



**Pennington
Conservation
District**



Fall 2026

NEWSLETTER

Contact Us



(605) 503-5299



PenningtonCD@SDConservation.net



www.penningtonconservation.com



Monthly Meetings - 1st Thursday of
the month at 1pm

Board of Supervisors

Shawn Freeland - Chairman

Ken Steinken - Vice Chairman

Tiffany Knuppe - Supervisor

Randy Volmer - Supervisor

Del Maynard - Supervisor

Meagan Kieffer - Advisor

Christine Longenecker- District Manager

NRCS Staff

Vacant - Resource Area Conservationist

Paige Uher - District Conservationist

Kathleen Bush - Natural Resource Specialist

Janét Moore - SDSHC Soil Health Tech

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29TH | 8:30-4:00
AT SD SCHOOL OF MINES
611 SURBECK LN, RAPID CITY, SD 57701

Pennington Conservation District will be hosting it's annual conference from 8:30-4 on Thursday, October 29th, 2026 at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

Please join us for interactive presentations on water and soil conservation. Topics will include soil ecology and water monitoring programs, exciting new research, local led conservation, and more!

This is also an opportunity to network be a part of our locally led conservation initiative, and to get information on conservation programs for landowners.

Lunch and coffee will be provided and there is a limited amount of seats available, so please **RSVP** by visiting the events page on our website: penningtonconservation.com
OR fill out the digital form through the QR code.





COOL, CLEAR WATER



Almost all the water absorbed by a tree on a summer day is lost out of the leaves through transpiration. This process moves water from the roots up through the trunk and branches and releases it as water vapor from small holes in the foliage. Less than five percent of the water is used for photosynthesis and other functions.

While water is “lost” through transpiration that does not mean it is wasted. The water vapor from the leaves cools the foliage surface, often as much as 10o to 15oF. This allows photosynthesis to occur at warm air temperatures.

The transpiration stream is also the mechanism that pulls water through the tree without it having to do any work. Each leaf may be transpiring about one-tenth of an ounce of water per day during the summer. A mature elm tree may have more than 150,000 leaves so the tree may transpire more than 100 gallons of water in a single hot summer day!

This means a small community in South Dakota with 2,000 shade trees can release 200,000 gallons a day into the atmosphere if there is sufficient soil moisture. Community trees through their shade and transpiration can create a cooler microclimate. The water vapor cools the air but does not raise the humidity.

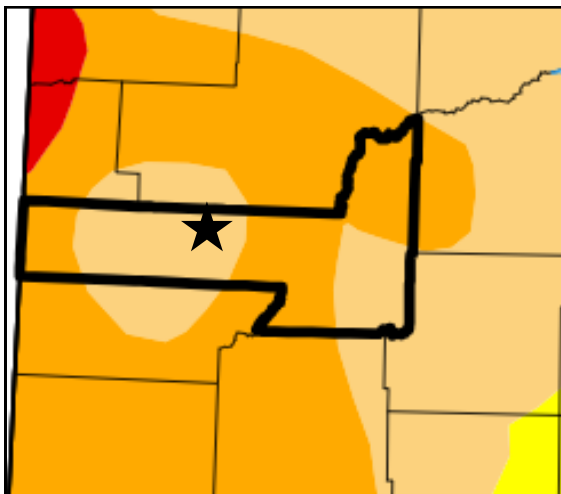
We often forget about the benefits of all the water recycled back to the atmosphere. A recent study shows the Amazon rainforest transpiration creates a ‘flying river’ which moves more water than the Amazon River!



– “What do trees do with the water they absorb?”

Professor John Ball, SDSU, Tree Pest Alert, July 29th, 2026

DROUGHT RESOURCES



University of Nebraska Drought Monitor- Denotes Pennington County as ‘Moderate and Severe Drought’; accessed 9/29/2026

- UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA DROUGHT MONITOR (DROUGHTMONITOR.UNL.EDU)
 - Map jointly produced by the University, NOAA, and USDA updated every Thursday for the United States
- USDA PROGRAMS AND TOOLS (FARMERS.GOV/PROTECTION-RECOVERY/DROUGHT)
 - **Emergency Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program Acres** allows producers to graze livestock on lands enrolled in CRP, except for during primary nesting season.
 - **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)** addresses grazing losses due to drought
 - **Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool**- Learn about USDA disaster assistance programs that might be right for you by completing five simple steps available using the above website URL.

2027 TREE SEASON

The 2027 tree sale is here!

Your order form is included in this newsletter - simply fill it out and return it by:

Email: penningtoncd@sdconservation.net

Mail: Pennington Conservation District 414 E Stumer Rd, Ste 300 Rapid City, SD
57701

Once your order is received, we will send you an invoice. Orders over \$100 will require a 50% deposit.

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT PAYMENT WITH YOUR ORDER FORM

Orders accepted through April 1st 2027, but don't wait to submit your order!

Why Order Early?

- Popular tree and shrub species sell out quickly
- Early orders ensure best selection
- Planning ahead helps us best serve you and the community more efficiently

Visit the "Services" page on our website for the online order form, as well as full descriptions and photos of available trees and bundles:
www.penningtonconservation.com

LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION

We want to hear from you!

If you have not taken the survey found in the QR code below yet, please do.

Nobody knows this land like the people who live and work on it. Your input helps guide conservation work in your area. What you share goes directly to your local conservation district and guides their work on local resource concerns in your area.

You do not have to be a farmer or rancher to complete this survey, we want to know what you are seeing on the landscape.

If you are not interested in an online survey, please feel free to reach out to the district for a hard copy.

Learn more about the locally led conservation initiative here:
<https://www.sdlocalconservation.org>





Pennington Conservation District
414 E Stumer rd STE #300
Rapid City, SD 57701

Your Logo Could Be Here!

Support local conservation and get your business noticed!

Become a Pennington Conservation District Sponsor and we'll feature your logo on this page—right in front of our engaged, conservation-minded readers.

Call 605-503-5299 or email penningtoncd@sdconservation.net to reserve your spot today!

SAVE THE DATE

Join us at our 3rd annual Pennington Conservation District conference!

Thursday, October 29th
SDSMT Beck Ball Room
Parking near building available
Rapid City, SD

Topics include...

- **Water Quality**
- **Current Research**
- **Soil Ecology and Health**
- **Locally Led Conservation**
- **And more!**

Registration and more information: penningtonconservation.com