



Franklin Conservation District

Hayburne Building - 55 Federal Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
413-772-0384 ext. 110

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Joan Deely
413-772-0384 ext. 110
joan.deely@ma.usda.gov

The Franklin Conservation District's Spring Tree, Shrub and Plant Sale is now underway. As always, offerings this year include an affordable selection of evergreens, hardwoods, woody shrubs, perennials, fruit trees and berries. Our plants are either bare root seedlings, small plugs or potted up in small containers.

Evergreens for sale are not only ideal for Christmas trees; they also provide windbreaks and wildlife habitat. Hardwoods such as sugar maple, black cherry and shagbark hickory produce valuable lumber and quality firewood.

Ornamental species such as shadbush, hawthorn, mountain laurel and bayberry provide early spring blossoms, colorful fall foliage and food for wildlife.

Locally grown perennials are either native or hybrids of native species. Edible crops include blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, asparagus, rhubarb and horseradish root. Local compost, honey and maple syrup are available as well.

In addition to Earth Machine composters, we are offering, for the first time, rain barrels from Jack's Rain Barrel in Vermont.

Orders must be returned by Friday, March 15. As quantities of some items are limited, it is best to order early.

Pick-up day for all orders is Saturday, April 24 from 9 AM until noon, at Williams Farm on Route 10 in Deerfield.

Proceeds from the annual Tree and Plant Sale support the District's agricultural and natural resource conservation programs in Franklin County. We held a Twilight Meeting about rotational grazing at Wheel-View Farm in Shelburne. The District also received a 319 grant from the state to address erosion and flooding on the Sawmill River in Montague. We work closely with our state and federal partners to bring conservation practices to county farmers and landowners. Tax-deductible donations are always welcome.

To request a brochure for this year's plant sale, call the District office at 413-772-0384 ext. 110, or send an email to joan.deely@ma.usda.gov.