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TREE FARM BULLETIN

THELMA HARRELL TREE FARM
EDGEWOOD, NEW MEXICO

Thelma Harrell and her family have been busy for the past two years maintaining the prior years' plantings and concentrating on gopher control (a constant/continuing effort), watering , pruning, re-mulching, drip line repair, replacing destroyed lines, plugging, adding more drippers, cutting dead trees and dead limbs.

This is the 14th year of growth for the first planted seedlings. The Ponderosas, Austrian Pines and Piñons are the leading survivors. The Southwest White Pines and White Fir are not doing well. Black Locusts, New Mexico Locusts and Nanking Cherries have been a waste of labor and water.

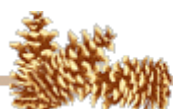
The winter of 2010/2011 was a tree killer--extremely severe, extending cold and little moisture. Spring was also very cold, still below freezing at night in to May, and no measurable moisture. There was a one-inch rain on August 31st. We had rain and hail on September 7th. The ground was so dry that the rain, while very welcome, didn't help much.

The drip lines, again, were so damaged that lines had to be replaced. We deep-watered in June and August. We took the drip lines off trees that weren't growing, very straggly, and no hope for their future. Most Black Locusts looked dead. Those located in the northeast corner did leaf out in June and are doing better. Others had many dead limbs and very few leafed out.

In October, we removed dead trees, pruned, and chipped. We have several cubic feet of mulch to be spread.

2012 was the 15th year of growth for the first planted seedlings. The Ponderosas, Austrian Pines and Piñons are the leading survivors. The Southwest White Pines and White Fir are not doing well. Most Black Locusts, New Mexico Locusts and Nanking Cherries are dead or dying. Drip water has been removed from most of these, except for the locusts in the northeast corner which are struggling. The winter of 2011/2012 was another tree killer-severe cold and extreme drought. The drip lines, again, were so damaged that lines had to be replaced. We deep-watered (drip lines and by hand) four times and hope this will be enough to keep them alive. The drought continues.

The Harrell goals for 2013 are to continue to march on maintenance.



BACKYARD TREE FARM ACTIVITIES: Back Yard Tree Farm hosted two programs in 2012. One at the home of Christian Meuli in Edgewood where Jim Brooks of Soilutions gave a workshop on water harvesting attended by a small but enthusiastic group. Christian has been working on his property for a number of years and had numerous examples of how to keep water on your property. The other, a presentation by Judith Phillips, author and southwest landscape designer was held at the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras. Judith's presentation focused on plants, trees and shrubs to grow in the East Mts. with low water requirements. Judith was a great attraction which brought out 43 people to her talk.

The annual social gathering of the Back Yard Tree Farm will be held Dec. 15th at the home of George Duda. The agenda includes a discussion of possible programs for 2013 as well as a pot luck lunch including George's famous brisket.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN: I am excited to include in this issue our second tree farm story highlighting the accomplishments of the Thelma Harrell Family. I would like to thank Mrs. Harrell of Edgewood for her submission. It tells the story of her activities for the past two years. She has been a busy lady. Please consider telling your story and send to me and include representative photos of your tree farm. We are always interested in what others are doing and what their tree farm looks like. Also, if you would like to host a field day next year, please advise.

Also included is a rundown on the Backyard Tree Farm program from Mary Ellen McMurtrie. Look for a more in-depth article in the Newsletter.

We will be publishing our annual Newsletter shortly. I encourage all tree farmers to submit stories for either the Newsletter which is geared to more in-depth articles, or the monthly Bulletin for shorter items of interest. Also, if you have any thoughts on what should be included in either publication by our myriad of subject matter experts, please let me know.

I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Chanukah. I look forward to seeing all of you at the three field days we are planning on having next year.

