SEEDLING CATALOG

Fall 2017

Benzie Conservation District

Balsam Fir, see pg 12
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's becoming late August in northern Michigan and that, for many of us, is the nicest time of year; cooler temps, smaller crowds, fall colors and a host of seasonal activities in which to participate. Here at the BCD, the summer has passed by at supersonic speed, as we keep busy with a myriad of programs and services designed to preserve and enhance our local natural resources. The newest service is our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program, run by Jane Perrino and assisted by former intern extraordinaire, Jodi Monteith. Together, they've criss-crossed three counties and numerous water bodies to power wash hundreds of boats, canoes, kayaks and paddle boards. The goal is to rid those watercraft of any invasive plant or animal material that could otherwise be transported to another lake or stream. Next time you launch and see the AIS team on hand, give them a thumbs up and a big "thank you"... and get that boat washed!

On the following pages, you'll find our fall seedling offerings, exclusively conifers because they plant and take so well this time of year. The iconic Balsam Fir is our featured tree this fall – see more info on page 12. In the meantime, happy planting!

All the best,

ANNUAL MEETING OPEN HOUSE

Wed, November 15th, 4 to 6 pm
BCD office: 280 S. Benzie Blvd., Beulah
RED PINE (Pinus resinosa)
**Height:** 60’ to 80’  **Rate of growth:** fast
**Soils:** sandy, well-drained soils
**Size:** bareroot seedlings are 4-8”
Perfect for most of Benzie County! Straight, tall stems create natural fence or windbreak. Plant a red pine plantation as an investment. Prefers full sun and is shade intolerant and extremely cold tolerant.

JACK PINE (Pinus banksiana)
**Height:** 30’ to 50’  **Rate of growth:** fast
**Soils:** dry, acidic, barren soils
**Size:** bareroot seedlings are 8-15”
Seedlings require full sunlight to become established. Habitat for the endangered Kirkland’s Warbler. Jack pine is fire adapted and becomes a dominate species in areas that are exposed to frequent burns.

WHITE PINE (Pinus strobus)
**Height:** 80’ to 150’  **Rate of growth:** fast
**Soils:** light, sandy to heavy textured soils
**Size:** bareroot seedlings are 8-15”
Michigan’s state tree. Soft, five-needle bunches; welcomes variety of songbirds and wildlife. Full sun and partial shade. Provides privacy and protection from the wind.

BALSAM FIR (Abies balsamea)
**Height:** 45’ to 65’  **Rate of growth:** med to slow
**Soils:** prefers moist, well-drained acidic soil
**Size:** bareroot seedlings are 8-15”
Aromatic tree with strong, soft needles. Popular uses include yard and Christmas trees. Plant in sun to partial shade for color and cover in northern hardwoods.

NO. WHITE CEDAR (Thuja occidentalis)
**Height:** 30’ to 50’  **Rate of growth:** slow
**Soils:** cool, moist, nutrient-rich soils
**Size:** bareroot seedlings are 6-15”
Known to grow in swamps, but like well-drained, slightly alkaline soils. Partial sun and shade. Good for hedges and windbreaks. Browsed by deer; cover and nesting for birds.

WHITE SPRUCE (Picea glauca)
**Height:** 60’ to 75’  **Rate of growth:** medium
**Soils:** acidic, clay, drought tolerant, loamy, moist, sandy, well-drained soils
**Size:** bareroot seedlings are 10-20”
Christmas-tree shape complements the yard, good for windbreak and wildlife habitat. Does well in full sun. Wood used for pulp and lumber.
Eco-Turf Grass Seed Mix

**Height:** 4” to 6”  **Rate of growth:** slow  
**Soils:** loam/sand/gravel and well drained clay  
**Coverage:** 1 pound covers 200 square feet  
These deep-rooted native fescues are an alternative to traditional mixes. No intense watering, mowing or fertilizing. Choose not to mow and enjoy a soft look lawn. Full sun/partial shade. Contact us for Quantity Discount Pricing!

Big Blue Stem (Andropogon gerardii)

**Height:** 6’ to 8’  **Rate of growth:** medium  
**Soils:** medium to well drained soils; adaptable  
**Coverage:** 1 ounce covers 200 square feet  
Attracts butterflies; deer resistant; acts as claybuster. In late summer produces distinctive three-parted seed heads. The green leaves and stems change to reddish-copper for nice winter appearance. Top choice for erosion control.

Little Blue Stem (Schizachyrium scoparium)

**Height:** 1’ to 3’  **Rate of growth:** medium  
**Soils:** ranges from sandy to clay-loam  
**Coverage:** 1 ounce covers 200 square feet  
Wonderful for a border or dry garden; great erosion control. The foliage is soft, textured, and green or bluish, turning orange in autumn. Flowering plumes grow in clumps like bunchgrass. Excellent nesting and roosting site.

Indian Grass Seed (Sorghastrum nutans)

**Height:** 5’ to 7’  **Rate of growth:** medium  
**Soils:** ranges from sandy to clay-loam; tolerant  
**Coverage:** 1 ounce covers 200 square feet  
Birds love the golden seedheads in autumn. Also great winter interest. Can tolerate wet to dry soils from sand to clay. Plant with Little Bluestem for a fabulous fall combination and landscape backdrop. Full sun.

BCD Pollinator Seed Mix

**Height:** varies  **Rate of growth:** med to fast  
**Soils:** formulated for sandy soils  
**Coverage:** 4 ounces covers 500 square feet  
Attracts pollinators: bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, beetles, and flies. Includes 13 native wildflowers. Best to plant in proportion to grass mix for better stability on cleared ground; keep moist during germination.

Common Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca)

**Height:** 2’ to 5’  **Rate of growth:** fast  
**Soils:** sandy, clayey, or rocky calcareous soils  
**Coverage:** Approx 150 seeds/gram  
Common variety produces profusion of lavender flowers in mid-summer and is mandatory food source for Monarch caterpillars who feast on the leaves. Can be toxic if ingested.

Beach Grass (Ammophila breviligulata)

**Height:** 2’ to 3’  **Rate of growth:** fast  
**Soils:** sandy soil  
**Coverage:** varies depending on planting grid  
Natural erosion control. Grass forms a dense cover in sandy areas. Plant 6”- 8” deep, one stem per hole in a 12” up to 18” square grid, depending on flatland or slopes. 100 plugs per bundle or bunch. Keep roots moist before planting.

“Apart the pace of nature: her secret is patience.”  
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson
Keep Seedling Roots Moist and Protected!

- Plants easily become damaged if roots lose moisture for even a short time.
- Keep roots wrapped in moist paper but do not saturate. Store seedlings up to 48 hours in a cool, moist, shaded place.
- If not able to plant within this time frame, plants can be “heeled in.” Do so by first digging a trench. Unbundle seedlings and spread out in trench. Cover with soil and water in.

Heel In Your Bareroot Seedlings

Plant Your Bareroot Seedlings: Best Practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Too Shallow</th>
<th>Too Deep</th>
<th>J-Roots</th>
<th>Just Right!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some roots are exposed above ground level</td>
<td>Much of the stem is in underground level</td>
<td>Roots are forced in the hole, causing root ends to be facing up</td>
<td>Root collar is even with ground level, roots running down</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRODUCTS

PLANTSKYDD REPELLENT
Safe and effective deer, rabbit, and rodent repellent. Dried blood (porcine and/or bovine) is the main ingredient. Browsing animals smell what they believe is a predator. Reapply as needed. Powder concentration: 1 lb. makes 4 quarts Spray bottle: 1 liter, spray for leaves, stems Granules canister: 1 lb., sprinkle to distribute

TERRA • SORB
Helps retain the moisture of the roots on the trees when planting. One ounce packet of Terra-Sorb granules covers approximately 1,000 seedlings. If using 1 oz., mix with 1 1/3 gallons of water for dipping bareroot plants. After stirring, turns to gel to coat seedling roots immediately before planting. Can be used on all seedlings.

SUPER HOT® COMPOST STARTER
Great product to use with our compost tumbler! Contains blood meal, bone char, alfalfa meal, kelp meal, pasteurized poultry litter, natural nitrate of soda, feather meal, and peanut meal. 7-lb. resealable bag. Activates eight bushels (approx. 10 cubic feet) of compost materials.

DUAL-BIN COMPOST TUMBLER
Produce high quality compost quickly and efficiently. Let one bin “cook” while you add fresh compost materials to the other side. Two bins rotate separately; each bin holds approximately three cubic feet of compost materials. Recycled plastic. Need to assembly.
PRODUCTS

“TREES PLANTED” SIGNS
Protect your trees, your labor and your money. Alert vehicles and others to “keep off” your Michigan seedlings! These sturdy metal signs are 7” x 12.”

TREE MATS
Coir (natural coconut husk) mats help retain the moisture of the seedling roots and protects from weed growth after planting. Round mat has a diameter of 17” with cutout for tree trunk.

TREE TUBE & STAKE
These seedling protectors are 100% recycled polyethylene (milk jug plastic). They have a tab-flared top to protect seedling from sharp edges. Tube diameter is 4.15” (allows connecting multiple protectors for larger diameter) with vents starting halfway up to allow herbicide spray around the base. Cost per 4-foot tree protector includes one treated stake and ties.

TEE SHIRTS
Show support for your conservation district in style! Two styles, unisex sizes XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL (some sizes may not be available):

“BCD logo” on heather gray tee.
“Benzie River Steward” tee, heathered teal.

TOPO MAPS
Topographical maps for sections of Benzie County:
- Bear Lake
- Benzonia
- Beulah
- Burdickville
- Copemish
- Elberta
- Empire
- Frankfort
- Karlin
- Lake Ann
- Platte River
- Pleasanton
- Thompsonville

POCKET GUIDES
Handy, laminated foldout pocket guides. 12 choices:
- Animal Tracks
- Bats
- Bees & Other Pollinators
- Birds of Prey
- Butterflies & Moths
- Freshwater Fishes
- Michigan Birds
- MI Trees & Wildflowers
- Michigan Wildlife
- Mushrooms
- Reptiles & Amphibians
- Trout & Salmon

BENZIE COUNTY GUIDEBOOKS
“Benzie County Rivers, Lakes & Creeks”: Explore paddling and fishing in Benzie County. Great details for canoers, kayakers, and paddlers of all types and ages.
“Benzie County Trail Guide”: For hiking, biking, x-country skiing, and snowshoeing. All trails within an hour of Traverse City. Both guides by local author, explorer and IT professional, Jim Stamm.

ART POSTERS
Size: 19” X 27.” Printed on 80# coated stock using fade resistant inks; museum quality for framing. Illustrations by Duane Raver, Ellen Edmundson, (famed illustrator for the NY Conservation Dept), and Rick Cech (butterfly poster).
Fishes poster: includes 106 fish species.
Birds poster: includes 94 species.
Butterflies poster: includes 79 species.
All about Balsam Fir

- The balsam fir is a native evergreen well-adapted to the cold climates of the northern United States and Canada. Its symmetrical spire-like crown, shining dark green color and spicy fragrance have made it a favorite Christmas tree for hundreds of years. The branches are also popular in holiday wreaths and other greenery.
- In the landscape, this fir is used as a specimen as well as part of a screen or windbreak. This is an evergreen tree, keeping its foliage year-round.
- Features lustrous dark green needles ⅝–1” in length with 2 white or gray stomatic bands on the underside. The tips are blunt, rounded or notched.
- Yields cones 2–4” in length that start out dark purple, turning gray-brown and resinous at maturity. Once the seeds are ripe, the scales fall off, leaving only the central axis of the cone. Seed crops occur at 2–4 year intervals.
- Develops blisters of oily resin (balsam) along the trunk.
- The seeds and buds are food for birds and other wildlife. Moose use the balsam fir for food; deer enjoy its cover and shelter. The bark can be browsed by black bears. Beavers occasionally use the wood for dam building.

Other common names for this tree are balm of Gilead, northern balsam, silver pine, and blister fir. The resin from this tree was once used to mount thin specimens under slides.

- Balsam fir oil is an EPA approved nontoxic rodent repellent. The balsam fir is also used as an air freshener, incense, and for stuffing “pine pillows.”
- Resin was sold in stores as a confection prior to the advent of chewing gum, and resinous fir knots were once used as torches.
- A balm of balsam fir resin was used in Civil War as an external application to the injuries of combat.
Fall Seedling Sale is here!

For full color catalog check our online store: www.benziecd.org