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DEC'S TREE AND SHRUB SEEDLING SALE UNDERWAY

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) annual sale of tree and shrub seedlings is underway and will continue through the month of May. DEC's Saratoga Nursery produces over 50 species of trees and shrubs, many native to New York, for planting on public and private land.

The program provides low cost planting material to encourage landowners to enhance New York's environment for future generations. The minimum order for conifers and wildlife shrubs is 100, for hardwoods; 25, and for container stock; 50. Mixed packets of 30-100 wildlife shrubs are also available for homeowners to attract wildlife.

"When the state tree nursery first began selling seedlings 100 years ago, trees were desperately needed to protect soil and water resources," said DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis. "Today, planting trees is one of the best ways for New Yorkers to help fight global warming. Tree and shrub species grown at the nursery can be used for wildlife habitat, timber, Christmas trees, hedges and windbreaks, riparian buffer areas, "soft" shoreline stabilization, urban forests and many other uses."

Species should be selected based on soil type at the planting site. Conifers transplant easily from the nursery to the field and require minimum care after planting. Hardwood varieties are more difficult to establish and require annual care after planting. Wildlife species such as witch hazel and red osier dogwood provide food and shelter for birds and mammals and make a good buffer between open and forested areas.

Landowners can get planting advice from their nearest DEC forestry office or private forestry consultant. The bulletin "2009 Trees and Shrubs" can be found on DEC website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7127.html> .

Seedlings can be ordered by calling the Saratoga Nursery Seedling Stock program at 518-587-1120 weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Call early for best selection. Mail orders are also accepted and can be sent to the Saratoga Tree Nursery, 2369 Route 50, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Orders may be placed through the month of May. Seedlings are shipped beginning in mid April.

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