

Teaching Youth the Importance of Planting Trees

The Situation

There is an increasing number of trees that are being taken out of the landscape every year without being replaced. It is important to educate the youth on the benefits of including more trees in the landscape and how to properly plant and take care of the trees.

Extension Response

NDSU Extension Agent Melissa Seykora teamed up with Wild Rice Soil Conservation District Technician Raina Ruch to coordinate with the three schools in the county to give a lesson on trees and to plant trees with the elementary students.

Melissa taught a lesson to sixty 3rd – 6th grade elementary students on the reasons why we would want to plant trees, what types of trees to plant, what should be considered before planting trees, the correct way to plant trees, and maintaining trees after planting. Raina demonstrated the correct way to plant the trees. Raina and Melissa helped each of the students correctly plant the trees. The Wild Rice Soil Conservation District sponsored the trees for the plantings at all three schools.

Impacts

100 trees were successfully planted that created new windbreaks for the environment as well as adding diversity to existing windbreaks.

40% of the participating students had never planted a tree before. After planting the trees the students were surveyed and 60% of the participants were likely to plant a tree in the future as a result.

Feedback

- I really liked the tree planting and I wish we could do this again. – Student
- This was a fun experiment for a learning process. – Student
- I wish that you would come every year! – Student

- This was a great learning experience for the kids and I hope that we can continue in the future. – Elementary Principal

Public Value Statement

Teaching students the benefits of planting trees and the correct way to plant trees will provide aesthetic and environmental benefits in the future.

Primary Contact

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Non-Extension Collaborators

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