

# UINTA COUNTY Connection

## Planting or Replanting a Lawn

Planting or replanting a lawn is a task frequently approached by homeowners. Whether you are replanting dead areas in the lawn or establishing a lawn in a new area, many of the steps are the same.



1. Eliminate the existing plants. In the case of reseeding or seeding a lawn, it is often recommended to kill unwanted plants in the area using glyphosate (commonly known as the main ingredient in Roundup). This herbicide is most effective while the plants are actively growing, so a previous watering of the area may be necessary (although, you do not want the plants to still be wet.) Two applications of herbicide, 7-10 days apart, can help ensure all of the weeds have been killed.
2. After the unwanted plants have been killed, mow them close to the ground: 1" to 1.5" should be sufficient. You will want to bag the clippings rather than leave them on the lawn.
3. Thatch layers and dead sod should be removed before aeration.
4. Aeration or core cultivation of the lawn site. Having a moist soil (watered a day or two before) helps the aerator make sufficiently deep holes in the soil (2-3 inches). The goal is to have holes on 2" centers. These holes remain moist longer than the surface and make perfect places for seeds to germinate.
5. Spread your chosen grass seed across your lawn according to the specifications on the bag you purchased. Lightly running a rake over the area or even passing over with a lawn mower (without the bag on it) will help to get the seeds down into aeration holes. Adding soil or compost after seeding is not recommended.
6. In watering, keep the soil moist but not soggy.
7. Lawn fertilizer (perhaps a starter fertilizer) can be applied once grass seedlings can be seen growing in the aeration holes. Make sure this fertilizer does not have any weed and feed or pesticides in it, as this will hurt the young grass seedlings.
8. When the grass seedlings grow to 2-3 inches tall, begin mowing the lawn like normal. Don't let the seedlings grow too tall before mowing. Frequent mowing will also help establish the new lawn.
9. Once the grass has been mowed a few times, it should be safe to use an herbicide to help control weeds.
10. Once the lawn is established, you want to try and give your lawn ½ an inch of water at a time, two to three times a week. It is best if the lawn dries out between watering sessions, so 1-1.5 inches of water a week is a standard to base your lawn irrigation off of.

Variations on this step by step process exist and are also successful, but hopefully this helps you establish new and improved lawns.

References: CSUExtension. "Renovating a Lawn by Reseeding." Extension, Colorado State University, 2014, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K\\_C3xSoG0\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_C3xSoG0_8).

# Poster Contest!

May 5th  
Deadline

The theme for the 2021 Stewardship Poster Contest is  
**"Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities"**

**1st place \$100 · 2nd place \$50 · 3rd place \$25**

Judging Categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12

Open to all school-aged children  
in Uinta County.

Visit our website for more  
information, contest rules, and  
entry forms.

[www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com)



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## Using the Rangeland App.

The Rangeland App is a free online program which combines on-the-ground data with remote sensing to produce maps and charts which show vegetation characteristics on the landscape at a 30x30 meter resolution (a little larger than a baseball diamond). Its data and monitoring cover from 1984 to the present over the United States. The information it provides is a wide lens and meant to be combined with on-the-ground data site-specific knowledge.

Below, I have compiled the steps I took to learn more about a piece of public ground found here in Uinta County. The textboxes and arrows are my own addition. I hope this article will give you an introduction to the Rangeland Application and that you will begin experimenting with it to see how you can use it. I encourage you to visit the **Rangeland Analysis Platform** online to learn more. They also have a few videos online that can be of help to you.

<https://rangelands.app/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yv0lm0ZgDD4>

This full article will not fit in this newsletter. Please enjoy the following excerpts and visit our website for the full story:

After you finish the shape or polygon around your area, an analysis box will appear on the right. As the arrow shows, there are three tabs across the top. By clicking each you will see a different analysis in the graph area of the box.

"Cover" shows the percent cover in annual and perennial vegetation as well as shrubs, tree cover, and bare ground. It also shows the annual precipitation.

Nearing 2020 we can see a drastic drop in shrub cover and a spike in bare ground followed by a spike in annual forbs and grasses. This shows that something rapidly removed the shrub cover and left a lot of bareground which was soon filled with annual plants. This has the appearance of a fire. It also looks like a later response from perennial forbs and grasses brought the annual plants back down.

The third tab, "16-day biomass", shows biomass measurements on a bi-weekly basis. You can change the year in the upper right-hand corner (see the red arrow).

In this graph, the "Herbaceous biomass" line is a combination of both the annual and perennial biomass lines. If there is no annual biomass, the perennial biomass line will match the herbaceous biomass line.

I chose 2019 because it showcases the changes we've been noticing. Here, the "Annual forb and grass biomass" (likely cheatgrass) is higher than in previous years. In 2020 (see the following figure), it goes back down to contributing a much smaller amount to the over-all herbaceous biomass, and the perennial biomass line matches closely with the herbaceous biomass line.

Again, this shows something caused cheatgrass to spike; a disturbance of some kind, such as fire. It also shows perennials making a good recovery.



# 5 Things on Composting

1. Feed your compost with greens and browns. Greens refers to vegetable scraps, lawn clippings, pulled weeds, and other sources of organic matter high in nitrogen. Browns refers to organic matter high in carbon, such as dead leaves, straw, or sawdust. By putting greens on the pile and keeping them covered with browns (there should be no greens visible from the outside), you supply the microbes with the food and shelter they need to get to work. A pile needs to be big enough for the microbes to do well; 4 ft square and 2 ft high is a size that has worked for some people.



2. Keep your compost watered. Not too much water. A good example is the squeeze test. A handful of the compost squeezed should produce a drop or two of water. It shouldn't be much dryer or wetter than that.
3. Give the compost air. The microbes need air to be happy. If your compost smells like eggs, it has gone anaerobic and it needs more air. Turning and stirring the compost up gives the microbes air and helps the process move along.



4. Heat. If the compost has the water, air, and food it needs, it should begin to generate heat from the microbes doing their jobs. You want to get the heat between 135° - 160° Fahrenheit. Part of the reason for this is that it kills pathogens and weed seeds, making it safe to use in your garden.
5. No recognizable pieces. To judge when your compost is finished, stir it to make sure there are no recognizable pieces of plants or leaves or vegetable scraps left needing to be broken down. Also, it should no longer increase in temperature after you stir it. Finally, it should not smell bad. Put some of the compost in a sealed plastic bag for a warm hour or two. When you open it, it shouldn't smell bad. You can then use it in your yard to improve your soil significantly.

## Wyoming Resource Education Days

**Dates:** June 8-11, 2021

**Place:** Uinta County Youth Camp, Uinta County WY

**Who can attend:** Youth who have completed the 8th grade - 18 years. Any person of any age may enter the Range Contest without attending the camp. *UW & PTSB credits available for teachers; see website for details.*

**Registration Deadline:** Early May 28/Late Jun 5.

**Registration Fees:** UCCD will sponsor Uinta County students who attend the entire camp.

**Registration Includes:** Manual, lodging & meals.

More Information: [www.uintacountycd.com/wyred](http://www.uintacountycd.com/wyred)



## Should I be watering my trees right now?

If the soil around your herbaceous perennials and woody plants is dry, and the air temp has been over 40° for more than a few days, you should give your plants a good drink.

It's important to keep the soil around the roots of your trees and perennial plants moist! Watering now will not cause them to come out of dormancy early.

# Uinta County Conservation District

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## CHANGE OF SERVICE REQUESTED



### Upcoming Dates to Remember:

April 22	Earth Day
April 25 - May 2	Stewardship Week & Poster Contest “ <b>Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities</b> ”
April 30	Arbor Day
May 5	Poster Contest Deadline
May 19	Ag Expo & Safety Day, for Uinta County third & fourth grade students
June 8-11	WYRED in Uinta County
June 22	Well Water Testing Day-must pre-register by June 3rd
September 8	Soil Health Day-Evanston
Fall TBA	Hands-on Workshop-chickens, composting, calibrating back pack weed sprayer

\*Watch for dates of future workshops if circumstances permit!

## Well Water Testing Day Coming in June

Living in a rural area, it is pretty likely the water that supplies your home comes from a well. According to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality website, “you are solely responsible for the maintenance of your private water well, and are required to maintain it in such a condition that it does not contribute to contamination of groundwater.” One way to prevent contamination is to properly maintain your well through regular inspection and then addressing any issues you find right away.

There is no government agency that regulates or regularly tests water quality from private water wells in Wyoming which means it is up to you, as the private well owner, to have your well water tested. Having your well water tested regularly gives you an idea if there are issues that need to be addressed and protects the health of your family.

### How can I get my well water tested?

Every year, the Uinta County Conservation District offers a Well Water Testing Day. This program is used to educate well owners and remind them to get their well water tested regularly. Through this program, UCCD helps with the cost of testing and shipping so that private well owners can get their water tested at a more affordable cost.

### How does it work?

The program is simple, just follow these basic steps:

1. Choose which test option is best for you, then pre-register and pre-pay by June 3.
2. Pick up the sampling kit you ordered from the UCCD office in the Valley, or the UW Extension Office in Evanston the week of June 14-18, 2021.
3. Sample your water the morning of June 22 and bring the sample back to the UCCD office or UW Extension office before 11:00 am!

### *We will take care of the rest!*

Don't assume your well water is safe. Take advantage of UCCD's Well Water Testing Day to be sure it is! More details about the tests being offered, the cost and pre-registration will be available soon. Contact UCCD or visit our website in the next few weeks for more information and to register.

*\*All results will be sent directly to the private well owner from the lab, UCCD does not see any of the results.*