



CONSERVATION INFORMATION

Spring 2017

ANNUAL TREE SEEDLING SALE

Have you placed your order for tree seedlings? If not, you still have time. The Adams Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) would like to remind everyone that our annual tree seedling sale is still going on. This program assists landowners in purchasing low-cost tree seedlings. Tree planting provides erosion control, windbreaks, and wildlife shelter, aside from just improving the appearance of your property.

We are still taking orders for two year old White Pine and Norway Spruce bare root seedlings, which will be available for Spring planting. Seedlings are sold in packs of 25 for \$15.

If you have never taken advantage of our tree seedling program you may not be aware how easy the planting process can be. Many customers don't realize that one pack of 25 tree seedlings can be held in your hand, so transportation from our office to home is very easy.

Once you get your trees home they should be planted right away.

There are a couple of different methods to plant your seedlings; the hole method and the slit method. The hole method may be considered the better way to plant your trees because you get the roots spread throughout the soil which will help the tree take in nutrients and moisture better, however this method takes a lot longer and requires more muscle.

The slit method is definitely the easiest way to get your seedlings in the ground. To use this method you will need a planting bar, shovel, spade or spud bar to create a slit in the ground. Make sure that the slit is deep enough to receive all the roots. If you have 12 inches of roots then you will need a 12 inch slit in the ground. You may need to trim the seedlings taproot to a length of 8-12 inches. Once the seedling is placed

in the slit, you will need to press the soil up against the roots and use your heel to press the ground closed around the seedling. We have printed instruction sheets in our office that will assist you in this very easy process.

You may place your order and make payment at the **Adams SWCD office** at **807 NE Main St., #B West Union, OH 45693.** (located in the USDA Service Center). If you would like to receive your order form by email, please contact our office. Orders will be taken on a first come, first served basis until our supply is exhausted. For more information contact our office at (937) 544-1010. There is no limit to the number of packets you may order. Buyers will be notified when seedlings are delivered to the Adams SWCD office. Expected date of arrival is March 22. For your convenience you may fill out the form below and mail in with your payment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

I would like to order _____ pack of 25 seedlings x \$15/pack of White Pine

I would like to order _____ pack of 25 seedlings x \$15/pack of Norway Spruce

I have enclosed \$ _____ for _____ pack(s) of seedlings.

Cut this form out and mail with payment to Adams SWCD (address listed in above article)



*"The best
time to plant
a tree is ten
years ago.
The next best
time is today"*
- Ancient
Proverb

MILKWEED POD UPDATE

Several months ago Adams SWCD participated in the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative, a program designed to collect milkweed pods. Thanks to your efforts approximately 2,500 gallons of milkweed pods were collected throughout the state. All of the milkweed pods collected have been delivered to Department of Corrections institutions where they are currently harvesting the seeds from the pods. Once the seeds are harvested they will be stratified (placed in cold storage) for approximately 40 days to improve germination. Once this process is complete a portion of the seeds will come back to Adams County. Remaining seed will be used on habitat projects in Ohio.

Supervisor Begins New Term

January 1st marked the beginning of a three year term for re-elected Supervisor Jack Hazelbaker. He joins Garine Shoemaker, Jake Rhonemus, Mark Ross, and Alex Newman as the governing board of Adams Soil and Water Conservation District. The five member team serves in a volunteer capacity. They are responsible for the daily activities of Adams SWCD as well as overseeing the financial side of the agency. Congratulations to Jack as he begins his new term.



Front L-R: Jake Rhonemus, Jack Hazelbaker, Alex Newman
Back L-R: Garine Shoemaker, Mark Ross

Real Outdoor Women

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Brown, Adams and Highland counties are gearing up for the third year of "Tri-County R.O.W." - Real Outdoor Women. We are excited to announce our 3rd year will consist of three wonderful events! Save the following dates:

June 15th - Introduction to Handguns

July 20th - Importance of Pollinators

Sept 21st - Outdoor Cookfires and Canning

This is a series of evening events that introduce participants to a new outdoor pursuit. R.O.W. is a great opportunity for ladies of all ages who have an interest in outdoor pursuits but may not know where to start. You can register for just one evening or all three. It is your choice! Even better, you do not have to have equipment or licenses to participate in our program.

Pre-registration is required and a fee of \$15.00 for each evening provides participants with a light meal and materials used during the event. For more information or to receive a brochure, call the Brown Co SWCD office at 937-378-4424, ext. 125.

Lawn Care Facts: Studies show mowing your lawn to a height of 4" prevents crabgrass as effectively as a chemical herbicide.

26th Ohio Brush Creek Sweep

Adams SWCD and Adams Brown Recycling are already making plans for the 26th Annual Ohio Brush Creek Sweep. **Save the date: Saturday May 13, 2017.** The section of creek we will clean up this year has not been determined yet and may be a last minute decision as we monitor water levels. As always, you should register early to ensure a space. Requirements to participate are simple: a desire to make a positive impact on our environment and not

afraid of working hard and getting dirty. Ability to swim is recommended but not required. Adams SWCD will provide trash bags, canoes, paddles, and life jackets as well as a safety orientation. Participants will need to dress prepared to get wet and dirty. Bring your own lunch and work gloves. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Don't delay, register today by calling the Adams SWCD office at 937-544-1010.



Check out photos from last year's Sweep on our website at: adamssoilandwater.org (select Our Watersheds tab)



MAINTAINING YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

contributed by Adams Co. Health Dept.

If you live in a rural area or have a weekend cabin far from municipal or county sewer systems, you most likely have a septic system buried somewhere on your property. Out of sight, and typically out of mind, this onsite sewage treatment facility may be the most overlooked and undervalued utilities of your home. With proper care and maintenance, septic systems can function for more than 25 to 30 years.

A properly functioning septic system not only disposes of household wastewater, but prevents contamination of groundwater which can lead to pollution of local wells, streams, lakes, and ponds. Serious diseases can be caused by drinking water contaminated with bacteria and viruses from human waste. Nitrates and phosphates, also found in household wastewater can contribute to excessive algae growth in lakes and streams.

There are two main parts to the basic septic system: the septic tank and the drain field or leach field. Wastewater first flows into the septic tank where heavy solids settle to the bottom of the tank and light solids float to the top. Naturally occurring bacteria work on the solids to break them down. The separated wastewater is pushed into the drain field where the soil acts as a natural filter to further treat it. Depending on the type of soil and space available, some septic systems do not have drain fields but have motorized aerators or ultraviolet light to help treat the wastewater.

Slow moving drains, unpleasant odors, and soggy lawns can be signs that the septic system needs attention. A regular inspec-

tion program and pumping of the septic tank can avoid inconvenient and costly repairs to the system. Local health departments in Ohio are now required to periodically inspect septic systems in their jurisdictions. Owners of septic systems with motorized aerators must maintain a service contract with the motor manufacturer to help ensure the system operates properly. Most residential septic systems should be pumped out at least once every three years. A licensed septic-waste hauler can help determine when a system should be pumped out.

The first, and perhaps most important step in maintaining your septic system is knowing its location. A sketch of the septic system noting the location of the septic tank and drain fields on the property should be kept with important household papers. Nothing but grass should be planted over a drain field and care should be used not to drive over the area.

Too much water can upset the delicate biological balance within the septic tank. Conserving water not only saves money, but helps the septic system function properly. Be careful of what is washed down drains and flushed into the sewer-line. A general rule of thumb is that nothing should be disposed of in a septic system that could just as easily be placed in the trash. Coffee grounds, table scraps, cooking fats, wet-strength towels, facial tissues, and excessive amounts of household chemicals are examples of things best kept out of a septic system.

For more information about septic systems, contact the Adams County Health Department at 937-544-5547.

Don't forget that we have a 10' No-Till Drill and 3 ton Lime Spreader for rent. Call 937-544-1010 or stop by our office for information on how you can rent this equipment. Information is also on our website at adamssoilandwater.org



THANKS TO OUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS and STATE LEGISLATORS

We are appreciative that the Adams Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors and Staff have a good working relationship with our Adams County Commissioners. We want to thank Commissioners Brian Baldrige, Ty Pell and Diane Ward for their support and dedica-

tion to our conservation efforts. Their continued financial support at the county level draws matching funds from the State of Ohio which enables Adams SWCD to provide conservation assistance, information, and education to all Adams County residents. Please join us in

thanking our County Commissioners, State Sen. Joe Uecker and State Rep. Terry Johnson. With their support, we will continue working toward our mission of "providing leadership and services that enable our District to conserve, protect, and enhance our natural resources."

ADAMS
SOIL and WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
807 NE Main St., #B
West Union, OH 45693
Phone: 937-544-1010



All meetings regarding the operation of the Adams Soil & Water Conservation District are open to the public, in accordance with the Sunshine Law (Section 121.22 ORC)

SWCD STAFF

Richard Purdin

Conservation Technician
richard.purdin@oh.nacdn.net

Anita Conaway

Administrative Assistant
conaway.adams.swcd@live.com

Bill Wickerham

District Mgr./ Wildlife Specialist
wickerham.adams.swcd@live.com

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jack Hazelbaker
Board Chairman

Jake Rhonemus
Fiscal Agent

Mark Ross
Secretary

Alex Newman
Vice Chairman

Garine Shoemaker
Alt. Fiscal Agent

NRCS STAFF

Kyle Wheeler
District Conservationist

Lee Walker
Resource Conservationist

Kevin Persinger
Civil Engineering Tech.

807 NE Main St., Suite B
West Union, OH 45693
937-544-2033

HERE'S WHAT WE'LL BE DOING

March 22: Tree seedlings arrive for pick up

March 28: Adams Co. Envirothon at GE Employee Park

April 30 - May 7: Stewardship Week

April 25: Area 5 Envirothon (Scioto Grove Metro Park)

May 13: Ohio Brush Creek Sweep

May 20: Scioto Brush Creek Sweep

OUR MISSION

TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND SERVICES THAT ENABLE OUR DISTRICT TO CONSERVE, PROTECT, AND ENHANCE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.