



Photo by Adam Brayton

Whatcom Conservation District
Conservation Calendar 2025

Annual Native Plant Sale

Plant Sale & Celebration, March 15th | Pre-Order Deadline, February 28th

- Plant Sale & Celebration begins at a new time: 10:00 AM.
- Plants are sold on a first come, first served basis.
- The pre-order minimum is \$100. Plants available for pre-order are sold in bundles of 5 or 10.
- All species will be available for individual purchase on Saturday, March 15th.
- All sales are final. No refunds will be issued.

Pre-Order Pick-up

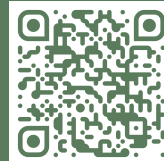
March 14th

NSEA, 3057 E Bakerview Rd.
Bellingham WA 98226

Plant Sale & Celebration

March 15th

Pioneer Park, 2004 Cherry St.
Ferndale WA 98248



Availability of Plants: We cannot guarantee the availability of all of the plants. Uncontrollable situations, crop failure, disease, or damage are all factors. If we cannot fill part or all of your order, a plant substitution or refund will be offered.

Plant Grade and Size: Plants are conservation grade stock, graded on their ability to survive, not on their ornamental value. Seedlings are generally between 10"-36" tall, so your order will fit in a vehicle.



2025 Whatcom CD Events

Whatcom Farm Expo – March 1st
Native Plant Sale & Celebration – March 15th
Board Supervisor Election – March 18th
Earth Day Planting – April 19th
Wildfire Community Preparedness Day – May 3rd
Whatcom Farm Speaker Series – May through October
Run with the Chums – September 13th
Orca Recovery Day – October 18th



Our Vision

We envision a thriving community that protects and benefits from clean and plentiful water, productive working lands, and resilient natural habitats.

Our Mission

We form partnerships with Whatcom County residents and entities to advance resiliency and ecological processes on working lands, residential landscapes, waterways, and open spaces for current and future generations.

Meet Your Whatcom Conservation District Staff



Calendar Key:

General Conservation Tip

Water Use Efficiency Tip

WCD Important Dates

WCD Partner Events



*A Habitat Specialist inspects a new planting
Photo by Adam Brayton*

Riparian Grant Program

A new year brings new opportunities. One of Whatcom CD's natural resource priorities is fish and wildlife habitat improvement. In 2024, we restored over 85 acres of streamside habitat with the Riparian Grant Program. We are looking forward to putting more native trees and shrubs along Whatcom streams this year!

January

Conservation Tip:

Is it time to fertilize? Visit our website where we track T-Sum 200, a regional indicator of spring grass growth: www.whatcomcd.org/arm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day WCD Office Closed	2	3	4
5 Don't wait! Place your order now for the Native Plant Sale!	6	7	8	9	10 Deadline to apply to be a Board Candidate	11
12	13	14 Keeping livestock off pastures prevents soil compaction.	15 Board Candidates Announced	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day WCD Office Closed	21	22	23	24 You can save water and money by turning off the sink while washing your dishes.	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Consider This...

Riparian areas are lands that interact with water. They can be trees, wetlands, pastures, or sometimes backyards. Healthy riparian areas mean healthy water, which is not only vital to fish and wildlife habitat, but also to human and livestock health. Is your riparian area healthy and functioning? Scan the QR code or visit www.whatcomcd.org/rqp to learn more and schedule a site visit today!





*Hens enjoying a newly renovated run
Photo by Alexi Guddal*

Whatcom Farm Expo & Farm Speaker Series

At Whatcom CD, we prioritize working lands productivity and conservation, and that means prioritizing our farmers! In 2024, we hosted 5 Farm Speaker Series Events and our annual Whatcom Farm Expo. Over 700 farmers attended these events, and we look forward to providing resources to more farmers in 2025!

February

Conservation Tip:

The roots of native plants stabilize soil, protecting the banks of creeks and ditches. Purchase native plants for your property at our Native Plant Sale.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Faucet leaks can add up quick. Check your sinks once a year to make sure you're not losing water.		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Deadline to request a mail-in ballot for the Board Election		Remember to collect manure and keep piles covered throughout the rainy season.			Valentine's Day	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	President's Day WCD Office Closed					
23	24	25	26	27	28	
			Beat the summer lawn mower blues. Install low maintenance native landscaping instead.		Native Plant Sale Pre-Order Deadline	

Consider This...

Join us on Saturday March 1st at the Northwest Washington Fairgrounds in Lynden for the 9th Annual Whatcom Farm Expo! This event will include hands-on exhibits demonstrating the latest in agricultural innovations, products, and services. You may also enjoy seminars and hands-on workshops led by local experts. Scan the QR code or visit www.whatcomcd.org/whatcom-farm-expo to learn more!





*Pacific Rhododendron
Photo by Emily Hirsch*

32nd Annual Native Plant Sale & Celebration

Native plants, like this Pacific Rhododendron, are important parts of our landscape. If planted on your property, they can help filter pollutants, retain ground water, prevent erosion, and support pollinators. At Whatcom CD, we prioritize community stormwater and habitat improvements, which includes planting native plants. At our 2024 plant sale we sold 34,000 plants to 1,200 people! This March, we hope to provide even more native plants to our community!

March

Conservation Tip:

Begin rotational grazing when your grass is at least six inches tall and soil is no longer wet. Learn more at the free Whatcom Farm Expo on March 1st!

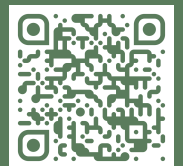


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Whatcom Farm Expo Ramadan Begins
2	3 <i>Consider volunteering at a restoration work party!</i>	4	5	6	7	8
9 Billy Frank Jr. Day	10	11	12 <i>Plant your garden with species that bloom throughout the season to support pollinators.</i>	13	14 Native Plant Sale Order Pick Up	15 Native Plant Sale & Celebration
16	17	18 Board Election Day	19	20 Spring Equinox First Day of Spring	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 <i>Want to make a bumblebee smile? Plant native flowers!</i>	29
30	31					



Consider This...

We all belong to our local ecosystem and it is our duty to steward it. Learn more about planting native landscapes and get affordable native plants at our 32nd Annual Native Plant Sale & Celebration! Scan the QR code or visit www.whatcomcd.org/plant-sale to learn more!





*Mushrooms on a tree
Photo by Tristan Simons*

Forest Stewardship Program


Our position in the shadow of the North Cascades brings bountiful forest lands. We launched our Forest Stewardship Program in 2024 to help forest owners manage their forests with climate resiliency and preparation in mind. If you have a forest on your property, reach out to our Forest Stewardship Specialist today!

April

Conservation Tip:

Now is the time to spread compost or fertilizer if your soil is no longer wet. Contact your WCD farm planner to learn more and rent our manure spreader!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 April Fool's Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 <i>Native plants in the right place can reduce summer watering.</i>	11	12 Passover Begins
13	14 <i>Protect your new plants with free blue tubes from our office.</i>	15 Tax Day	16	17	18	19 Earth Day Planting Party
20 Easter	21	22	23	24	25 National Arbor Day	26
27	28	29	30			



Consider This...

Is your property forested? Consider meeting with our Forest Stewardship Specialist for a free and confidential site visit. They can help you reach your goals whether its increasing habitat for wildlife, growing timber for wood products, sequestering carbon, maintaining a property for recreation, or conserving a peaceful family refuge. Scan the QR code or visit www.whatcomcd.org/forestry to learn more!





*Fuels being reduced to Biochar
Photo by Taylor Scott*

Wildfire Awareness Month

Community fuels reduction projects are a great way to work with neighbors to reduce the impact of wildfires. Biochar burns remove hazardous biomass and provide excellent nutrients for the soil, helping us meet our natural resource priority of climate resiliency and preparedness. Whatcom CD's Wildfire Resilience Program ramped up its biochar program in 2024 and is excited to work with more communities on fuels reduction and biochar production.

May

Conservation Tip:

Simple actions can reduce your home's wildfire risk. Now is the time to clear the leaf litter and debris on your roof, gutters, and around your home.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Mother's Day		<i>Wildfire smoke can cause health problems. Consider an air filter for your home to protect yourself.</i>				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<i>Using gravel or stones around your home can reduce your home ignition risk.</i>					<i>Most native plants are fire-resistant as long as they are healthy.</i>	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Memorial Day WCD Office Closed					

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

Farm Speaker Series

Consider This...

Wildfires are becoming more common and more threatening in our region, but your home can survive a wildfire! Sign up for a free home risk assessment to find out what you can do around your home to reduce your wildfire risk. Find more information by scanning the QR Code or visiting www.whatcomcd.org/wildfire.





*Watershed Education at the Whatcom Farm Expo
Photo by Toyo Garber*

Watershed Education

Understanding landscape-scale concepts like watersheds is an important part of understanding our connection to this county. The Whatcom Explorer Mobile Watershed is a great tool in teaching about watersheds, salmon, and conservation! In 2024, 1,200 students in 21 schools were visited by the Whatcom Explorer because we prioritize youth and community education.

June

Conservation Tip:

Soil health is the foundation of your farm. Now is a great time to take soil samples – reach out to a WCD farm planner for free testing.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 <i>Purchase a WaterSense irrigation controller and you could qualify for up to \$75 back in rebates.</i>	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Farm Speaker Series	13	14
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth WCD Office Closed	20 Summer Solstice First Day of Summer	21
22	23 <i>Well-established native plants need little to no supplemental watering.</i>	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



Consider This...

Would you like to partner with Whatcom CD's Education and Outreach Program? The Whatcom Explorer Mobile Watershed visits schools and events across Whatcom County in the spring and summer. Reach out to a Whatcom CD educator to book a visit with your school or to volunteer for a Whatcom CD Event! Visit www.whatcomcd.org/outreach-education to learn more.





*Friendly cows greet WCD staff
Photo by Corina Cheever*

Equipment Share Program

Community agriculture and local food systems are an integral part of our county, and one of the natural resource priorities for Whatcom CD. We rent equipment of all types including a no-till seed drill, manure spreader, and poultry processing equipment to help the farmers of Whatcom County continue producing local food like milk, cheese, berries, veggies, and more! In 2024, our equipment was rented out 80 times.

July

Conservation Tip:

Plan ahead for covering your fields after harvest. Order cover crop seed now for late summer or fall plantings.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Independence Day WCD Office Closed	
6	7	8 <i>Use a rain barrel to water flower and vegetable gardens.</i>	9	10 Farm Speaker Series	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 <i>A weather-based irrigation controller can save water and money!</i>	19
20 <i>Secure garbage and pet food to keep wildlife wild.</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 <i>Pet waste is raw sewage. Always scoop it, bag it, and trash it.</i>	31		

Consider This...

Farm planning doesn't have to be daunting. Whatcom CD provides free, confidential, and custom farm planning services to help you achieve your farm goals - no matter how big or small. For more information scan the QR code or visit www.whatcomcd.org/farm-resources.





*Lake Padden at sunrise
Photo by Alexis Bryson*

The Connection Between Our Water & Our Homes

The waters of Whatcom County are a quintessential part of the landscape. To maintain and ensure this legacy of water in the face of climate change, we must learn to save water. In 2024, we administered the Whatcom Water Alliance Water Use Efficiency Rebate Program, providing 42 rebates for water saving appliances to our community. Saving water aligns with our natural resource priority of climate resiliency and preparation.

August

Conservation Tip:

Soil moisture sensors can help gather data to better utilize water. Strategic watering can help reduce both labor and costs.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 <i>Keep your garden weed-free to eliminate competition for water and nutrients.</i>	4	5	6	7 NW Washington Fair Begins	8	9 <i>Adjust your sprinklers to avoid watering the house or sidewalk to save water.</i>
10	11	12	13	14 Farm Speaker Series	15	16
17	18 <i>Watering early or late in the day will reduce evaporation.</i>	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 <i>Leave grass clippings on the lawn to provide extra nutrients and retain moisture.</i>	30
31						



Consider This...

Do you want to save water and your money? Install a WaterSense irrigation controller or upgrade your toilet or clothes washer to a more efficient WaterSense model! You will save money on your water bill and could qualify for up to \$100 back through the Whatcom Water Alliance Water Use Efficiency Rebate. Learn more and apply today at www.whatcomwateralliance.org/rebates.





*High Five Finish
Photo by Alexi Guddal*

Annual Run with the Chums

For the past 13 years, Whatcom CD has invited our community to join us in celebrating salmon and water at Run with the Chums! In 2024, 358 people came to the 5K Fun Run and Smolt Sprint. This event promotes actions we all can take to support our salmon and supports our efforts to improve community stormwater and habitat. Join us this year in having fun and spreading the word about the importance of salmon and water!

September

Conservation Tip:

Over seed existing pastures: aerate, spread composted manure, and broadcast seed or rent our no-till seed drill; ideally before a light rain.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day WCD Office Closed	2	3	4 Evaluate and properly maintain your septic system.	5	6
7	8	9 Prepare your winter confinement areas. Install or replace footing materials if needed.	10	11 Farm Speaker Series	12	13 Run With The Chums Whatcom Water Week Begins
14	15	16	17	18	19 Apply lime to increase the pH of soil if a soil test indicates it's needed.	20 National Clean Up Day
21	22 Fall Equinox First Day of Autumn	23	24 Well-established native plants will need little to no winter protection.	25	26	27
28	29	30				



Consider This...

Want to be a community scientist? Have you seen an animal track, feathers, scat, or a wild animal by your local stream or ditch? Take a photo and join the Whatcom Wildlife Tracking iNaturalist project. This project's data will be used to understand what wildlife are present and where, which helps us to be better stewards of our watershed. Scan the QR code or visit www.whatcomcd.org/whatcom-wildlife-tracking.





*Chum Salmon in Chuckanut Creek
Photo by Tristan Simons*

Helping Salmon Helps Orcas

Salmon and Southern Resident orcas are both inextricably linked and suffer from degraded habitat. Whatcom CD prioritizes fish and wildlife habitat improvement; in 2024 we helped remove 2 fish passage barriers and restored 85.72 acres of salmon habitat. Every year, we invite our community to join us in this effort on Orca Recovery Day. In 2024, 50 volunteers planted 750 native plants for our salmon and orcas. Join us in 2025!

October

Conservation Tip:

Keep your car regularly serviced to decrease pollutants flowing into the Salish Sea. Car tires and engine fluids can be toxic to salmon.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Porous materials used for walkways and patios help prevent water runoff.</i>	6	7	8	9 Farm Speaker Series	10	11
12 National Farmer's Day	13 Columbus Day/US Indigenous Peoples Day WCD Office Closed	14	15 <i>Woody mulch protects soil, improves infiltration, and reduces weeds.</i>	16	17	18 Orca Recovery Day
19	20 Diwali	21	22	23 <i>Clean around storm drains to prevent trash and debris from flowing into waterways.</i>	24	25 Make a Difference Day
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	



Consider This...

Orca Recovery Day is a regional day of action focused on improving conditions for our critically endangered Southern Resident orca whales. Whatcom Orca Recovery Day focuses on restoring Chinook salmon habitat along streams and estuaries. You can also help to restore salmon habitat on your stream through the CREP & Riparian Grant Program. Scan the QR code or visit whatcomcd.org/habitat-restoration to learn more!





*Planting in progress
Photo by Alexi Guddal*

Native Landscaping Improves Water Quality


Rainwater flows across our landscape into storm drains, ditches, streams, rivers, and bays. Planting native plants helps to slow water and filter it before it reaches larger water bodies. The Neighborhood Native Landscaping Program provides community members with native plants, mulch, and planning to turn lawns into native landscaping. In 2024, 2,602 native plants replaced 40,537 sq. ft. of lawn, improving community stormwater and habitat.

November

Conservation Tip:

Covering your manure pile can increase the internal temperature and speed up the breakdown process. It also helps retain nutrients.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <i>Leave the leaves. Many beneficial insects overwinter in plant debris.</i>	3	4 Election Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Veteran's Day WCD Office Closed	12	13 <i>Make sure manure stays covered – silage tarps are great for large piles.</i>	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 <i>Winterize your outdoor spigots to protect your pipes from freezing.</i>
23	24	25	26 WCD Office Closed At Noon	27 Thanksgiving Day WCD Office Closed	28 Native American Heritage Day WCD Office Closed	29
30						



Consider This...

Water quality for fish and other wildlife can be improved by planting native trees and shrubs in your yards, along streets, and around creeks. Whatcom CD offers several programs that assist homeowners with installing native plants on their properties. For more information, scan the QR code or visit whatcomcd.org/habitat-restoration.





*Sunset reflections on Bellingham Bay
Photo by Emily Hirsch*

Engaging Our Community



Whatcom CD prioritizes communications and engagement, which includes bringing this calendar to your mailbox every year with beautiful photos from across Whatcom County. In 2024, we engaged with 4,147 people in our community at events. Sign up for our E-News to hear about our programs, events, and news throughout the year!

December

Conservation Tip:

December is a great time for reflection. What did you learn this year that will help you improve in 2026? About the land? About yourself?



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <i>Native evergreen plants help keep your garden interesting and colorful even in the winter.</i>	3	4	5 World Soil Day	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Upgrade your appliances to more water and energy efficient models to save water and money!</i>	13
14	15 Hanukkah begins	16	17 <i>Berries and dried seed heads keep birds fed in winter</i>	18	19	20
21 Winter Solstice First Day of Winter	22	23	24 WCD Office Closed At Noon	25 Christmas Day WCD Office Closed	26 Kwanzaa begins	27
28	29 <i>Check your mailbox for your new WCD Calendar!</i>	30	31 New Year's Eve WCD Office Closed At Noon			



Consider This...

Sign up for the Whatcom CD monthly E-News to stay up to date with upcoming events, funding opportunities, conservation stories, work parties, and more! Scan the QR Code or visit www.whatcomcd.org/publications to join today.



Whatcom CD

Conservation Districts work at the intersection of people and place by providing an ecological understanding and deep connection to the land and natural resources. We promote responsible stewardship, sustainable land management, and support for natural resource based economies.

Elizabeth Link, Farm Planning
Emily Hirsch, Habitat & Restoration
Frank Corey, Habitat & Restoration
Josh Kursky, Climate Resilience
Katharine Kienzl, Outreach & Education
Robert Walters, Climate Resilience
Trevor Gearhart, Farm Planning
Tristan Simons, Habitat & Restoration
Wayne Chaudiere, Habitat & Restoration
Zen Wilhelm, Science & Research

Whatcom CD Board

Heather Christianson - Chair
Suzzi Snyder - Vice Chair
Valeri Wade - Secretary/Treasurer
Alan Chapman - Supervisor
Fred Berman - Supervisor
Larry Davis - Associate Board Member



Adam Brayton, Outreach & Education
Alexi Guddal, Outreach & Education
Alexis Bryson, Climate Resilience
Andrew Phay, Administration
Aneka Sweeney, Outreach & Education
Brandy Reed, District Manager
Chuck Gerdes, Professional Engineer
Corina Cheever, Farm Planning
Gynthia May, Science & Research
Dawn Bekenyl, Administration

Whatcom CD

Plant Sale
Details

Grants &
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Conservation
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Upcoming Events
& More!

What's Inside...

Whatcom
Conservation District
Whatcom Conservation District
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