



CLEARWATER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT | WINTER 2026

# Clearwater's Conservation Chronicles

## IN THIS ISSUE:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. New No-till Drill                          | Page 2  |
| 1. Invasive Plants                            | Page 3  |
| 1. Tree and Flower Sale                       | Page 4  |
| 1. Custom Services Flyer                      | Page 5  |
| 1. Soil Rentals Flyer                         | Page 6  |
| 1. Education Flyer<br>2. NRCS Flyer           | Page 7  |
| 1. Coffee & Crops Flyer<br>2. Thank You Flyer | Page 8  |
| 1. Drinking Water Flyer                       | Page 9  |
| 1. Rain Gage                                  | Page 10 |
| 1. Puzzle Page                                | Page 11 |

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## New No-till Drill to Arrive Next Spring

We're adding to our fleet!

For 2026 Clearwater SWCD will be adding another new no-till drill to our rental lineup, which currently boasts 3 no-till drills. The district has received requests from producers to provide a larger drill for rent and in spring 2026 Clearwater SWCD will be able to answer that request by providing a 15-foot Esch no-till drill for rent.

The new 15-foot drill operates the same as the 12-foot Esch drill the district has owned since 2023 which comes equipped with 5.5" row spacing and a 90-degree pivot for narrower transport. Rental rates for 2026 will remain the same with all our drills; a \$140 down payment that covers the first 10 acres and \$14 per acre after the first 10 acres. The new larger drill will assist producers in a more efficient approach to bringing no-till planting into their farming operations with less passes over the fields and larger numbers of acres planted per hour. By providing another drill to rent, Clearwater SWCD is working to meet this growing demand for drill rental. As in past years, there will be cost share available for producers looking to implement no-till and cover crops in their farming operations. Give us a call this summer to inquire about the new drill.



# Clearwater County Invasive Plant Awareness

## Do You Know What's Growing in Your Backyard?

Have you seen plants that you don't remember seeing in the past? They could be invasive species that are negatively impacting our native ecosystems. We have over 100 species of plants in Clearwater County that are not native to our area. Many of these plants go unnoticed and coexist with the native species without issue. The plants that are taking over and replacing native species are the ones we consider invasive. There are some that have been here for a very long time and we are used to seeing them, but there are also some that are relatively new, and have brought some concern to our county.

Invasive species that have been here a while and are well established include: Ox-eye Daisy, Plumeless Thistle, Canada Thistle, Hoary Alyssum, Common Tansy, Spotted Knapweed, and Hawkweed. Many of these are quite aggressive and some are more difficult to control than others. There are not many pastures, fallow fields, or wood edges that do not contain any of these species and most of us are probably quite familiar with some of these species. Some people may even find some of these species to be attractive because on some properties people will mow around these plants and let them bloom, not knowing they are allowing an invasive species to thrive.

There are a couple species of invasive plants that are relatively new to our area and need some attention brought upon them so we can slow their spread or find effective ways of controlling them. The first one of these is Wild Parsnip. It is a moderately tall plant with umbels of yellow flowers. It is a biennial that produces a lot of seeds and has sap that can burn our skin. So far it is mostly found in ditches around our county, and as of now it is not plentiful. It has a couple native plants that look similar, including Cow Parsnip which is slightly more robust and has larger white umbels of flower. The other look alike is Golden Alexander, which is smaller than Wild Parsnip, but has very similar but smaller umbels of yellow flowers. The second invasive newcomer in our county is Burnet Saxifrage, it is another moderately tall plant, with fine upper leaves and umbels of small white flowers. This plant has become very prominent in the northern part of our county, but seems to be quite common throughout most of the county. It is so aggressive that it creates dense monocultures, even invading established sod. If anyone has successfully found a way to control this plant, please contact us as we would love to be able to pass this information on to anyone else struggling with this plant.



**Wild Parsnip**

Credit: MN Dept. of Ag



**Burnet Saxifrage**

Credit: UofM Extensions/Jeffery Flory

# 2026 Tree and Flower Sale

Once again, it's time to think about ordering trees! Each year we sell a variety of native conifers, shrubs, fruiting and deciduous trees. We also offer Orchard, Bird & Grouse and Jam & Jelly packs for a larger variety. Our bare root trees are typically 1-2 feet in height and are locally grown in Minnesota and North Dakota. Most of our species come in bundles of 25 and range from \$20 to \$40 per bundle. We cannot sell bundles of less than 25 trees, unless already noted on the form. The deadline to turn in your tree order form is any time before the first day of tree pick-up.



We are also selling a variety of Minnesota native flowers and grasses. We will be selling our flowers and grasses in specific packs. There are a variety of packs to choose from. The packs are sold as 36 total plants with 6 different species. Species included in the packs will vary based on current inventory and availability from the nursey, but will have a variety of bloom times and colors. The flowers and grasses are locally grown and from MN Native Landscapes. You can check out what the packs may consist of at their website: <https://mnlcorp.com/product-category/signature-plant-kits/>. Please be aware that the deadline to turn in your flower and grass form is before April 1<sup>st</sup> (and that's no joke!). We will start accepting order forms for both flowers and trees in January 2026. Please mail in or visit the office to drop off your order form(s). A check (preferred method) or cash value of your total amount is expected with your order form. Clearwater SWCD does not accept credit/debit cards. Also, be sure to provide your email *and* phone number so that we may inform you of any changes. Notifications that tree pick-up dates are nearing are exclusively sent by email.

Please remember that all our trees, flowers and grasses are first come, first serve. If you think we will sell out of a specific species, and we do sell out frequently, turn in your order, form and payment ASAP. You can always check our website at [www.clearwaterswcd.com/](http://www.clearwaterswcd.com/) for updates on the Tree & Flower Annual Sale page. We typically announce that certain species are sold out on the online PDF order form daily. If you have an extra large order or are purchasing trees/flowers to use in a government program, it may be easier to give us a call at (218) 694-6845 ext. 4 to make sure all your needed plants are available.

Our pick-up location is at the DNR Forestry building at 36452 State Hwy 92, Bagley, MN 56621. We still enjoy the smoothness of having our pick-ups done by car so please stay in your vehicle during pick up so we can quickly grab everyone's plants with ease. Our pick-up dates are planned as April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and website for updates regarding our sale season.



## Annual Flyers: [Pages 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9](#)

### Custom Services Provided:

#### Tree Planting:

Staff will plant by hand or machine (tractor not provided).



#### Broadcast Seeding:

Staff will broadcast seed.





# Soil Health Equipment Rentals:

## No-till Drills:

interseed pastures,  
plant cover crops &  
more! →



Two different  
styles of drills to  
choose from!

## Sprayer:

remove unwanted  
plants or prep the  
field! →



Plus, a new 15-foot Esch Arriving This Spring!

See article on page 2 for more information.



# Environmental Education and Events

Keep an eye out for our local events and classes in the Bagley Community Education brochure, on our website and on our Facebook page!



Did you know the NRCS is available in the same building as the SWCD?



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is available for forest, pasture, and cropland conservation assistance! Financial and Technical help is available. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) financially helps you address a specific set of resource concerns including, but not limited to - improving wildlife habitat, fixing a soil erosion problem, and improving pasture conditions. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) provides five years of annual payments rewarding you for being good stewards of the land and implementing certain activities to take your conservation above and beyond. Financial programs are competitive and not guaranteed but applicable technical assistance is always available.

Contact Nate Brandt at 218-694-6584 or 320-423-0194 for more info.

# COFFEE & COVER CROPS

**Come have a coffee  
with us and your  
neighbors to chat  
about soil health!**

**Starting in February Clearwater  
SWCD will be hosting a series of  
producer led meetings to  
discuss soil health. These  
meetings will be held all around  
the county.**

**Any questions you may have  
regarding cover crops, no-till,  
soil health, or available SWCD  
programs are welcomed.  
Coffee and refreshments will be  
provided.**

**Keep an eye out on our  
Facebook page and website for  
when and where these  
meetings will be held.**



## *Thank You*

*To all our wonderful volunteers and local partners:  
we are sincerely grateful for your support!  
Thank you for another fantastic year!*





# 50%

## Reimbursement of total cost for Bacteria and Nitrates series well test

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Clearwater SWCD will pay 50% of water test costs through RMB labs if the participant is willing to share a copy of the test results.

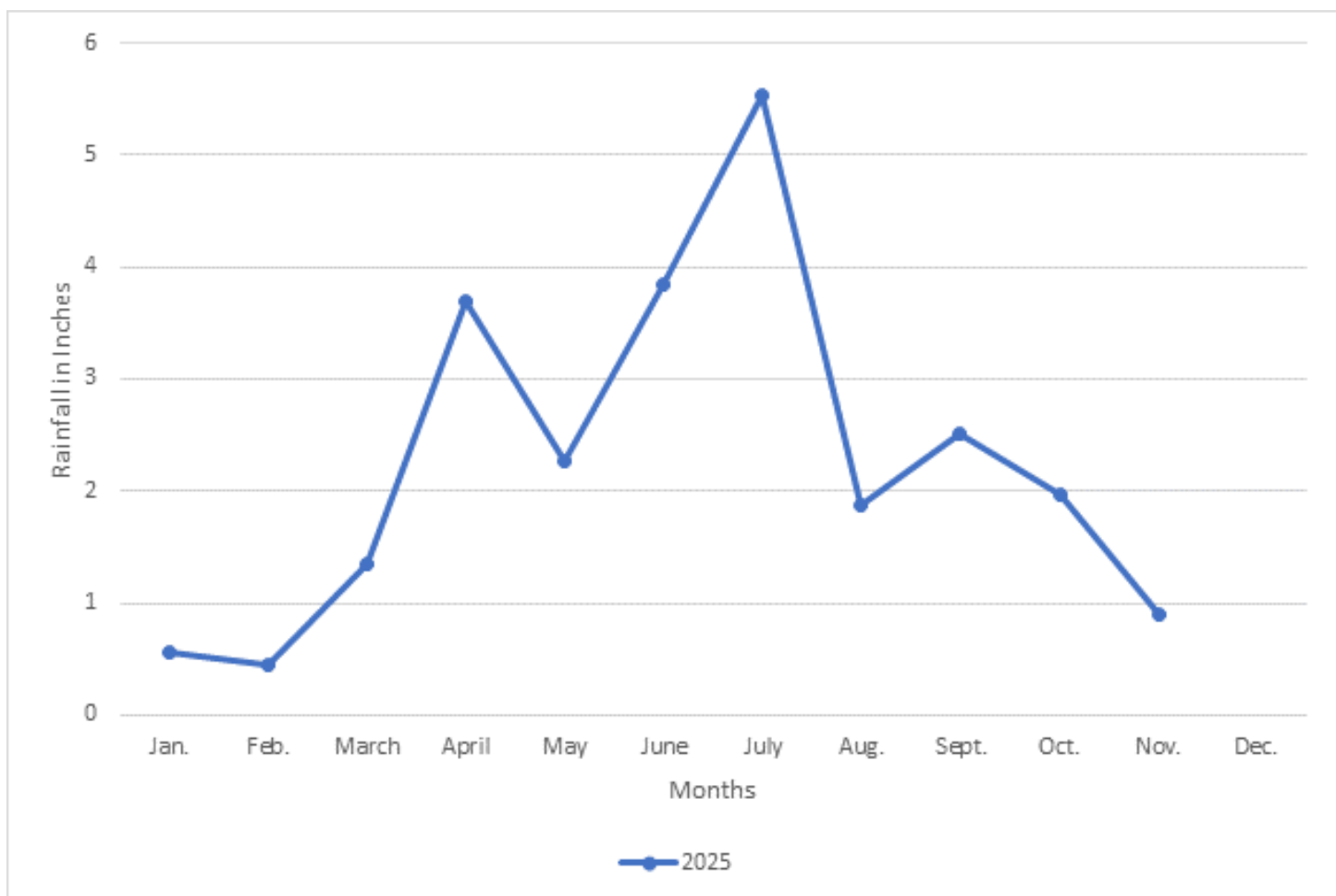
**All participant information  
will remain confidential.**

Program participants within the Mississippi Watershed pay for their own tests in full, and then Clearwater SWCD reimburses 50% of total cost for Bacteria and nitrates series tests once a copy of the test results from RMB are provided to the SWCD.

# Clearwater County Rain Gauge

Clearwater SWCD, along with local volunteers, have been working with the Minnesota Climatology Network to gather rainfall data since 1978. We currently have volunteers collecting rainfall data in Copley, Eddy, Falk, Greenwood, Itasca, Minerva, Moose Creek, Pine Lake, Popple, and Rice townships.

## Clearwater County Average Annual Rainfall 2025

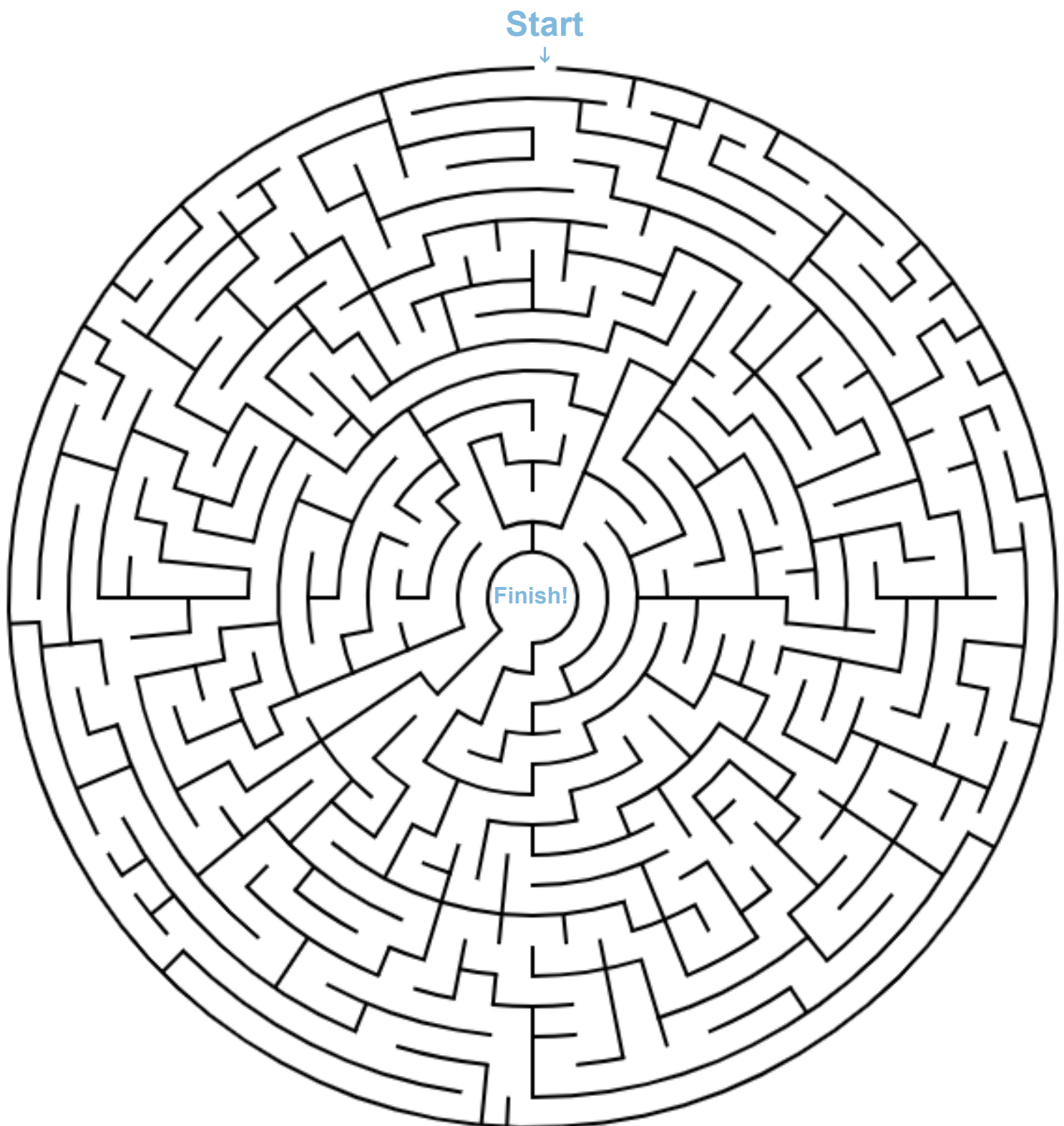




# ✧ Clearwater's Puzzle Page! ✧

This newsletter's event: **Maze**

Find your way to the center of the crop circle!





# CLEARWATER

Soil & Water Conservation District

312 Main Ave N, Suite 3  
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POSTAGE



# CLEARWATER

Soil & Water Conservation District

Visit Our Website



## Mission:

Our mission is simple - to promote the wise use and improvement of our county resources, in order that future generations will inherit an economically viable county that has made wise choices in resource management.

**312 Main Ave North Suite 3, Bagley, MN 56621**  
**218-694-6845 ext 4 | [www.ClearwaterSWCD.com](http://www.ClearwaterSWCD.com)**

