**News Release: Feb. 28, 2014**

**Contact: Leslie Fitzwater Smithson, Public Information Specialist, 304-957-9342 or 304-541-8102,** [**Leslie.C.Smithson@wv.gov**](mailto:Leslie.C.Smi@wv.gov)

**Avoid Tree/Power Line Conflicts**

**Plant low-growing species from W.Va. State Tree Nursery**

WEST COLUMBIA,W.Va. – Trees and power lines don’t mix. Avoid conflicts by planting the right tree in the right place. Low-growing species like silky dogwood, Eastern redbud and Allegheny chinkapin are excellent choices for planting under or near overhead power lines. All three species currently are available from Clements State Tree Nursery.

Silky dogwood is a large shrub, typically growing only up to 10 feet tall. It can easily grow into thickets because, where stems come in contact with the ground, roots are formed. Silky dogwood helps stabilize slopes, riverbanks and creek sides making it an excellent choice to plant for erosion control. It is also a favorite of wildlife, and can be planted in landscapes as an ornamental tree.

The Eastern redbud is small in height, usually reaching about 40 feet. Its small size makes it perfect for ornamental plantings in yards or landscapes where overhead power lines are common. Clusters of pink, purple or white flowers bloom in early spring, bringing much-needed color to the not-yet-green landscape. In autumn, the tree’s heart-shaped leaves turn yellow, making redbud a fall favorite among leaf peepers.

The Allegheny chinkapin is a shrub-like tree that reaches a height of only 15 to 20 feet. It is a species of chestnut and produces a small nut that is excellent for feeding wildlife, including squirrels, chipmunks, deer, woodpeckers and other birds. When several seedlings are planted in proximity, they can form a dense thicket that provides great cover for wildlife.

Order online at [www.wvcommerce.org/ClementsNursery](http://www.wvcommerce.org/ClementsNursery) or call 304-675-1820. Order forms can be printed from the website and mailed to Clements State Tree Nursery, 624 Forestry Drive, West Columbia, WV 25287.

**# # #**