

Saplings for Watershed-Wise Gardens

The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin is selling saplings this fall to watershed residents to help reduce stormwater runoff, trap sediment and excess nutrients, and add habitat for wildlife.

Beginning on August 12, ICPRB and its partner, Brook Hill United Methodist Church, will sell native saplings for \$45 to watershed residents. The ICPRB is reaching out to suburban homeowners who are not assisted by other landscape improvement programs. The saplings have been selected for their ability to thrive in drier soils, and some species were selected for their compact growth habits. Grown by RPM Ecosystems, the saplings develop a superior root system and develop at a faster rate by using a special root pruning method.

Suburban homeowners often deal with issues such as small lots, overhead power lines, and public sidewalks. Homeowners interested in purchasing trees should consider their goals for the landscape so that the right tree or large shrub is selected from the beginning. The ICPRB's web page, www.potomacriver.org, on the trees highlights mature size, sunlight and water needs, and other unique features of each of the trees being sold. The ICPRB also has a certified arborist on its staff to answer any questions about the trees. Anyone in the watershed can purchase trees, however, they must be picked up at Brook Hill United Methodist Church in Frederick, Md., on Saturday, October 4. Purchasers must prepay for the saplings by September 21. Order forms are available on the ICPRB website at www.potomacriver.org.