

Trees for CONSERVATION

Few conservation efforts provide the extensive and enduring benefits of planting seedling trees. Growing low-cost seedlings for Colorado landowners is vital to meeting the state's conservation goals. Seedlings are used to reforest burned areas, enhance wildlife habitat, reduce soil erosion, protect water supplies and plant living snow fences that provide protection from wind and snow.



About the CSFS Nursery

The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) Nursery, located on the Foothills Campus of Colorado State University in Fort Collins, is the state's leader in producing low-cost, Colorado-grown seedling trees and shrubs for conservation purposes. In keeping with its mission, the CSFS Nursery produces a variety of species for landowners and land managers, all selected for their hardiness and adaptability, and ideally suited for conservation purposes.

Situated on 130 managed acres used for field production of bare-root seedlings, the CSFS Nursery also utilizes 18,000 square feet of greenhouse space for container plant production. More than 40 species are produced at the Nursery, with ideal selections available for all of Colorado's diverse environments, and we continuously conduct trials to identify new species that will address the needs of landowners.

The CSFS Nursery sells approximately 1 million seedlings each year to private landowners, largely through a network of cooperators.

Why Does Colorado Need a Seedling Tree Nursery?

The CSFS Seedling Tree Program allows farmers, ranchers and other landowners to obtain trees at a nominal cost, which helps them achieve their conservation goals, including:

- restoration after wildfire, flood and other natural disturbances
- growing shelterbelts, windbreaks and living snow fences
- creating or enhancing wildlife habitat
- protecting homes, cropland, livestock and highways
- increasing erosion control

- promoting clean air and water conservation

Conservation and sustainability are the primary goals of the CSFS Nursery, as are the ideals of community, stewardship and cooperation. The Nursery supports education and communication about conservation practices, particularly to Colorado youth. Through tours, field trips, workshops and community engagement, we promote awareness





By providing protection from sun and wind, trees can reduce energy costs by as much as 30 percent!

protecting and improving water quality

- Controlling snow drifts near roads
- Reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide
- Reducing heating and cooling costs
- Protecting livestock from the elements
- Restoring or enhancing natural beauty
- Increasing supplies of renewable wood resources

Join the 5,000 Coloradans who annually plant seedling trees to benefit the environment, themselves and their neighbors!

of the Seedling Tree Program – and the importance of conservation.

The CSFS Nursery also collaborates with Colorado State University and others to facilitate research that addresses the most pressing natural resource issues. Whenever possible, nursery staff also share findings from plant trials or seed stratification tests and similar research, which benefits cooperating agencies.

How Can I Benefit from Seedling Trees?

Planting seedling trees offers diverse benefits that may include:

- Protecting property and livestock from wind
- Reducing soil erosion and improving crop yields
- Providing food and cover for wildlife
- Increasing property values
- Increasing or restoring forest health
- Reducing water evaporation, preserving winter moisture, and

The only requirement to purchase seedlings and other plant materials from the CSFS Nursery is that they are used solely for conservation purposes.

How Does the Nursery Distribute Seedlings?

The CSFS Nursery relies on cooperating agencies to promote and sell most of its seedlings to landowners in their respective regions. Seedling cooperators include CSU Extension, Conservation Districts and CSFS field offices.

The nursery also directly ships plant material to consumers across Colorado and the nation, and welcomes visitors for in-person pickups.



For More Information:

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Physical Address:

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Gunnison, CO 81230

The CSFS is a service and outreach agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University, headquartered in Fort Collins. Our foresters help private landowners and communities accomplish effective forestry practices on their land, and reduce the risks of dangerous wildfires.