

Laura Phillips
District Extension Agent, Horticulture

Kansas Forest Service Trees for Sale

As of January 5th, the Kansas Forest Service's annual tree and shrub sale is open! These trees and shrubs are part of the Kansas Forest Service's Conservation Tree Planting Program, which is designed to help landowners in their conservation and restoration efforts.

The program sells tree and shrub seedlings, various seeds, and other materials that can aid in tree planting, like marking flags or barriers to prevent rabbits from eating new seedlings. These plantings can serve a variety of functions, including creating windbreaks, promoting wildlife, growing Christmas trees, or stabilizing riparian areas (streambank).

While these seedlings are great for conservation work, they may not be used for landscape (ornamental) plantings or grown for resale.

The seedlings can either be bareroot or containerized. Certain trees may come as one or the other or both. The seedlings typically vary in species, are low-cost, and range from 8-18 inches tall.

Their seedling selection is based around species that will provide the most benefit to conservation efforts. Many of the varieties provide habitat and food for wildlife, including nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. You can purchase a single species in groups of 25, or chose from a bundle that is targeted at promoting specific wildlife, including quail bundle, pheasant bundle, eastern pollinator bundle, and western pollinator bundle.

If you are unsure what trees would be best for your land or conservation goals, the Kansas Forest Service has a guide called "Selecting Trees and Shrubs for Conservation Plantings." You can find the guide online or get a print copy from any of the Meadowlark Extension Offices, located in Seneca, Holton, and Oskaloosa. You can also give me a call for more feedback on which trees will fit your land the best.

Shipping starts March 11th, but if you are set on specific types of trees, its best to place your order now before they run out. You can place orders online at www.kansasforests.org/conservation_trees or call their toll-free number, 1-888-740-8733, to place your order.