



Claunch-Pinto News

Spring 2009

Green Building Plans

Governor Richardson, Senator Pete Campos, Representative Rhonda King, and the New Mexico State Legislators allocated

Claunch-Pinto SWCD \$600,000

to begin construction on the multi-purpose "green" building on 39 acres in the Sisneros subdivision. The land has already been purchased and architectural drawings are in the final stages. Claunch-Pinto SWCD hopes to break ground by Autumn of 2009.

The Board of Supervisors wishes to extend a very big thank you to Senator Pete Campos and Representative Rhonda King for all of their hard work in securing funding for the District.

Below is an architects rendering of how the building may look. The plans have received Leed Certification and



the District will strive to set a benchmark example for future green governmental buildings within the state.

The District would like to include building features such as passive and active solar designs, a grey water system for xeriscaping, and rain encatchment for a community garden.

However, the highlight of this endeavor will be the education and training programs that will be provided by the District.

The building will include a Learning Center so the District can schedule tutorials and training seminars. These

classes will range from basic employment procedures and hiring, to teaching the skills necessary to gain access to workforce opportunities. The District will also feature workshops concentrating on energy conservation, fire safety, watershed health, and how to encourage vibrant native plants and wildlife within the District's communities.



Inside this issue:

Chipper Safety

SWCD Thinning Applications 2

Mountainair's Young Adults 3

Water Saving Tips 3

Planting a Sound Barrier 4

Planting a Sound Barrier (continued) 5

When Wildfire Approaches 5

When Wildfire Approaches (continued) 6

HIGH HONORS FOR APRIL LUNA

Congratulations to April Luna, former Claunch-Pinto employee, who will be graduating from the University of New Mexico in May of 2009. Ms. Luna is a member of the Golden Key Honor Society, the Hispanic Engineering and Science Organization and is a National Science Foundation Scholar. As a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society, April was invited to the Presidential Inauguration where she also attended seminars with guest speakers Al Gore and Colin Powell. April plans to join the UNM Biology Undergrad Society and work full time after graduation. With her experience and education, April would like to assist farmers and ranchers with their conservation needs. April is the granddaughter of Frank & Tillie Luna and Vernie Wells. Our best wishes for April.

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR OWN SAFETY

This article is concerning the important safety practices to be followed when operating a chipper.

Safety tips, along with real accident reports, have been combined in order to give you a better understanding of the risks of incorrectly operating equipment, as well as working in unsafe environments.

Greatest Dangers

You can be seriously injured or killed if you incorrectly operate a chipper. The most commonly reported causes of serious accidents are:

1. Being Caught in Moving Parts

You can be seriously injured or killed if you are caught in the equipment's moving parts.

2. Struck by Chipper Hood

You can be seriously injured or killed if you open or close the hood on a running chipper.

Help Yourself

Safe work habits are important. Here are three important actions you can do to be safe on the job site.

1. **Learn all you can.** To prevent accidents with wood chippers, read and follow directions in the equipment operator's manual. Pay attention to safety instructions in the manual and to warning labels you see on the equipment.

2. **Concentrate on working safely.** Sometimes you may be tempted to take risky shortcuts. Remember that an accident can leave you permanently injured or cut your life short. For your safety and the safety of those around you, do not take unnecessary risks. No deadline is so pressing you can't take the time to do your work safely.

3. **Additional Precautions** Do not operate machinery if you are tired or have taken drugs or alcohol. If you are on medication, discuss with your doctor or pharmacist if you are capable of safely operating machinery.

Case Study: A 28-year-old grounds man died after he was caught and pulled into a wood chipper. The victim and two coworkers, a foreman and a climber, were cleaning up limbs after pruning a tulip poplar behind a townhouse. The coworkers were behind the building gathering loose branches while the victim was in front operating the chipper. The coworkers began dragging brush to the chipper. As the climber approached the chipper, he saw the victim's legs sticking out of the infeed hopper. Investigators concluded that the victim either fell or reached into the infeed hopper while feeding short branches. His hands were caught by the feed mechanism, forcing his head and upper torso into the chipper knives.

WRITTEN BY MR. CHIPPER

Accident Report Employee Killed in Chipper

Summary of OSHA Accident Inspection 300492832

An employee was chipping branches when the chipper became jammed. He tried to unjam the machine and was caught in the infeed roller and chopped to death by the blades.



Never reach in to a running chipper.

MOUNTAINAIR RIPARIAN RESTORATION WORKSHOP

This workshop is scheduled for May 30th with Bill Zeedyk and was organized by the Quivira Coalition and sponsored by Mesteño Draw Ranch and the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District. For more information online go to www.quiviracoalition.org or call 505-955-8922

APPLICATIONS FOR CLAUNCH-PINTO PROJECTS

Claunch-Pinto SWCD is currently taking applications for its cost-share programs. The criteria is that they are thinning projects based on defensible space and hazardous fuel reduction. After the severe fires in 2008 in our area, many landowners are becoming pro-active and realizing that a good fire plan will assist in saving lives and property. Projects can range in size from one to twenty acres. Once an application is submitted, our Field Technician, Vern Kohler will schedule a visit for a site survey. PLEASE NOTE: NO WORK SHOULD BEGIN UNTIL A SIGNED CONTRACT WITH THE DISTRICT IS IN PLACE.

All wood retained for fire-wood must be removed or solarized. All slash must be chipped.

Other important benefits from these programs are improving the watershed, and an increase in grasses and forbs, which reduces soil erosion. And all of these factors contribute to a healthy wild-life habit.



MOUNTAINAIR AREA YOUNG ADULTS MAKE THEIR MARK

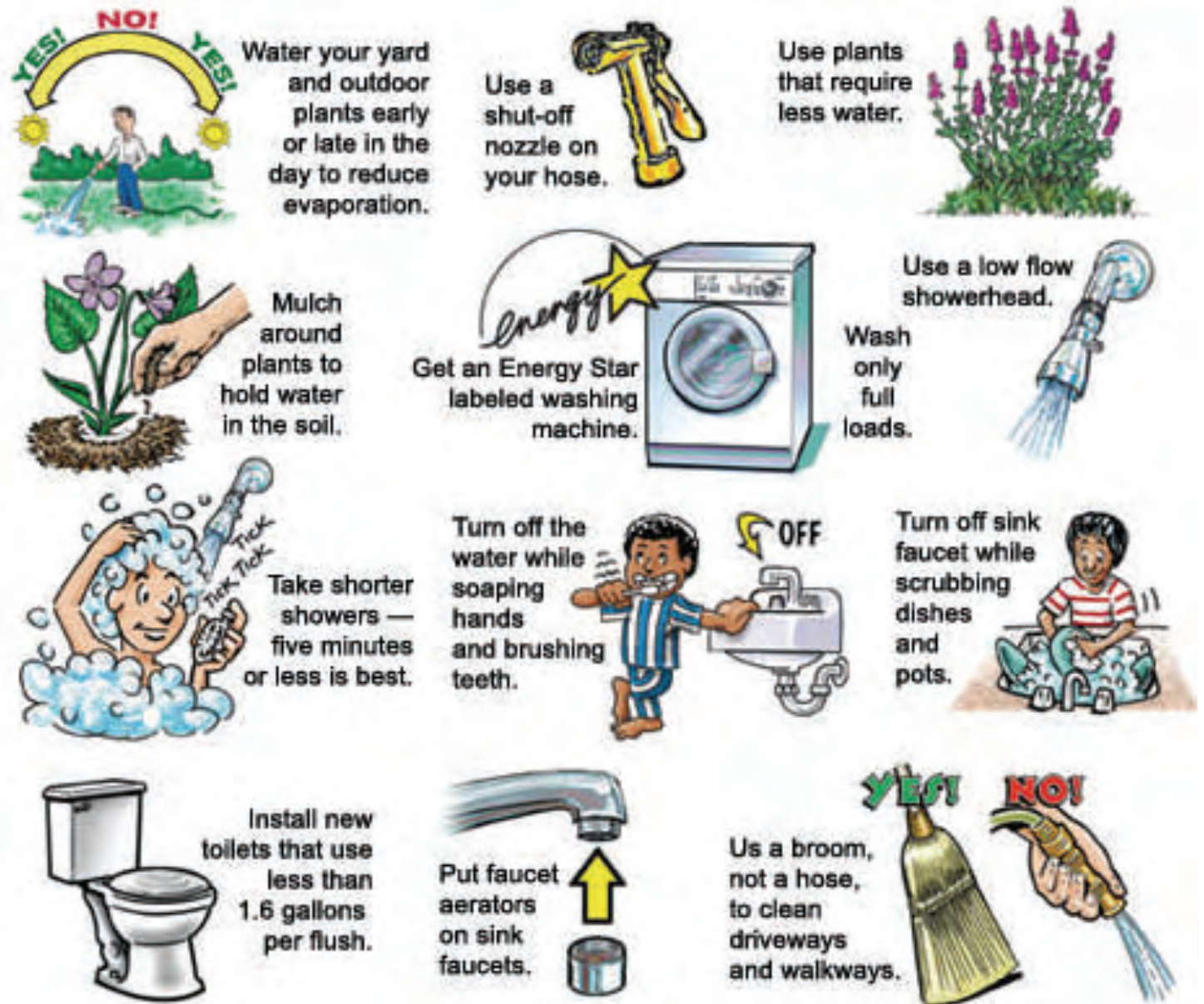
The beginning of 2009 marked a special occasion for young adults from the Manzano Land Grant, who have been diligently working with State Forestry and their Youth Coordinator, Anna Marie Nunez, on the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP). For recognition of having the most active young adult participation within this program, *Manzano Youth*, were asked to give a presentation at the CFRP Annual

Workshop in Santa Fe on January 28th. Their presentation featured the training in fire rehabilitation and native seed collecting procedures that were learned through the CFRP. The following morning the students were invited to the Roundhouse as pages for Representative Rhonda King. These opportunities were well deserved. Pictured left to right, Dee Tarr, Martin Chavez, Santiago Nunez, Gabriel Ramirez, Anna Marie Nunez, Julian Zamora, Juan Nunez,

and lower row, Estaban Nunez, and Francesca Nunez.

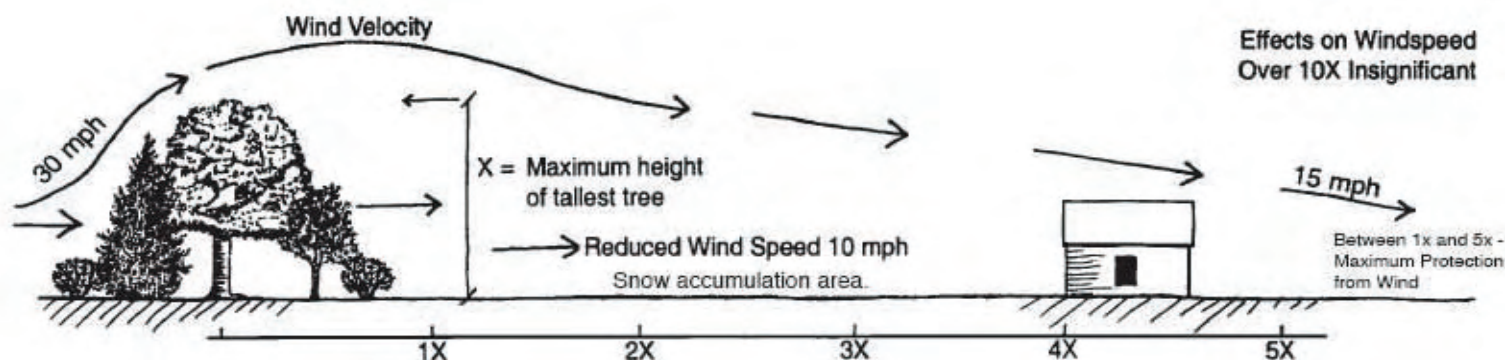


WATER SAVING TIPS



Planting a Sound Barrier

Vegetation can be used as a barrier for adverse effects such as strong winds and problems including noise pollution. When planting for wind, noise or visual barriers, the selection and arrangement of the plant material is key to a successful outcome.



Aesthetic enhancement is another benefit. Many flowering shrubs or trees such as lilacs, seedling roses or crabapples provide spring color. Fall color and winter color from conifers, add attractiveness to planting. A recent nearby development can be strategically blocked from view by designing windbreak plantings properly. You can also reduce the noise and sight of a nearby road or highway with plants from your windbreak. The same principles that slow the wind around your home will also reduce the effects of snow and dust.

Some of the more popular plants selected for windbreaks are chosen for their ability to withstand extreme cold, poor soils and periods of drought. Encouraging wildlife and adding aesthetic benefits, can be a great selection to enhance your home-stand. Plants that are the most cold and wind resistant should be planted on the windward side, and more sensitive fruit or nut trees should be planted on the leeward side of the row.

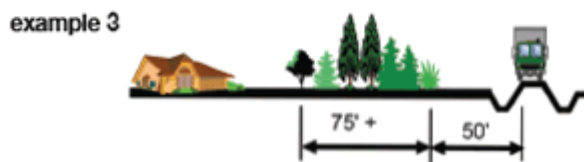
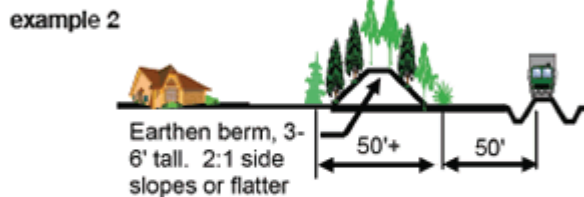
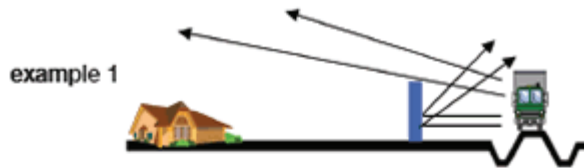
Your best protection from wind will be determined by the mature height of your windbreak. If your tallest tree is 50' tall, this measurement is your x factor. Maximum protection occurs at a distance of 2x the height of this tallest tree to 5x the height for good protection. Anything beyond 500' or 10x the height will receive little or no protection (see diagram).

Transplanting Bareroot Stock

Bareroot stock provides many advantages including cost savings, for example ease of planting and faster root growth into existing soil structure. Exposed roots during the handling of stock is imperative. Before planting your stock, roots should be soaked a minimum of 4 to 6 hours to ensure proper root health while transplanting. Do not soak longer than overnight. Plants should be transplanted within 24 to 48 hours of receiving them. If you must store your plants prior to planting, be sure the selected storage area maintains cool temperatures, has good ventilation and plants will be protected from sun, drying out, heating, or freezing.

Remove the plants from their boxes or coverings. Do not store stock near fresh produce or cut flowers, both of which release ethylene gas, which is deadly to live plant material. For broadleaf evergreens, remove or clip off most leaves prior to transplanting. This may seem severe, as the plants are often purchased for their foliage. Removal of leaves will help survival by reducing transpiration.

As stock begins new root growth, new leaf buds will push and grow. Process and plant these species immediately. Do not attempt to store them for more than 36 hours. Keep plants cool, moist and shaded until ready to plant. The first 2 weeks after planting will be the most crucial to survival, so keep your plant material properly irrigated. Additional shade and wind protection will provide extra benefits.



PLANTING A SOUND BARRIER (CONTINUED)

Most hardscape barriers work by deflecting sound (example 1). To be effective they should be close to the source of the noise as safety allows. With these barriers vegetation serves to soften the visual effect of the barrier and reduce the reverberation of sound. Earthen berms are often used in combination with trees and shrubs to deflect and absorb sound when the available space is limited (example 2).

Vegetation alone can be used where adequate space is available. To be effective the planting must be multiple rows to about 40-75' in depth. Care also must be taken to plant the first row at 50' from a roadway or any area that should not be subject to extra snow deposits. Conifers or evergreen broad-leaf plants will naturally provide the best year-round noise reduction. Deciduous trees and shrubs can be added to the planting for variety and added summer noise reduction (example 3).

Vegetation should be selected for site conditions with special attention to issues of air pollution and salt spray if used near busy roadways. It is also important to incorporate fast growing plants and long lived plants for a quick and lasting barrier.

Shrubs: Plant in rows closest to the sound. Choose dense or thicket forming shrubs that tolerate salt or deicing chemicals and air pollutants. Also choose plants considered to provide an effective barrier more quickly. Smaller trees, especially those with attractive flowering and form, work well on the inside of a barrier for both visual and sound effect.

WHEN WILDFIRE APPROACHES

Should a house be threatened by wildfire, the occupants may be advised to evacuate by fire or law enforcement officials. The purpose of evacuation is to protect people from life-threatening situations. Homeowners, however, do have the right to stay on the property if they so desire and so long as their activities do not hinder fire fighting efforts. If the occupants are not contacted in time to evacuate or if the owners decide to stay with their homes, the suggestions provided in the following checklist will assist in protecting their property and the lives of their family.

- Evacuate, if possible all family members not essential to protecting the house, as well as pets.
- Contact a friend or relative and relay your plans.
- Make sure family members are aware of the prearranged meeting place.
- Tune into local radio station to be on air and listen for instructions. FYI: Our new local public radio station, KXNM 88.7 is scheduled to go on air in mid-2010. For more info or to participate in the planning, contact 505-832-0332.
- Place vehicles in the garage, have them pointing out, and roll up windows.
- Place valuable papers and mementos in the car.
- Close the garage door: but leave it unlocked. If applicable, disconnect the electric garage door opener so that the door can be opened manually.
- Place combustible patio furniture in the house or garage.
- Shut off propane at the tank or natural gas at the meter.
- Wear only cotton or wool clothes. Proper attire includes long pants, long sleeved shirt or jacket, and boots. Carry gloves, a handkerchief to cover face, water to drink, and goggles.
- Prop a ladder against the house so fire fighters have easy access to the roof.
- Make sure that all garden hoses are connected to faucets and attach a nozzle set on "spray."
- Soak rags, towels, or small rugs with water to use in beating out embers or small fires. (continued on page 6)



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.nacdn.net

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

NONPROFIT

ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

MOUNTAINAIR, NM

PERMIT NO. 7

BOX HOLDER
MOUNTAINAIR, NM 87036

WHEN WILDFIRE APPROCHES (CONTINUED)

- Inside, fill bathtubs, sinks, and other containers with water. Outside, do the same with garbage cans and buckets. Remember that the water heater and toilet tank are available sources of water.
 - Close all exterior doors and windows and interior doors.
 - Open the fire place damper, but place the screen over the hearth to prevent sparks and embers from entering the house.
 - Leave a light on in each room.
 - Remove lightweight and/or non-fire resistant curtains and other combustible materials from around windows.
 - If available, close fire resistant drapes, shutters or venetian blinds. Attach precut plywood panels to the exterior side of windows and glass doors.
 - Turn off all pilot lights.
 - Move overstuffed furniture (e.g. couches, easy chairs, etc.) to the center of the room.
 - Keep wood shake or shingle roofs moist by spraying water. Do not waste water. Consider placing a lawn sprinkler on the roof if water pressure is adequate. Do not turn on until burning embers begin to fall on the roof.
 - Continually check the roof and attic for embers, smoke, or fire.
 - Close all exterior vents.
- If a fire should occur within the house, contact the fire department immediately. Continue to inspect your house and property for embers and smoke.

Most importantly, STAY CALM!!!

