

JANUARY – MARCH

2025



VAN WERT

Soil & Water Conservation District
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Telephone (419) 238-9591

Web site: www.vanwertswcd.org

Tree Order Forms Are Now Available

The 2025 Tree Order Forms are now available in the office. The species available are: Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce, White Pine, American Arborvitae, Sugar Maple, Black Chokeberry, Red Osier Dogwood, Black Cherry, Swamp White Oak, Bur Oak, and Pin Oak. The seedlings are packaged in packets of ten.

Two seed packets are offered. America Wildflower and Butterfly/Hummingbird blend.

The Wildflower seed contains 12 different annual and 17 different perennial species adapted for this area. The Butterfly/Hummingbird blend contains 18 different annual and 5 different perennial varieties.

Each 1 ounce packet will cover approximately 300 square feet.

This program is open to the public and orders will be accepted until March 14, 2025. Payment is required when orders are placed. There is no warranty or guarantee on the seedlings.

Orders will be available for pickup from the office the week of April 21st. An email will be sent with information on the specific pick up dates and time. Please be sure to include

your email address on your order form.

Stop in the office if you have questions or need help in developing a planting plan for a windbreak. Pictures and species information are available.



Fish Fingerlings for Sale

The SWCD is now taking orders for fish fingerlings. The types of fish available are: largemouth bass, blue gill, channel catfish, minnow, shell-cracker, and white amur. The fish are available in lots of 10-25, as stated on the order form. The minnow is available in lots of 500 and the white amur are ordered in a lot of 2.

The fish sale is an opportunity for pond owners to stock or re-stock the ponds at a reasonable cost.

Orders will be accepted until April 24. Payment is expected when placing the order. The fish will be delivered to the SWCD office on Thursday, May 1 at 3:00 p.m.

Stocking recommendations for a one acre pond are:

- ✧ 100 largemouth bass
- ✧ 500 blue gill
- ✧ 100 channel catfish
- ✧ 500-1000 fat head minnow

White amur recommendations are based on the amount of weed cover in the pond. If the pond has 20-40% vegetation the recommendation is 10 amur; above 40% weed cover the recommendation is 15 amur.

Orders will be boxed and ready at the time of delivery. Order forms are available in the office or on the web-site.

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H2Ohio Updates

by: Kady Fuhrmann

Currently in Van Wert County we have 85% of contracts signed and approved for 2024-2025 crop years. With the new development of MyFarms, technicians have been busy creating plans and verifying 2024 practices since July. There are going to be continuous improvements to the H2Ohio program along with the MyFarms Program. Enrollment dates for 2026 – 2027 are uncertain. We believe it can be expected to launch late summer 2025 after the budget has been approved. Anyone interested in re-enrolling or enrolling for the first time are encouraged to start and prepare for their upcoming 2 year contract. That includes pulling soil tests for fields that have a test date from 2022 or older, organizing crop rotation and yield goals for their fields, and preparing recommendations for their anticipated crops. Please read a short paragraph and graphics about the program's success thus far copied from the H2Ohio Accomplishments for fiscal year 2024 annual report. (More from the annual report can be found at <https://h2.ohio.gov/track-our-progress/annual-reports>).

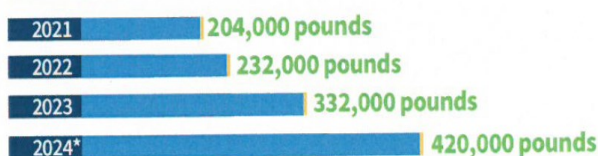
Program Successes

“After five years, ODA has experienced significant success within H2Ohio. In 2024, a robust re-enrollment in the original 14 counties of the Maumee River Watershed resulted in a 32% increase in acres from previous enrollment years, with approximately 90% of original producers returning to H2Ohio. In total, 1.85 million acres and 2,600 producers enrolled and will be implementing VNMPs across all 24 counties of the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) over the next two years. This represents nearly 43% of the total cropland in the area, or nearly 1 in 2 fields.

Since the launch of H2Ohio, ODA has focused its efforts in the WLEB due to the large concentration of farmland in northwest Ohio. In addition to encouraging producers to enroll acres into other proven, cost-effective BMPs, ODA educates farmers and partners with agricultural retailers to ensure long-term adoption. ODA streamlined practice enrollment and program requirements this year, taking the number of BMPs offered from seven to four. Best management practices include overwintering cover, manure management, subsurface placement, and precision application.

ODA works closely with SWCDs to administer participant contracts, provide technical assistance, and support producers with the implementation of best management practices. H2Ohio provides producers cost-saving benefits, such as financial and technical assistance, to employ conservation practices that are proven to improve soil health and water quality.”

Estimated ODA Phosphorus Reduction Progress



*Potential load reduction based on enrolled acres

Based on the 2023 completed BMP data, ODA estimates agricultural producers reduced phosphorus runoff by more than 332,000 pounds last year in the WLEB. As ODA continues to increase program enrollment, H2Ohio practices have the potential to reduce phosphorus by as much as 420,000 pounds in 2024.



Winter Manure Application

With the winter season upon us, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Conservation would like to remind producers and nutrient applicators of laws and restrictions on manure application.

Ohio Senate Bill 1 clarifies and enhances the restrictions on manure application within the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB).

Application restrictions in the WLEB include:

- On snow-covered or frozen soil;
- When the top 2 inches of the soil are saturated from precipitation;
- When the local weather forecast for the application area contains greater than fifty percent chance of precipitation exceeding one-half inch in a 24-hour period. Applica-

tors are responsible for checking and keeping forecast information before application. Any source of weather prediction is acceptable.

Restrictions do not apply if:

- The manure is injected into the ground;
- Manure is incorporated within 24 hours of surface application, using a tillage tool operated at a minimum of 3-4 inches deep;
- The manure is applied onto a growing crop;
- The chief of the Division of Soil and Water Conservation has provided written consent for an emergency application. Contact the division in case of an emergency.

For those producers who are signed up for the H2Ohio ma-

nure incorporation practices, it is important to note that the program will not pay for winter manure application as stated in the program guidelines.

Producers are reminded to use best management practices when applying manure and follow USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Standard 590.

For more information about manure application, producers and applicators can contact the ODA Division of Soil and Water Conservation at 614-265-6610 or dswc@agri.ohio.gov.



Education



Our Education Coordinator, Tammy Campbell, visits schools in Van Wert County to educate children on many different topics. Above she is pictured teaching kids about soil while they are making garden monsters. Many of these programs are made possible by the generous grant we receive from the Van Wert County Foundation each year. Together we are helping children learn through hands on experiences.

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1185 Professional Drive
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Upcoming 2025 Dates ~

January 2	Tree Seedling/ Fish Sale Begins
January 8	SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
January 20	MLK Day– Holiday
February 12	SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
February 17	President’s Day– Holiday
March 12	SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
March 14	End of tree sale