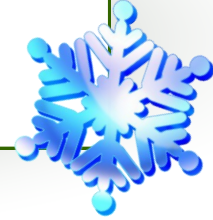


Claunch-Pinto News

Winter 2010



SITE PREPARATION BEGINS FOR NEW CENTER

During the month of January, 2010, Phase I — Site Preparation began for the District's new Conservation Center. This work will include excavation, trenching, earthwork, sanitary sewerage, gas distribution, storm drainage, water distribution, and concrete pavements.

The District was fortunate enough to retain their Capital Outlay, of which provided the funding for these preliminary construction steps. This site preparation is being performed by Padilla Industries of Santa Fe.

This multi-purpose Leed Certified "green" building complex will set a positive example for future green governmental buildings. The complex will include an Education Center, providing the District the opportunity to schedule tutorials, workshops and seminars on topics ranging from employment fundamentals, to energy conservation, fire safety, and watershed health.

CONTRACTOR TRAINING

Another successful Contractor Training was held in Mountain-air on January 27th. This workshop, focusing on tree trimming techniques, chainsaw safety, and requirements for defensible space and hazardous fuels reduction, was sponsored by the Claunch-Pinto, East Torrance, and Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This training is mandatory for contractors working on District projects and landowners applying for District projects. If you are interested in participating in the SWCD's Cost Share Programs, please request an application from the Conservation District in your area and plan on attending the next Contractor Training Workshop, which will be scheduled later this year. For any questions, please call the Claunch-Pinto SWCD at (505) 847-2243.

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Seed Specials !!

For a limited time, the District is giving away mini-ollas with any purchases totaling \$20 or more of grass or flower seeds.

Seeding right after or just before a heavy snow is a great way to get seeds ready to sprout in spring. Prepare the area you plan on seeding by tilling or turning the soil. Right before, during or after it snows, spread seeds as directed.

In spring, make sure you water your seeds at least seven to ten consecutive days to increase sprouting activity.

Currently, Grama Grass, Buffalo Grass, and Mountain Flower Seed Mix, are available. Specific seeding information sheets are provided with your seed purchase.

Anyone with a rain check from the Annual Meeting for a mini olla please stop in to pick-up your mini-ollas while supplies last!

*"We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors,
We borrow it from our children."*

NOXIOUS WEED ALERT: MUSK THISTLE

Correct identification, the first step in weed control, is critical when it comes to thistles because of the 18 species of thistles known to grow in New Mexico 13 are native species, two of which are on the endangered species list and therefore protected. This article focuses on musk thistle, *Carduus nutans*, probably the most common of New Mexico's four non-native thistle species officially listed as a noxious weed in our District. Musk thistle is a biennial and spreads only by seed. When a seed germinates it develops into a rosette (a clump of leaves arising from the same growing point at the root crown). The thick dark green leaves have a waxy covering that give them a leathery feel and have a relatively wide light green midvein. The thistles leaf edges have shallow lobes tipped with spines and survive over winter in this rosette stage.

In the second year, the plants will send up erect stems that have more deeply cut leaves. Where the leaves join the stem, extensions of the leaves grow downward creating spiny "wings" on the stem.

Musk thistle can be recognized by its distinctive leaves, but it is most easily identified by the flowers which occur individually at the end of the upright stems in June & July. By then, the plants may be 7 feet tall, and the top portion of the flower-bearing stems will be leafless. The large pink-purple flowers resemble powder puffs with diameters up to 3 inches. Underneath each flower is a cluster of greenish-purple leaf-like structures resembling a pine cone. The flowers tend to bend 90 degrees as they mature (hence its other common

name, nodding thistle) and each flower may produce 1,500 seeds. Musk thistle plants die after seed dispersal.

Please be on the lookout for this noxious weed and report any sightings directly to the CPSWCD office by calling 505-847-2243. We will be happy to work with you to eliminate musk thistle from your property.



Your Carbon Footprint



A carbon footprint is the measure of the amount of carbon dioxide -- the major man-made global warming greenhouse gas -- that goes into the atmosphere in your every day life. Almost everything you do affects it. The carbon footprint is also a subset of the ecological footprint (a measure of human demand on the Earth's ecosystems).

Many of your actions generate carbon emissions, which contribute to accelerating global warming and climate change. This is called your carbon footprint an indication of the effect you have on the climate in terms of the total amount of greenhouse gases you produce (measured in carbon dioxide). The first step to taking effective action is to reduce your carbon footprint. What's left can be offset through planting a tree or donating trees to plant with PATT (www.plant-a-tree-today.org), thereby minimizing your personal impact on the climate.

There are many ways to reduce your Carbon footprint...

Wash clothes with cold water.

Replace any incandescent light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFL's) .

Turn lights off when not in use.

Consider purchasing a Hybrid vehicle, or more fuel efficient car.

To calculate your carbon footprint visit:

www.carbonfootprint.com



Is My Soil Alkaline Or Acidic?

What Is pH?

pH is the measurement of alkalinity in the soil. A pH scale shows if your soil is alkaline or acidic. The scale is numbered from one to fourteen. Your soil is considered acidic if it is less than seven. If it is at seven it is neutral and if it is higher than seven the soil is considered alkaline.

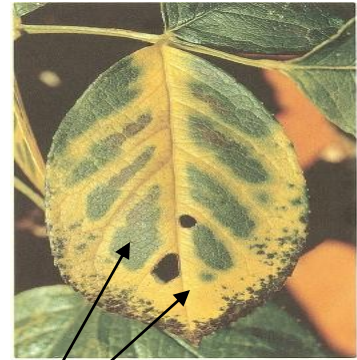
Alkalinity in your soil can be both helpful and harmful to your plants depending on what type of plants you are trying to grow. Some plants need rich alkaline soil to grow and others need a more acidic soil. Plants that need to live in alkaline soil or soil with a higher pH level include most vegetable plants. Plants that need a more acidic soil or soil with a lower pH level include flowering plants and berry plants. Generally plants grow better at a neutral pH level. The ways you can check your soil is by sending a sample of the soil into any gardening center and have them test it for you or by getting your own inexpensive testing kit that you

can purchase from any gardening store. If a plant is getting too much alkalinity the plant will begin to turn yellow but the plant veins will stay green. Sulfur can be used to lower the alkaline level in soil. Mulch is also helpful to lower the alkalinity in soil. The types of mulch that can be used are kitchen scraps and manure. Adding the mineral lime to your soil will make the soil have a higher alkaline level.

At the web site www.garden.org/caculators you can figure out how much lime, sulfur, fertilizer, and mulch you need by putting in your existing pH, soil type, and garden size (sq. ft). Also it can calculate how many pounds of actual nitrogen is in your bag of fertilizer.

The pH level in the soil is very important. It can affect the availability of the nutrients in the soil, and encourage diseases to thrive on soil that's either too alkaline or acidic. In areas that get a lot of rain, the soil tends to be more acidic whereas in our region,

we don't get a lot of rain, therefore we have higher alkaline soils.



This part of the leaf is yellow.

This part of the leaf is green.

The plant above has lived in high alkaline soil.



This plant has turned completely yellow.

The plant above has lived in acidic soil when it should have been in a more neutral soil.

“Hope On The Range” DVD Now Available

The September/October issue of the GLCI (Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative) News, mentions the new release of a 9-minute DVD titled “Hope on the Range”. This DVD has been released in an effort to better tell the story of the role of livestock grazing on western public rangelands and emphasize a collective hope for a future of sustained rangeland health and enjoyment. Produced by the Society for Rangeland Management, in partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management, the organizers say this short film is intended to foster broader awareness of the many public benefits derived from the responsible use and conservation of America’s public rangelands. The *Hope on the Range* video may be viewed at the following website:

www.rangelands.org/videos/video_hopeontherange.shtml Sponsors of the program invite and encourage viewer comments. Viewer comments may be submitted to: Linda Coates-Markle, BLM Liaison to the Society for Range Management at lcmarkle@rangelands.org or by phone at 303-986-3309

ANSWER THIS QUIZ QUESTION FOR A FREE MINI-OLLA: What year was the first Nobel Peace Prize awarded? The first person to call us with the correct answer will win a mini-olla (505)847-2243

ENERGY CONSERVATION & BOARD ELECTIONS

U.S. Small Wind Market Grows

The U.S. market for small wind turbines—those with capacities of 100 kW and under—grew 78 percent in 2008, with an additional 17.3 MW of installed capacity. This growth is largely being attributed to increased equity investment that allowed manufacturing volumes to increase, but also by rising residential electricity prices and a heightened public awareness of small wind technology and its attributes. The U.S. continues to command roughly half the global market share and is home to one-third of the 219 identified worldwide manufacturers. Small wind is still in a race with the solar photovoltaic industry toward “grid parity” - price per kilowatt hour on par with conventional forms of electricity—and now both industries enjoy nearly identical federal incentives for a more level playing field.

Upcoming District Board Elections

The positions to be filled are position #1 currently being filled by William Caster, position #2 currently being filled by Felipe Lovato, Jr. and position #5 currently being filled by LeRoy Candelaria. Declarations of candidacy must be filed in person at the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District office, located in the Gustin Hardware Building, 121 W. Broadway, Suite 108, Mountainair on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Write in candidates must file declarations of candidacy on March 16, 2010 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Claunch-Pinto SWCD at 505-847-2243.

Small and Community Wind—Resources and References

Wind and general alternative energy information
www.alternerG.com

Small Wind Success Stories

www.awea.org/smallwind/success_stories.html

Small Wind Electric Systems—A U.S. Consumer’s Guide

Developed by the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory to help consumers walk through the process of evaluating and installing a small wind turbine.

www.nrel.gov/docs/fy07osti/42005.pdf

Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy

Online database compiled by the Interstate

Renewable Energy Council

www.dsireusa.org

Energy Numbers

The U.S. Interior Department has launched Initiatives to speed the development of solar energy on western lands. These “solar energy study areas”, located in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah encompass about 670,000 acres.

The U.S. Department of Energy is offering \$52.5 million for research, development, and demonstration of concentrating solar power systems that provide low-cost electrical power both day and night.

Global clean energy investments reached \$24.3 billion in the second quarter of 2009, up 83% relative to the first quarter, according to New Energy Finance.

(Information on this page taken from the September/October 2009 Issue of enerG Alternative Sources Magazine)

THE EPA SHARES WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Environmental responsibility is everyone's responsibility. Today, instead of having only 17 thousand EPA employees to protect the environment, we now have over 300 million Americans as environmental partners making environmentally protective choices. By equipping this growing army of environmental stewards with the tools they need to meet today's challenges, the EPA is helping America shift into a green culture.

Use Water Efficiently

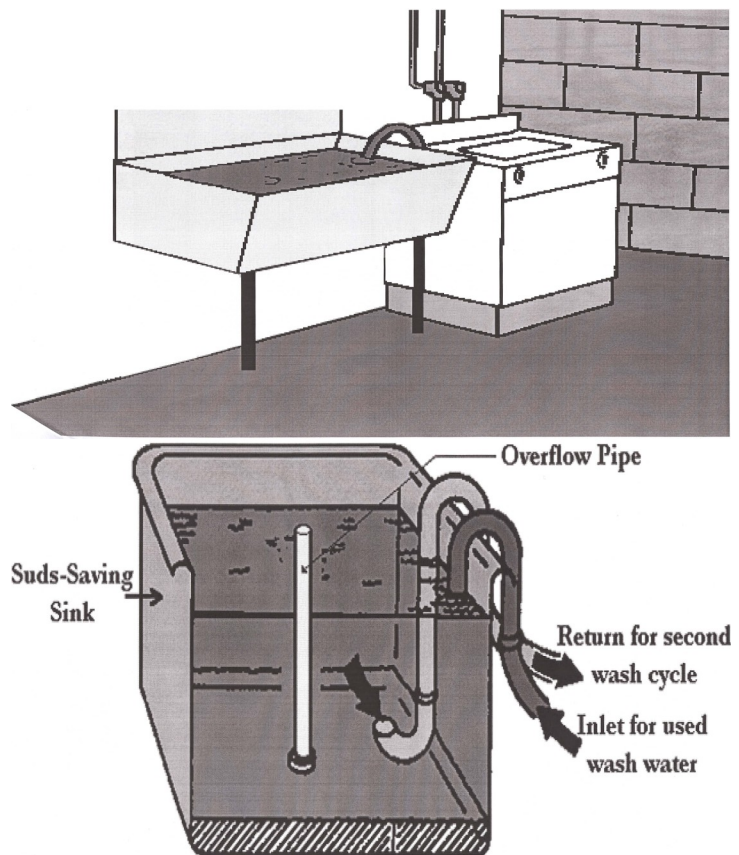
Make it a full load! Only run your dishwasher when it's full. Don't pre-rinse dishes—tests show pre-rinsing doesn't improve dishwasher cleaning, and you'll save as much as twenty gallons of water per load. When you buy a new dishwasher, look for one that saves water. Water-efficient models use only about four gallons per wash.

Be sensible! The Earth might seem like it has abundant water, but in fact only one percent of all water on the planet is available for humans. Buy fixtures and products that are water efficient—you can use less water to get the same job done just as well. When you go shopping, look for the WaterSense label to find water efficient products.

Shower power! A full bathtub requires about seventy gallons of water, but taking a five-minute shower saves water by using only ten to twenty-five gallons. Put a little timer or clock near your shower so you can see how fast you are. Save even more water, and money on your water bill, by installing a water-efficient showerhead (or ask your landlord to install one if you rent).

Don't be a drip—fix that leak! Leaky faucets can waste thousands of gallons of water each year. Repair or replace old or damaged fixtures. If you're not sure you have a leak, check the water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.

Make it a full load! The average washing machine uses over forty gallons per load. If you buy a new washer, shop for a high-efficiency washer that needs less than twenty-eight gallons of water per load. To achieve even greater savings wash only full loads of laundry or be sure you choose the appropriate load size on the washing machine. If you have space in your laundry area, install a laundry tub or "slop sink". By creating a Suds-Saving sink (see diagrams below) you can return water for a second wash cycle and cut your water usage in half! We can all become environmental stewards by incorporating these water saving tips into our daily routines and water-related purchases.



FIX THOSE LEAKS !!

A slow drip from a water faucet can waste up to 50 gallons of water daily, which is enough water to run a dishwasher twice on full cycle.

For additional water saving tips go to:

www.wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve



**Claunch-Pinto Soil & Water
Conservation District**

P.O. Box 129
121 West Broadway, Suite 108
Mountainair, NM 87036

Phone: 505-847-2243
Fax: 505-847-0615
E-Mail:
Dierdre.Tarr@nm.nacdnet.net

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**We're on the web!!!
www.claunchpinto.org**

Contributing writers in this month's news-
letter: Lesley Kingston, Franchesca Lucero,
Jerry Melaragno and Gabriel Ramirez and
Karen Smith

Benefits from a Green Infrastructure



A Green Infrastructure is the vegetated areas within our community that improve stormwater control, conserve water, and improve water and air quality.

Trees play a huge role in the concept of a green infrastructure, enabling us to benefit from them in many ways. They offer social, communal, environmental, and economic development that each one of us can make a contribution to and benefit from. Although you may not realize it, trees around us effect our everyday lives. This occurs by altering climates, absorbing pollutants (that impact our health), and improving water quality. Trees also produce oxygen, lower energy bills, and reduce community flooding and skin exposure to UV rays. Trees can even be used to break down harsh winter winds and help reduce soil erosion.

Help Go Green. Plant a TREE!!!

TREE FACTS!

"If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in 5 years your energy bills should be 3% less. In 15 years the savings will be nearly 12%." —*Dr. E. Greg McPherson, Center for Urban Forest Research*

"Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent." —*Management Information Services/ICMA*

"Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20 - 50 percent in energy used for heating." —*USDA Forest Service*

"One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people." —*U.S. Department of Agriculture*

<http://www.arboday.org/TREES/benefits.cfm>