



Kansas Canopy

Winter 2001 Issue #1

Newsletter of the Kansas Forest Service

Trees are investment in future of the land and home

Trees are a long-term investment. For Kansans who order from the Kansas Forest Service, the dollar investment is so low it is almost negligible.

The Forest Service offers bundles of 50 bare-root seedlings in 29 species for only \$28. In addition, three varieties of container-grown evergreens are available in bundles of 30 for \$41.

The 29 species of bare-root shrubs, deciduous trees and evergreens are for use as windbreaks, woodlots, wildlife habitat, stream side plantings and Christmas trees. Austrian pine, ponderosa pine and eastern red cedar also are available in containers. The plants are restricted from use in landscaping.

In the first 45 years of the program, the Kansas Forest Service has shipped more than 46 million plants to improve the Kansas environment.

Thousands of windbreaks have been planted in the state to protect the soil, livestock and homes from the ravages of wind. Thousands more trees have been used to renew or create wildlife habitat. More have been used as the basis for the state's Christmas tree, firewood and lumber industries. Other trees protect homes from street noise and others replace views of junkyards with a living wall of green.

But these benefits do not come easily. The investment is either in money, hundreds of dollars per tree for specimen plants, or in time spent nurturing the bare-root or container-grown seedlings provided by the Kansas Forest Service. Who can put a dollar value on the sense of accomplishment, the pride, in growing a woodlot or a backyard wildlife habitat to maturity?

The benefits do not all await full maturity. Long before full growth is reached,



a stand of trees will provide beauty, protection and pleasure.

Besides the 29 species being offered, the Forest Service has three special bundles designed for special wildlife purposes. The Songbird Bundle, for \$14.50, contains three red cedar and 17 shrubs. The Wildlife Bundle, \$78, has 130 plants and the Wildlife Mast Bundle, \$92, has 125 seedlings.

The shipping charge is 12 percent of the order subtotal, or a minimum of \$5. Shipping for orders to be picked up in Manhattan is 2 percent, or a minimum of \$2.

Order forms and complete listings of trees are available from each county's K-State Research and Extension Office and Conservation District. Also you can place orders online at www.kansasforests.org or by phone toll free at 1-888-740-8733.

Ordering is open through May 5, but some species sell out every year. This is a first-come, first-served program. When we're out, we're out until the next year.

Bill Loucks, Conservation Forester, manages the Conservation Tree Planting Program and related activities for the Kansas Forest Service.

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Comments from the State Forester

We have been talking for some time about creating a Kansas Forest Service newsletter to inform people we work with about our programs, technical forestry information, success stories of projects and activities and training events. However, to produce a product that is interesting and worthwhile takes a major commitment of time and resources. We knew a newsletter would be a good way to communicate important forestry information, but we were reluctant to make the commitment. We are now ready to make that commitment.

This is the first issue of the Kansas Forest Service quarterly newsletter — Kansas Canopy. We are committed to informing landowners, community leaders, departments, agencies and organizations about forestry in Kansas. We are hoping to encourage you to continue working, motivate you to become active and/or keep you up-to-date on forestry issues that affect our state.

Kansas Canopy will provide information on all of our major programs including rural forestry, urban and community forestry, rural fire protection and tree planting. You will be receiving timely information that you can put into practice where you live. Many of you will receive the newsletter electronically, while others will receive it through the mail. If you would like to help reduce our costs and receive it electronically, please send us your e-mail address by e-mailing us at kfs@lists.oznet.ksu.edu.

Kansas has a significant forest and tree resource that provides many benefits to us all. To be healthy and productive for our use and enjoyment and that of future generations, rural and urban forests need our care and protection. Let's begin today to do something positive for forestry where we live.

I hope you enjoy reading Kansas Canopy.

Ray Aslin, State Forester, oversees all operations of the Kansas Forest Service.

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To discontinue receiving this newsletter, please contact the Kansas Forest Service by mail, phone, or e-mail.

How to Make Subscription Changes

We are proud to send you this first edition of the Kansas Canopy. The Kansas Canopy is one of the ways the Kansas Forest Service is providing you information about the services we provide you and other Kansans.

The Kansas Canopy may be received in one of two ways. You may receive a paper copy of the Kansas Canopy or an e-mail with a link to an Adobe Acrobat file. There are benefits to both, but the electronic version is the most versatile to you. The electronic version is full color and may be printed.

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the Kansas Canopy instead of the paper copy or the paper copy instead of the electronic version, or wish to no longer receive the Kansas Canopy, please contact the Kansas Forest Service. We will try to accommodate your request.

As with many large mailings, either by e-mail or postal service, individuals may receive the Kansas Canopy more than once. If you do receive multiple copies of the Kansas Canopy, please contact the Kansas Forest Service and we will attempt to discontinue the duplicate service.

You can contact the Kansas Forest Service by e-mail (kfs@lists.oznet.ksu.edu), telephone (785-532-3300), fax (785-532-3305), or mail (Kansas Forest Service, 2610 Claflin Rd., Manhattan, KS 66502-2798).

Jon Skinner, Forestry Technology Coordinator, manages computer and new technologies for the Kansas Forest Service.



Tree Profile



Bur oak

Quercus macrocarpa

Native To: Maine to Manitoba and Texas

Mature Height: 70 to 100 feet

Spread: 70 to 100 feet

Form: Globular, often wider than tall with very large, open canopy

Growth Rate: Moderate to rapid; long-lived

Foliage: Alternate; simple; lobed; undulate margin; oblong to obovate; 6 to 12 inch long; deciduous; leaf dark green turning copper for fall color.

Flowers: Yellowish green to brown, not showy; appearing early through mid-May shortly after leaf emergence.

Fruit: Acorn; 1 inch long with burly fringed cap which covers half or more of the nut; matures in one season. Fruit attracts birds and mammals and may cause significant litter in some years.

Bark and Stems: Short massive trunk when open grown with horizontal and wide-spreading picturesque limbs. Bark is a dark gray to brown with deeply furrowed, coarse rectangular plates. Twigs are very stout with corky bark.

Site Requirements: Grows best in full sun and prefers rich, moist soils but tolerant to a wide variety of soils from alluvial bottoms, to upland dry clays and limestone soils. Very tolerant of drought; pH adaptable (4.6 – 8.0).

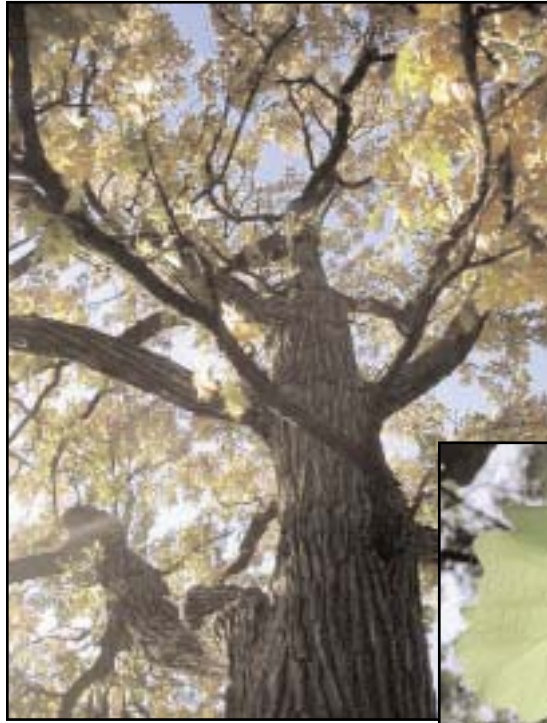
Hardiness Zone: 3 to 8; grown statewide.

Insect and Disease Problems: Very resistant. Susceptible to oak wilt. Other minor problems may include oak blister, anthracnose, leaf miner, flatheaded borer and oak lace bug.

Limitations: Requires a very large area for full growth form. Should not be planted near overhead utilities. Branches drop as tree grows and may require pruning to maintain vehicle and pedestrian clearance in the urban setting.

Suggested Applications: Excellent park or shade tree. Successfully used in parking lot islands, buffer strips, along highway and as a street tree.

Cultivars: None available commercially.



Comments: Outstanding tree in its native or urban environment, with some trees in Kansas estimated to be in excess of 350 years old. Does not transplant well with large tap root. Wood is hard, tough and close-grained with dark brown heartwood and thin paler sapwood. Sold commercially as white oak. Commonly referred to as mossycup oak, the bur oak is noted for its ability to tolerate drought; historically invading the grasslands of the prairies and Great Plains where it may form extensive open, park-like stands.

References:

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses by Michael A. Dirr, Stipes Publishing, Champaign, IL.

Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines in Kansas by H.A. Stephens, University Press of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.

Trees: The Visual Guide to more than 500 species from around the world by Allen J. Coombes, DK Publishing, New York, NY.

Trees for Urban and Suburban Landscapes by Edward F. Gilman, Delmar Publishers, Albany, NY.

Eric Berg, Community Forestry Coordinator, coordinates all urban and community forestry activities for the Kansas Forest Service.

David Bruton Named Utilization and Marketing Forester

When Leonard Gould, Utilization and Marketing Specialist, retired in 1993, the tough decision of not refilling his position, due to budget constraints, was made. However, this past year, while evaluating program delivery and future direction of the Kansas Forest Service (KFS), a need to establish closer relations with, and provide assistance to, loggers, sawmill operators and other forestry related industry throughout Kansas, was observed. Due to this need, the decision to reestablish the Utilization and Marketing position, for which I was selected, was made.

Since taking over as the Utilization and Marketing Forester, I have been gathering information from cooperators regarding particular interests and needs. As one might imagine, the interests and needs throughout the state are quite varied and diverse. While I have had the opportunity to meet with many of you personally, I sincerely hope to meet with those of you whom my path has not crossed, in the near future.

Current listings of Kansas timber buyers and sawmills are being maintained. These listings serve as valuable resources to landowners and cooperators throughout the state and marketing tools for those listed. In order to keep the lists current, a post card will be sent annually to capture any changes to contact information and status. Additions and deletions to the lists will be made throughout the year as necessary. Anyone wishing to be added should contact me directly at: 318 Broadway, Valley Falls, KS 66088; 785-945-6147; e-mail: dbruton@oznet.ksu.edu.

This past spring, 23 scholarships were provided to individuals from Kansas to participate in a utilization conference held in northeastern Oklahoma. During the conference, several participants visited amongst

themselves and expressed interest in seeing a "Wood Industry Association" established in Kansas. They were excited about the possibility of establishing working relations with others throughout the state having similar interests and problems related to logging, milling and processing lumber. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to visit with others about such an association and have received favorable responses. For such an association to be successful, it must have the support and be driven by people within the industry. With everyone's

hectic schedules, no one is looking for just "another meeting" to attend. If an association is formed, I personally would like to see its members meet at least once a year to network and to incorporate relevant educational topics into the meeting. A couple of successful, related associations that are currently functioning in Kansas are the Kansas Christmas Tree Growers Association and the Kansas Arborists Association. These associations govern themselves and determine their own course of direc-

tion. Their meetings serve both as valuable networking and educational opportunities for members.

To assist with the first step of establishing a Kansas Wood Industry Association, I will arrange an organizational meeting in late winter or early spring to bring interested people together. During this meeting, I would like to have participants provide input on how they would like to see such an association function and how formal or informal they would like to see things operate. Those unable to attend the meeting or wishing to provide input prior to the meeting are encouraged to contact me.

David Bruton, Utilization and Marketing Forester, provides direct technical assistance to individuals and companies harvesting, using and/or making wood products.



Protecting Your Forest Resources



Prior to European settlement some records indicate that Kansas forest land may have covered 8.5 percent of the state's land area or 4.5 million acres. As settlement occurred, bottomland timber was often converted to valuable crop land. Today about 1.5 million acres of Kansas forest land remains along with 78,000 windbreaks which cover 114,000 acres. Unfortunately forest land and windbreaks continue to be converted to crop land and other land uses. The last National Resource Inventory by the Natural Resource Conservation Service suggests that in 1992 as much as 122,700 acres of rural land in Kansas was lost to urban development. It is much more economical to protect forest land and windbreaks than to reestablish them once they've been removed, which tends to be the focus of most conservation programs.

Protection of forest resources is most dependent on the land management decisions made by Kansas landowners. In addition to simply choosing not to convert forest land and windbreaks to other land uses, landowners can protect their forest resources through active management of their woodlands and windbreaks.

A periodic walk through the woods is not only good for the soul, but can also provide the opportunity to observe the health of the woodland. During your walk, look for damage by animals, off-target herbicide spray, insects and disease. Consider if your trees are adequately protected from wildfire and whether they have enough room to grow.

Livestock, deer, beavers, rabbits, gophers, voles, rats, and mice are the most common animals that damage trees. High concentrations of livestock can compact soil, trample young seedlings reducing growth vigor and natural regeneration. Research suggests that 40 percent of forest land in Kansas is grazed. Animal damage can be controlled by fencing, chemical repellents, tree shelters, reduction of vegetative habitat by mowing and moving livestock feeding, watering and loafing areas.

Attempting to protect trees from off-target herbicide damage can be extremely frustrating in a predominately agricultural state. Not everyone values their woodlands and alerting neighbors in a tactful way that trees are important to you may save headaches down the road. Some symptoms of herbicide damage may include cupped leaves, curled leaf margins and chlorosis (yellowing). Herbicide damage complaints can be placed with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Health, by calling Alan Sester at 785-296-4179. Claims must be reported within 60 days of discovering the damage.

A variety of insect and disease problems can affect windbreaks and woodlands. Insect and disease damage tends to be cyclic with variations dependent upon weather and populations. Many times insect or disease damage may be a secondary problem, which results from planting non-indigenous trees or planting trees on poor sites where the species will not grow well. Positive diagnosis is important before control measures should be considered. Tree samples may be taken to local Research and Extension Offices for diagnosis. County agents have a variety of resources to draw from to aide in proper diagnosis and control.

Wildfires can cause great damage to woodlands, windbreaks and especially young tree plantings. Maintaining a "fuel break" around these areas is good idea. A fuel break is a 30- to 50-foot wide area where vegetation is mowed regularly or where "green" vegetation is maintained. Cultivating a firebreak to bare mineral soil is the most effective barrier to a wildfire, but often impractical for most landowners.

Bob Atchison, Rural Forestry Coordinator, coordinates all rural forestry activities for the Kansas Forest Service.

It is much more economical to protect forest land and windbreaks than to reestablish them once they've been removed.

Real Christmas trees cannot start a fire by themselves.

Christmas Tree Tips, Care, and Safety

Real trees have, in recent years, come under scrutiny because of their perceived fire hazard. But in fact, trees that are fresh and kept watered are not easily combustible. Real Christmas trees cannot start a fire by themselves. They must be ignited by some other source.

That doesn't mean it's impossible for a real tree to be the first item ignited, but families can take steps in the selection and care of their Christmas tree to make this slim chance even less likely.

Selection and Purchase

Purchase your tree early if buying from a retail lot — they dry while in the lot. Consider species that hold their needles best: the quickest to shed are the spruces, somewhat slower are the firs, the best are Scotch, Austrian and red pines. A fresh tree should have a fragrant odor and the butt end will be sticky. Be sure there is a 5 to 6 inch butt end to fit into the stand. Needles of a fresh tree will be relatively pliable. They can be wrapped partially around a finger without breaking. Also, if a tree hasn't been kept properly hydrated on the lot, it may have brown spots or dry needles that fall off when the tree is bounced on the ground. If available, ask that the tree be shaken before you take it home. Many tree lots have this service available. Some needles should naturally fall off, but if a large amount fall, that may be a sign that the tree is already very dry. Be extra wary if paint has been applied to the tree. That makes it even more difficult to see the true condition of the tree.

At Home

If you are not able to put the tree in water right away, store it in a cool, moist area away from direct sunlight, wind or heat and spray with a light mist of water. As soon as possible, cut off 1/2 to 1 inch of the tree's butt end to remove the protective layer formed by the tree and allow it to take up water. Place it in a stand that can hold water as soon as possible after making this cut. If you can't do that within 24 hours, make another cut. Also, purchase a tree stand that will hold at least 1 gallon of water. Real trees take in a significant amount of water, as much as 1 quart per inch of diameter every day. Regular tap water is the best liquid to keep your tree at a good moisture level. Make sure you check the tree's water level daily.

Placement and Decoration

Keep your tree away from fireplaces, heat ducts, portable heaters, candles, or any other source of direct heat or flame. Make sure lights, extension cords and other electric decorations on the tree do not have frayed wires or broken bulbs and are working correctly. Use only those approved by Underwriters Laboratories for indoor use, as outdoor lights used on an indoor tree may lead to excessive drying or heating. Always unplug electrical decorations when out of the room or sleeping. Place the Christmas Tree clear of doors — keep the emergency escape route clear of trees, packages and furniture.

Disposal

Real Christmas trees are still useful after the holiday season. Real trees are recyclable, can be turned into mulch or sunk in ponds for fish habitat. Check with your local community or biologist to see if they have such a program. Real trees can also be used in your own yard as winter bird feeders. Put the tree in the yard and place orange slices, suet, and bird seed to attract birds. They will come for the food and stay for the shelter the tree provides. Also, it's not a good idea to burn your Christmas tree in your fireplace or wood stove. Burning this type of tree could contribute to creosote buildup. If your community has a curbside collection program, be sure to keep the tree hydrated until the day of collection or store it a safe distance from structures, vehicles and ignition sources.

It's hard to beat a real Christmas tree for the holidays. They are environmentally beneficial and also provide intangible benefits like tradition, aesthetics and a fantastic aroma. But the most important thing to do is keep the tree watered. When a tree dries beyond a certain point, it won't rehydrate, even if it's in water and still looks green. Reasonable care in selecting and using real Christmas trees can keep your holiday season safe and festive.



For more information on Christmas tree selection and care, be sure to visit our website, www.kansasforests.org.

Casey McCoy, Rural Fire Coordinator, coordinates all rural fire activities for the Kansas Forest Service.

Tree City USA Program

Last year, more than 104 Kansas Tree City USA communities spent in excess of \$9.4 million for the care and management of community forest resources in the state. These communities also planted more than 15,600 trees, pruned more than 61,000 trees and removed more than 6,400 trees that were dead or dying. This program, promoted and administered nationally by the National Arbor Day Foundation, is sponsored statewide by the Kansas Forest Service in cooperation with local community governments. To join the program, a community must pass a tree ordinance; organize a tree board or department; proclaim and celebrate an Arbor Day; and budget at least \$2 per resident.

The application packets for this program were recently mailed out to all certified Tree City USA for the 2001 recertification. Communities also received application information for the Tree City USA Growth Award. This program recognizes certified Tree City USA communities that have made consistent and proactive efforts in improving the local urban and community forest resource and infrastructure. Completed cer-

tification and Growth Award applications should be mailed directly back to your local District Forester by January 11, 2002.

While the new year is just around the corner, it is not too early to begin planning for your 2002 Arbor Day celebration. Historically, the Kansas Arbor Day was recognized by proclamation as the last Friday in March. Beginning in 2002, Kansas Arbor Day will be observed on the last Friday of April. This change was brought about through the collective efforts of many individuals and organizations, who, as a group felt that the end of April provided a better opportunity in which to hold an outdoor Arbor Day celebration and public event.

If you did not receive your Tree City USA application packet or would like further information and assistance with this program, please contact your local District Forester or call 785-532-3300.

Eric Berg, Community Forestry Coordinator, coordinates all urban and community forestry activities for the Kansas Forest Service.

**April 26, 2002
is Kansas
and National
Arbor Day**

Hardwood Lumber Price Trends

Species	FAS				#1C				#2A			
	12/00	3/01	6/01	9/01	12/00	3/01	6/01	9/01	12/00	3/01	6/01	9/01
Ash	755	705	695	640	615	580	530	490	380	360	310	295
Basswood	720	705	705	690	445	425	405	385	225	225	220	220
Cottonwood	600	600	600	600	400	400	400	400	220	220	220	220
Cherry	1605	1605	1605	1605	1115	1100	1075	1060	585	520	470	450
Elm	635	635	635	635	420	420	420	420	235	235	235	235
Hackberry	475	475	475	475	455	455	455	455	265	265	265	265
Hickory	625	625	605	605	575	520	500	485	340	300	285	285
Soft Maple	850	850	850	850	640	640	630	600	340	340	340	340
Red Oak	1095	1095	1095	1095	910	910	900	900	660	635	585	585
White Oak	770	770	735	720	535	530	495	480	340	340	340	340
Walnut	1455	1525	1565	1580	785	785	785	795	315	360	380	390

Note: Hardwood prices quoted per MBF, FOB mill, truckload or carload quantities, 4/4, rough, green, random widths and lengths. Prices for ash, basswood, elm, soft maple, red oak, and white oak from Northern Hardwoods listings. Prices for cottonwood and hackberry from Southern Hardwoods listings. Prices for cherry, hickory and walnut (steam treated) from Appalachian Hardwoods listings. (Source: *Hardwood Market Report Lumber Newsletter*, last issue of month indicated. To subscribe to the Hardwood Market Report call 901-767-9126)

Calendar of Events

(Only events with firm dates are listed)

December 1, 2001—Start accepting orders for low-cost tree and shrub seedlings for conservation practices

January 6–8, 2002—Western Nursery & Landscape Annual Meeting—Kansas City, MO

January 8, 2002—Professional Grounds Mgt. Conference—Kansas City, MO

January 9, 2002—Great Plains WildFire College—Sterling, CO

January 9–11, 2002—KAA Shade Tree Conference—Manhattan

January 11, 2002—Tree City USA applications due to District Forester

January 29–February 1, 2002—ProGreen EXPO—Denver, CO

February 2–3, 2002—Winter Fire School—Newton, KS

February 5–7, 2002—Trees and Utilities National Conference—Lied Conf., Nebraska City, NE

February 11–13, 2002—Midwestern Chapter ISA Conference—Overland Park, KS

March 7, 2002—National Arbor Day Poster Contest City Winners Due to District Forester

March 7–10, 2002—State Capital Area Firefighters Association Regional School—Topeka, KS

March 11, 2002—Start shipping conservation plants as weather permits

March 13–15, 2002—Building with Trees—Lied Conf., Nebraska City, NE

March 15, 2002—Red Card Training (S-130/190)—Hutchinson, KS



Notice of nondiscrimination

Kansas State University is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or other nonmerit reasons, in admissions, educational programs or activities, and employment, (including employment of disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam Era), all as required by applicable laws and regulations. Responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries, including those concerning Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, has been delegated to Jane D. Rowlett, Ph.D., Director, Unclassified Affairs and University Compliance, Kansas State University, 204 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-0124, (785-532-4392).

Kansas Forest Service
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Links of Interest:

www.kansasforests.org

K-State Research

and Extension
www.oznet.ksu.edu

State of Kansas
www.accesskansas.org

Kansas Department
of Wildlife and Parks
www.kdwp.state.ks.us/

Natural Resources
Conservation Service—
Kansas
www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/

Farm Service
Agency—Kansas
www.fsa.usda.gov/ks/