

Public Agencies Offering Assistance With Native Plants in South Central Montana

Updated: Spring 2023

Agency Descriptions

The mission of the [Montana State University Extension Service](#) is to *improve the lives of Montana citizens by providing unbiased, research-based education and information that integrates learning, discovery and engagement to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of individuals, families and communities.* Activities it carries out relative to native plants include plant identification, plant disease diagnosis, general land management guidance, special workshops, Master Gardener program, and soil and water testing.

Montana's [conservation districts](#) *partner with private landowners to keep our land and water healthy for the next generation. Led and staffed by locals, conservation districts champion balanced conservation solutions for those that they serve.* Some districts focus solely on large landscapes, while others have resources and programs suitable to small land-holdings and town gardens, including distribution of native-plant seed mixes and seedling trees and shrubs.

The USDA [Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#) *directly serves America's farmers, ranchers, and forest managers by providing them with financial and technical assistance, or advice, for their land. Its goal is to give its customers free, personalized advice and information, based on the latest science and research, to help them make informed conservation decisions.* The agency is the Nation's top repository of information concerning soils and agricultural plants. It releases publications concerning landscaping with native plants for soil and water conservation, and to sustain wildlife and pollinators.

There is a [public weed control organization](#) in every Montana county. Their purpose is to *control the spread of noxious weeds, through research, mapping, education and eradication.* This may be a county agency or a collaboration among the county, MSU Extension, and the NRCS.

Agencies by County

Madison County

Madison-Jefferson County Extension

103 W. Legion Ave.

PO Box 1079

Whitehall, MT 59759

406-287-3282

<https://www.montana.edu/extension/madisonjefferson/>

kaleena.miller | @montana.edu

Madison Conservation District
222 Main Street
PO Box 606
Ennis, MT
<https://www.madisoncd.net/>
info@madisoncd.org
406-682-3181

Natural Resources Conservation Service
402 South Main
Sheridan, MT 59749
406-842-5741

Weed Coordinator
PO Box 278
Virginia City, MT 59755
Office: 406-842-5595
Cell: 406-490-8345

Gallatin County

Gallatin County Extension
903 North Black Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-582-3280
<https://www.montana.edu/extension/gallatin/gallatin@montana.edu>

Gallatin Conservation District
120 South 5th Street
Suites B102-B104
Manhattan, MT 59741
<https://gallatincd.org/>
becky@gallatincd.org
406-282-4350

Natural Resources Conservation Service
3710 Fallon Street
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-522-4000

Weed Coordinator
903 N Black
Bozeman, MT 59715
Office: 406-582-3265
Cell: 406-539-1143, no text
Fax: 406-582-3273

Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance
<https://www.gallatinisa.org/>

Park County

Park County Extension
119 South 3rd St.
Livingston, MT 59047
406-222-4156
<https://www.montana.edu/extension/park/>
park@montana.edu

Park Conservation District
5242 Highway 89 South
Livingston, MT
<https://parkcd.org/>
Ashley.Lowrey@mt.nacdnet.net
406-946-3005

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Livingston Service Center
5242 Highway 89 South
Livingston, MT
406-946-3006

Weed Coordinator
414 E Callender St.
Livingston, MT 59047
Office: 406-222-4158
Cell: 406-223-1306

Sweet Grass County

Sweet Grass County Extension
PO Box 640, 515 Hooper St.
Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5146
<https://www.montana.edu/extension/sweetgrass/>
sweetgrass@montana.edu

Sweet Grass County Conservation District
225 Big Timber Loop Road, PO Box 749
Big Timber, MT 59011
sweetgrasscd@macdnet.org
406-932-5160 x101

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Highway 10E
Big Timber, MT 59047
406-932-5160

Weed Coordinator
PO Box 640
5 Hooper Street
Big Timber, MT 59011
Office: 406-932-3582
Cell: 406-220-2767

Additional Organizations

Some of these are public agencies, while others are quasi-public groups, like watershed groups, comprising one or more paid staffers and a cadre of community volunteers.

Watershed groups in Montana are extremely diverse. Most focus strictly on water quality, but others encompass community building, weed control, support for production agriculture, and water management. [This is a comprehensive directory](#) of the members of the Montana Watershed Coordination Council.

The [Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery](#) has been operated by the State of Montana since 1927. This state proprietary enterprise has as its purpose *to provide plants for conservation work across the state*. It provides containerized and bareroot trees and shrubs derived from locally adapted and source identified seed. Purchasers include private landowners; county conservation districts; government agencies; conservation organizations; tribes, and the forestry industry. Many county conservation districts distribute its seedlings.

The [Bridger Plant Materials Center](#), operated in Bridger, Montana by the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service, is one of 25 such centers across the country, with a mission to *select conservation plants and develop innovative planting technology to address today's natural resource challenges and maintain healthy and productive farms and ranches*. The center has released several Montana cultivars into the seed market.

The City of Bozeman has an active [water conservation program](#). The program offers rebates for changing out older water appliances and upgrading irrigation systems. It conducts tours and workshops centered on landscaping in a “water-wise” fashion, emphasizing native plants.