New Varieties for 2014

The Conservation District is pleased to announce it is now taking orders for its spring tree sale with distribution scheduled for April 17 – 19th at the Caro Fairgrounds. I would challenge anyone to find the quality of trees that we offer for the price we charge. All of our material (except the fruit trees, which are grown in the state of Washington) are produced and purchased from Michigan nurseries, so not only are you supporting a local organization, your money is staying in the state as well. Again this year we have added some different varieties for landowners to try and we are always open to suggestions or requests for other items. Following are brief descriptions of this year’s new additions.

**Red Delicious Scarlet Spur II Apple:** For almost two decades Scarlet Spur was the most popular Red Delicious in the world with literally hundreds of thousands of acres in production. Now comes the next generation of America’s earliest, best coloring Red Delicious, Scarlet Spur II. Although Scarlet Spur II finishes coloring about three days earlier than its parent, it has all the winning characteristics of the original – dark mahogany color, crisp white flesh, and excellent fruit production.

**Enterprise Apple:** An excellent variety for the deer hunter as the late maturing tree holds it fruit well into early winter. The tree is also very disease resistant lending itself well for planting for food plots that may not get as much attention as the backyard tree. Large fruit size with a bright red and glossy finish. Flavor is spicy and juicy, good for fresh eating and cooking.

**Chinese Apricot:** An early bearing, heavy producing variety. Fruit is of good quality and medium to large in size. The skin color and flesh color are yellow to medium orange. It has a good flavor and texture. Self-fruitful, it will pollinate other apricot varieties.

**Whitegold Sweet Cherry:** A new self – fertile sweet cherry originating at Cornell University. Bears large, yellow fruit with a shiny red blush. Ripens fairly early. Tree is extremely hardy and frost tolerant. Resists cracking and can be used as both a processing and fresh market cherry. Excellent pollinator.

**Fantasia Nectarine:** The fruit is large, ovate in shape. The skin is bright yellow with a red blush covering over half the fruit. The flesh is yellow and has firm, smooth texture. Freestone , vigorous, productive and self –fuitful.

**Independence Nectarine:** Also a freestone, the attractive skin of this variety is gold blushed with a brilliant cherry red. The flesh is yellow. A firm fruit with good texture and flavor. The tree is productive and vigorous.

**President Plum:** This variety is a very heavy producer that is very popular. The fruit is oblong in shape with a dark blue skin and yellow flesh.

**Seckel Pear:** A small size, sweet and fine – grained pear. The skin color is brown with some red blush. It is popular for canning whole. The tree is productive and has some resistance to blight.

**American Larch (Tamarack):** A deciduous conifer with delicate needles that turngolden brown in the fall prior to falling off. Mature height 40-80 ft. Prefers moist sites and full sun.

**Balsam Fir:** One of the most cold hardy and aromatic of all the firs. Mature height of about 60 ft. May be used for timber or Christmas trees. Adaptable to a wide range of soil types.

**Eastern Hemlock:** One of the most beautiful evergreens due to its lacy graceful growth. Can be pruned to maintain desired height. Somewhat shade tolerant but a favorite of deer so protection may be necessary for establishment.

**Albion Strawberry:** An everbearing plant popular with organic growers because of its disease resistance. Excellent flavor, berries are large and process well.

**Purple Royalty Raspberry:** Very large sweet berry. A very heavy producer.

**Blueray Blueberry:** A mid-season berry. Fruit is large with excellent flavor.

**Jersey Knight Asparagus:** Vigorous variety, high yields with excellent disease tolerance. Jersey Giant produces the best spear quality of all the Jersey hybrids. Has green spears with purple bracts.

**Himrod Seedless White Grape:** Highly productive with a crisp sweetness. Ripens quickly, a very reliable producer.

**Traminette White Wine Grape:** Traminette' is distinguished by its superior wine quality combined with good productivity, partial resistance to several fungal diseases, and cold hardiness superior to its acclaimed parent,'Gewurztraminer'.

**Centennial Hops:** Typical alpha: 9.0-12.0%. Very popular American bittering hop that is also widely used for late additions and dry hopping. Sometimes billed as a supercharged Cascade, it has a pleasant spicy citrus aroma and clean bitterness.

**Arrowwood Viburnum**: A multi-stemmed, rounded shrub with creamy white late spring or early summer flowers. Leaves are lustrous, dark green in summer changing to yellow to glossy red and reddish- purple in the fall. Flowers are followed by ½" blue-black berries that ripen in early fall. This shrub provides food, cover, and nesting sites for birds, and larval food for butterflies and moths. Grows 6'-15 high with a comparable spread. Prefers well-drained soils and full sun to partial shade.

 **Burr Oak:** Mature height of 70 – 80 ft. Does well in a variety of soil conditions and moisture conditions. Noted for its corky branches. Leaf color is dark green in summer and yellow to yellowish brown in fall. Long lived, an excellent food source for wildlife.

**Quaking Aspen:** Fast growing tree that adapts to a variety of soil types. Needs full sun and prefers a moist location. The species often propagates through its roots to form large groves. The Quaking Aspen is the most widely distributed tree in North America.