread 3m (10ft)
- Seedling size: 6-45cm tall



White birch

- Native tree, also known as paper birch due to its bark
- Fast growing, makes an excellent shelterbelt or an accent yard tree
- Tolerates a wide variety of soil types but really thrives in loamy rich soil
- Can survive in a variety of moisture conditions, dry to wet
- Requires full sun
- Max height: 18m (60ft), spread 11m (35ft)
- Seedling size: 20-50cm



Green Ash

- Fast growing
- Bright yellow leaves in the fall
- Is tolerant to a variety of soils including compacted or alkaline soils
- Very drought and cold tolerant
- Max height 18m (60ft), spread 12m (40ft)
- Seedling size: >12cm



Colorado Blue Spruce

- Slow growing but once established are one of the best shelterbelt trees available
- Salt intolerant, be wary of planting near roads!
- Make great accent trees
- Max height: 27 meters (90ft), spread 6m (20ft)
- Seedling size: 12-33cm



Siberian Crabapple

- Cold hardy, ornamental tree
- Early bloomer (spring)
- Long life span
- Max height: 7m (23ft), spread 7m (23ft)
- Seedling size: 18-50cm tall



Ussurian Pear

- Most cold-hardy pear species
- Self-pollinating
- Fast growing
- Can be used as an ornamental or in shelterbelts
- Max height 10m (33ft), spread 8m (26ft)
- Seedling size: >15cm



Planting for Pollinators Package



Planting for Pollinators

Did you know: Alberta is home to over 200 native bees! They are heroes of the plant world, studies indicate they do 4x more pollinating compared to the domestic European honey bee!

There has been a lot of discussion around the declining number of pollinators and the factors contributing to that loss. It has brought awareness to the ecological services pollinators provide us with and has shown us how much the agriculture and food industry relies on these insects. We can take action to help pollinators, and we can promote native plant biodiversity at the same time!

By purchasing a “Planting for Pollinators” package, you are providing a food source for native insects and the benefits of planting native species will bring a unique beauty to your yard.

Each package contains: 3 Canada Buffaloberry, 3 Chokecherry, 3 Pussy Willow, 3 Red Osier Dogwood, 3 Red Elder, 1 Beaked Hazelnut. Seeds from a variety of native wild flowers.



Hemp Squares

- The number one reason we see tree establishment fail is lack of vegetation control around the seedlings
- These trees start out small and if vegetation is not controlled around where they are planted grass and weeds outcompete them for sunlight and moisture, leading to tree death or poor growth. Mulch around the trees is critical for their success.
- The squares are biodegradable, from our trials we expect them to provide mulching cover for 2-3 growing seasons
- These squares are produced in Alberta and the hemp is sourced from western Canadian agricultural producers
- Sold in bundles of 5- \$3.75/bundle. 12” squares





Have a tree planting project you'd like to undertake? The ALUS program is here to help agricultural producers by providing expertise, resources, and direct financial support to farmers and ranchers to help build nature-based solutions on their land to deliver ecosystem services to sustain agriculture, help build community resilience, and combat biodiversity loss for the benefit of future generations.

Eligible Projects include:

- Shelterbelt establishment along field edges
- Planting riparian vegetation along creeks/ wetlands/ rivers
- Wildlife planting for forage and habitat corridors
- Creating pollinator foraging and hibernation

If you'd like to learn more, please call Lisa at 780-674-8069 or email lisa.card@hwy2conservation.com



Plastic Mulch Applicator To Rent

Putting in a large shelterbelt?
Consider using plastic mulch!

The County has plastic mulch for sale and the plastic mulch applicator to rent.

Reasons to consider utilizing plastic mulch:

- Suppresses weeds and grass for easier maintenance
- Hold moisture in the soil, requiring less watering
- Warms the soil faster in the spring so the trees start growing sooner
- Trees grow stronger and faster (One year's growth of Okanese poplar planted in 2022) →



This equipment and mulch is in high demand! YOU MUST RESERVE IT IN FAR IN ADVANCE.
To reserve, or to learn more please contact Lisa at 780-674-8069