

Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District

Fact Sheet

Equipment Rental

The Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District has several pieces of equipment available for rent to landowners within Dakota County.

No-Till Drill:

The Truax no-till drill is available for rent to establish native prairie, pasture, alfalfa, and/or clover directly into soybean stubble, corn stubble, or unplowed pastures and hayfields. Special disks on the drill allow it to plant seed into harvested crop fields, depleted pastures, or cut hayfields without plowing them first. The drill has three separate seed boxes that allow it to plant different types of seed at varying rates at the same time. Rent is \$15 per acre, plus a \$100 setup charge. Rent includes delivery to and from your site. The planting width of the drill is 10.5 feet, with 7 inches between each planting row. A tractor with at least 45 horsepower and two hydraulic couplers in the back is required to pull the drill.



Tree planter:

The tree planter is available to rent for \$50 per day. This includes delivery on a trailer to and from your site. The tree planter requires a tractor with at least 18 horsepower and a 3-point hitch. Caution should be used when using a tractor with over 50 horsepower; hitting rocks or other obstructions with larger tractors can damage the planter. It is typically more efficient to plant trees by hand if you are planting less than 200 trees. The tree planter is very efficient when planting long, straight windbreaks, shelterbelts, or block plantings with over 200 trees.



Tree Spades:

Tree spades are used to quickly and properly plant trees by hand. To use the tree spade, step it into the ground like a shovel to create an opening. Place the tree in the opening, and step the tree spade into the ground approximately 4 inches from the tree. While

the tree spade is in the ground, push the handle toward the tree to close the original opening. The SWCD has two tree spades available for use. There is no charge for using the tree spades.



Hand seeder:

The Truax hand seeder is perfect for broadcast seeding native prairie on 2 acres or less. The no-till drill can be too large and cumbersome to plant less than 2 acres. To plant native prairie with the hand seeder you need to fill the seed box, turn the hand crank, and walk at an even speed across a plowed and level field. The hand seeder distributes the seed in 10-foot swaths. After planting, the seed typically needs to be incorporated into the soil with a cultipacker, harrow, or even a weighted piece of chain link fence. The hand seeder can also be used to “frost seed” legumes into existing pastures. Frost seeding involves broadcasting seed, typically clovers, across pastures during freeze and thaw cycles. The freeze and thaw cycle works the seed into the soil, allowing it to germinate in the spring. Frost seeding is usually most effective in March. There is no charge for using the hand seeder, but a \$50 refundable deposit is required before use to cover any possible damages.



Crimper:

The crimper is used to reduce erosion potential by anchoring straw into exposed soils. Straw is spread over the area and grass seed is planted beneath the straw. The crimper has sharp disks that roll over the straw, cut it into the soil and stand it straight up to keep the soil in place until the grass seed emerges and stabilizes the area. The crimper can be pulled using the hitch behind a tractor with at least 18 horsepower. There is no charge for the crimper if it is being used as part of an erosion control practice.



DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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