

SHELTERBELT & ECO-BUFFER

Seedling Program



Wheatland County Agriculture & Environment Department agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca Ph: 403-361-2000

This program supports landowners planting trees and shrubs throughout the County. There are many benefits of planting trees and shrubs which include:

- Improved building energy efficiency
- Adds aesthetic value to yard and landscape
- Provides wildlife and pollinator habitat
- Decreases soil erosion and crop damage
- Reduces standing water
- Snow capture for drift management and improved moisture retention.

We recommend attending a shelterbelt/ eco-buffer workshop or webinar before starting your project.

What is a shelterbelt ?

Means a row or rows of plantings made up of trees and/or shrubs that are positioned in such a manner as to provide shelter from the wind, snow, and to protect soil from erosion.

What is an Eco-buffer ?

Eco-Buffers are plantings of perennial species (i.e. trees, shrubs, and/or herbaceous plants) designed to mimic a natural forest habitat that provides specific ecosystem services.

Planting & Maintenance

Mulching and watering (for a minimum of 3 years), planting as early as possible in the spring or late fall, and excluding livestock from the area are essential factors for successful establishment of trees and shrubs.

Additional Funding & Support

- Additional funding may be available through the Wheatland Agricultural Stewardship and ALUS programs for projects on agricultural land. For more information about these programs and support with eco-buffer design contact Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca or Ph:403-333-6943.
- Visit the Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society awes-ab.ca for factsheets on tree planting in Alberta.
- Wheatland County has a tree planter available to rent for \$50/day. Contact agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca

Program Guidelines

Program opens **November 1st**

- THIS PROGRAM IS NOT RETROACTIVE.
- **Receipts must be dated after November 1st**
- Applicants may receive up to **\$3000** per year for the following
 - **\$5 per tree to a maximum of \$2000**
 - **\$500 for Drip Irrigation supplies**
 - **\$500 Mulch (fibre, wood, plastic etc.)**
- GST and shipping costs are not eligible
- Planting must occur on land within Wheatland County.
- Wheatland County ratepayers are eligible for funding for personal, residential or farm use. Commercial or industrial businesses are not eligible. **Plants or materials purchased through the program may not be used for commercial resale.**
- Applications will be approved by the Agriculture and Environment Department on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The Applicant is responsible for all costs associated with projects over and above the funding maximum, as well as for ongoing project maintenance.
- The intention of the Applicant is to permanently maintain the Project on the land.
- **Planting projects must be compliant with the Wheatland County Land Use Bylaw setbacks.** " no shrub, tree, shelterbelt or any other obstruction shall be erected or placed within:
 - i. 15.24 m (50.0 ft) from the nearest limit of a public road rights-of-way.
 - ii. 22.86 m (75.0 ft) from an intersection of two or more road rights-of-way."
- For provincial highways, the minimum setback is 60 m (200 ft) from the centerline of the road or 30 m (100 ft) from the right-of-way, whichever is greater.
- The Applicant will be reimbursed when the Project is complete and invoices have been submitted.
- Receipts are due by **June 30th**
- Applicants must submit photos of the finished Project by **July 31st**. A site inspection may be requested.
- **Non-eligible Tree Species:** Autumn Olive, Russian Olive, Common Barberry, Common Buckthorn, and Saltcedar.
- **Tree Species not recommended:** Caragana

Shelterbelt & Eco-buffer Seedling Program

Applicant Information

Applicant Name (s):

Address (including Postal Code):

Email:

Phone Number (s):

Project Details

Project Location (Rural Address or Legal Land Locations):

Type of Project:

☐ Field Shelterbelt ☐ Acreage Shelterbelt ☐ Eco-buffer

☐ Farmstead Shelterbelt ☐ Roadside Shelterbelt

Estimated length of shelterbelt or area of eco-buffer (m/m2):

Number of Rows:

How many trees and or shrubs do you plan on purchasing:

I intend on purchasing mulch : ☐ Yes ☐ No

I intend on purchasing drip irrigation supplies: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Total funding requested: \$

☐ I am the registered landowner

☐ I am not the registered landowner. I have permission from the landowner to complete this project:

Name of Landowner(s):

Project Approval & Completion

Project approval (Agriculture & Environment Signature):

Date of project approval:

Maximum amount of eligible funding:

Date of project completion:

Project meets program guidelines: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Amount of funding to be dispensed:

Project Agreement

In signing this contract, I agree to acquire all permits, approvals, or permissions required for this project. I understand that I am responsible for all costs associated with the project, except for those reimbursed by Wheatland County under this agreement, at the rates applicable to each project type. I accept responsibility for planting and maintaining the project, and for ongoing project maintenance costs. I will submit receipts to Wheatland County by the deadline, or I understand that my funding will no longer be confirmed and may be released for other projects in the queue. I understand that receipts or invoices must clearly show what has been purchased. I agree to inclusion of information about my project in advertisements or publications about the program and will submit photos of the completed project before funding is dispersed.

The personal information in this form is collected under the authority of s. 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and is used solely for collecting information regarding your Wheatland County Shelterbelt and Eco-buffer Seedling Program application. Questions about collection of this information can be directed to the FOIP Coordinator at (403) 934-3321 or admin@wheatlandcounty.ca.

I, _____ hereby certify that the information given on this form is full and complete and is, to the best of my knowledge, a true statement of facts relating to this application.

The applicant hereby waives and releases Wheatland County and its employees, agents, and representatives, and indemnifies and holds harmless the County from any claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses, actions or proceedings related to or arising from this agreement and project.

Signature of Applicant:

Date:

Please return this form to the Wheatland County Agriculture & Environment Department
Email: agandenv@wheatlandcounty.ca
Ph: 403-361-2000
or in person at the County administration building

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