



Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority 2010 Spring Tree Planting Program Pricing and Service Listing

8195 Concession 8, Utopia, Ontario, L0M 1T0

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) offers a program that provides tree planting services to landowners throughout the watershed. The NVCA has offered this program since 1964, and it is an integral part of our ongoing efforts to protect and enhance water quality throughout the valley.

Forests help to moderate the effects of both drought and flooding. Forests can also reduce the extent of soil erosion, provide habitat for wildlife, and are an important economic resource.

Partnerships and Special Programs

In an effort to expand forest cover in the watershed, the NVCA has entered into partnerships with other organizations to offer plantings at subsidized rates. We are a delivery agent for Trees Ontario.

Things to Consider

While the trees are only planted in the spring, landowners are encouraged to call anytime. The program is popular and the number of trees is limited. Staff from the NVCA will meet with you onsite to help determine the best tree species and planting methods for your property.

Some general things to keep in mind when thinking about tree planting;

- The seedlings should be planted 7-10 feet apart, to cover an acre you need approximately 700 trees.
- Hardwoods are more expensive, and considerably more difficult to grow than evergreens.
- The availability of hardwood tree seedlings varies considerably from year to year.
- Trees planted in rows are easier to maintain.
- Seedlings will require some sort of weed control for a period of up to 4 years after planting.
- Proper planting site preparation and post-planting care will increase your planting success.
- Trees planted by machine planters experience a higher rate of success than those planted by hand.
- Trees planted by machine planters cost less than those planted by hand.
- The program is not meant to provide landscaping services, and the plantings are not designed to enhance the appearance of any property.

Realistic Expectations

Tree seedlings are fragile living things. As young trees they are vulnerable to many things which are beyond the control of human beings. Drought, insects, disease, and predation by rabbits, mice, voles, and deer all contribute to give tree-planting efforts a certain level of risk. Proper care in site preparation, planting, and post-planting care will reduce the risks, but not eliminate them. Care should be taken when designing a planting plan to allow for some seedling loss. Unlike landscaping, the large scale of these projects makes it impractical to provide close care or monitoring of individual trees.

Planting Costs

Calling well in advance of spring planting will ensure access to the widest selection of trees and site preparation options. The program is normally fully booked 6 to 8 months in advance of spring planting.

The minimum order is 1500 trees. This requires 2.2 acres, or 0.9 hectares of land available for planting.

There are special programs available to help offset the cost of tree planting. Staff from the NVCA will be able to advise you if you are eligible. If eligible, grant rates for the various programs range from 25% to 95% of the cost of planting.

The cost to the landowner varies widely depending on the species of trees planted, method and degree of site preparation, planting method, intensity of post planting care required, and grant eligibility. Landowners should be prepared to pay between \$120 and \$2000 per acre.

Site Preparation Costs

There is a wide range of methods available to prepare land for tree planting. Cover crops, band spraying, mowing, and tilling have all been used successfully. The best method to use depends on the site conditions, the tree species to be planted, method of planting to be used, and the financial resources of the landowner. Staff from the NVCA will recommend the best option for the site, and will be able to provide cost estimates.

Purchasing Tree Seedlings

Landowners wanting to purchase small numbers of trees and shrubs (1-100) should visit one of our **Arbour Day Tree Sales**. These sales are usually held every spring on the second Saturday in May. A wide variety of trees and shrubs for the home and garden will be available for sale at the Tiffin Center. Sales are also held in partnership with various community groups throughout the watershed. An up to date listing of these sales will be available on our website at www.nvca.on.ca in April.

The NVCA does not retail tree seedlings. Landowners wishing to plant their own tree seedlings are urged to contact our seedling supplier, Somerville Nurseries, at 1-877-708-7337. You can also visit their website at www.treeseedlings.com



**For more information contact
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