

North Dakota Urban and Community Forestry Association (NDUCFA) - 11/12/15

RE: Tree Improvement Research

SBARE Talking Points:

- NDUCFA goals: 1) Promote high ethical standards in the practice of arboriculture, 2) Advocate for sound policies and programs conducive to community forestry, 3) Support public education to develop greater awareness of proper tree care and the value of the community forest, 4) Establish a recognized voice for community forestry through association leadership and development activities.
- City foresters are responsible for the planting and maintenance of trees in North Dakota's communities.
- Trees don't just look nice. They are what make our neighborhoods and communities livable.
- Benefits to community and residents (a property placed large shade tree) - reduced summer cooling and winter heating costs, protection from wind and snow, storm water mitigation, improved air quality (it's a giant air filter!).
- A 2006 publication developed by the USFS and Center for Urban Forest Research, for Midwest communities - a 40 year old large, healthy shade tree provided a \$81-99 annual net benefit. That tree on the south side of my house is saving me, and my community, \$\$\$. Not only that, but a mature tree has value.
- Fargo: 16,000 ash X \$1,000/ea = 16 million value; 7,000 mature elm X \$2,000/ea = 14 million value.
- Tree improvement research is a critical need. The number of tree species and cultivars available for use in the northern plains is limited (elm and ash make up over 50% of Fargo's street tree population) by 1) the harsh northern climate and soils and 2) invasive tree pests such as Dutch elm disease, emerald ash borer, Japanese beetle, thousand cankers disease, and pinewilt nematode.
- A stout tree improvement program is necessary to ensure that hardy, adaptable woody plant material is available in the future for our state. Smaller ND communities, due to lack of species diversity, stand to be hit harder than Fargo.
- Upper mid-west, not much research other than NDSU. This has multiple beneficial areas, not just ND!
- When it comes to spending money and deciding where to focus efforts, **you** have the task of helping to ensure that ND citizens benefit from these efforts and that they yield long term dividends. A significant number of our citizens live in urban areas. Urban trees enhance our quality of life.
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