



VAN WERT

Soil & Water Conservation District
1185 Professional Drive, Van Wert, OH 45891
Telephone (419) 238-9591
Web site: www.vanwertswcd.org

Tree Order Forms Are Now Available

The 2023 Tree Order Forms are now available in the office. The species available are: Red Osier Dogwood, Colorado Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce, Paw Paw, Austrian Pine, Eastern White Pine, American Arborvitae. Also, Black Cherry, Black Walnut, Black Chokeberry, Pin Oak, Bur Oak, Red Bud, Sugar Maple, and Swamp White 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 31, 2023. 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 toward the end of April. 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.

H2Ohio Update by Kady Fuhrmann H2Ohio Technician

Another crop year is in the books for the H2Ohio program! Thank You to all the Farmers for all their hard work and dedication to our county. Special thank-you to those enrolled in the H2Ohio program. The program has had its fair share of learning curves for all parties and your patience and cooperation with me and the program is greatly appreciated. H2Ohio is coming on its final year of its 3-year contract. The future of the program is not set in stone, but I would not anticipate it going anywhere. By the summer of 2023, there should be official word of what is in store for H2Ohio.

As always, once I know I will do my best to send out letters, emails, remind text, and phone calls to keep everyone up to date on the latest H2Ohio news.

For more information about the new updates or H2Ohio please contact Kady Fuhrmann at kaidlyn.fuhrmann@nacdn.net or at my direct extension 567-259-4258.



Inside this issue:

Wetland Reserve Easement Program	2
Fish Fingerling Sale	2
Manure Application	3
Heidelberg water testing	3
Upcoming Dates and Events	4

JANUARY – MARCH, 2023
 ISSUE

✧ TREE ORDERS ARE BEING ACCEPTED UNTIL MARCH 31, 2023

✧ FISH ORDER FORM IS NOW AVAILABLE

Wetland Reserve Easement Program

Description: USDA's Ohio Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications from landowners interested in restoring, enhancing, and protecting wetlands with financial and technical assistance through the Wetlands Reserve Easement Program (WRE). The deadline to receive fiscal year 2023 funding is February 17, 2023.

Wetland Reserve Easements can help landowners protect land from development, restore critical wildlife habitat for outdoor recreation, and improve water quality by filtering sediments and reduce flooding. We would ask for our partners to help spread awareness of the program and its benefits through the use of the following materials. Please feel free to post on your own websites, social media pages and send out to any distribution lists.

Video

NRCS Wetland Reserve Easements. Length 00:25.

<https://youtu.be/qHtcO99nC34>

Learn more and sign up for the

Natural Resources Conservation Service Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) here: <https://bit.ly/3tyifkw>. The WRE program can help landowners protect land from development, restore critical wildlife habitat for outdoor recreation, and improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals and reducing flooding.

Social Media Accompanying Text (Photo files on page 2 and page 3)

Leave a Legacy Tweet: Clean water, wildlife habitat, and recreation. What legacy do you want to leave for your children and grandchildren? Sign up for the @NRCS_Ohio Wetland Reserve Easement program by Feb. 17, 2023: <https://bit.ly/3tyifkw>

Protect Your Land Tweet: Ohio's natural places need your protection more than ever. Enjoy the privacy and recreational opportunities that [the @NRCS Ohio Wetland Reserve Easement Program](#) can provide. Sign up by Feb. 17, 2023: <https://bit.ly/3tyifkw>

Improve Ohio's Water Quality Tweet: Wetlands act like filters,

trapping sediment and reducing flooding. Learn how you can help improve Ohio's water quality through the @NRCS_Ohio Wetland Reserve Easement Program can provide. Sign up by Feb. 17, 2023: <https://bit.ly/3tyifkw>

Attract Wildlife Tweet: There's no denying the thrill of spotting wildlife in their natural habitat. Conservation programs like the NRCS Wetland Reserve Easement program play an important role in restoring and protecting critical habitat. Learn more and sign up by Feb. 17, 2023:

<https://bit.ly/3tyifkw>



Fish Fingerlings for Sale

The SWCD will be taking orders for fish fingerlings soon. The types of fish available are: largemouth bass, blue gill, channel catfish, minnow, shell-cracker, crappie, perch, 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 restock the ponds at a reasonable cost.



Orders will be accepted until April 28. Payment is expected when placing the order.

The fish will be delivered to the SWCD office on Thursday May 4 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 website.



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.

Water Testing

The Van Wert Soil & Water Conservation District has partnered with Heidelberg University's National Center for Water Quality Research to offer residents the opportunity to have their well water tested.

If your drinking water comes from a private well, you are responsible for your water's safety. If you have never had your water supply tested, it is always a good idea to educate yourself on what is present in your drinking water and provide yourself with some baseline information in the event there are changes in the future that may impact the quality of your water supply.

Should you test your well water?

Your well has an increased likelihood of contamination if:

- Your well is more than 20 years old
- Your well was dug or driven rather than drilled
- Your well is shallow
- Your soil is sandy
- A chemical spill is known to have happened nearby
- Your well is near possible sources of contamination, such as: cropland, feedlots, landfills, industrial sites (active or abandoned).

Even if your well fits none of these categories, you cannot know the quality of your water without testing. Contaminants may have entered the ground without your

knowledge or before you lived at the site.

Due to supply and testing equipment issues, the only test kit Heidelberg is offering at this time is the basic nitrate test, which includes testing for nitrates, nitrites, ammonia, chloride, sulfates, fluoride, soluble phosphorus, silica, and conductivity.

The cost of the kit is \$30.00 (which includes shipping), made payable to Van Wert SWCD.

The test kits will be for sale Monday, Feb. 13th through Friday, Feb. 17th, 2023. The samples must be returned to the Van Wert SWCD on Monday, Feb. 20th between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Participants can expect their confidential results back in two to four weeks from Heidelberg University.

Van Wert SWCD
1185 Professional Drive
Van Wert, OH 45891

Nonprofit Organization
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The Van Wert SWCD and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender, identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department.

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NRCS Staff

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Tinina Hale, Civil Engineer
Noel Morris, Soil Conservation Tech
Jeff Carlson, PF Farm Bill Biologist

Upcoming 2023 Dates ~

January 2	Tree Seedling/ Fish Sale Begins
January 11	SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
January 16	MLK Day– Holiday
February 8	SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
February 20	President’s Day– Holiday
March 8	SWCD Board Meeting—8 AM
March 31	End of tree sale