



CONSERVATION UPDATE

Orleans County Soil & Water Conservation District January 2016

What do trees do for you?

Trees are beneficial in many ways. To many people trees are simply something to look at and pick up after. Trees have a very important role in everyday life though. They are vital in the survival of wildlife and the environment.

Trees act to improve and protect water quality. They can be used to treat animal



waste and irrigation wastewater. When liquid and solid wastes are spread near trees, the trees act as filters. The very same excess nutrients that pollute our waters are actually a source of food for trees. Nutrients are absorbed by tree roots before they can reach our water resources. The leaves of

Continued on page 9

EROSION & SEDIMENT WORKSHOP

Under the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Stormwater Permit GP-0-08-001, all developers, contractors and subcontractors must identify at least one trained individual from their company that will be responsible for implementation of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, and have at least

one trained individual on site on a daily basis when soil disturbance activities are being performed. Also, developers must have a qualified inspector conduct regular site inspections in accordance with GP-0-08-001.

Orleans County SWCD will be hosting a 4 hour NYS DEC Erosion and Sediment Control

Required Training on January 27, 2016 at the Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds—Trolley Building. You must pre-register for this workshop by January 20, 2016. For more information please contact the Orleans County SWCD at 585-589-5959 ext. 5 or Monroe County SWCD at 585-753-7380.

Agricultural Value Assessments (For Tax Exemption)

The Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District is currently accepting requests from property owners in the county to complete their Soil Group Worksheets which are required for their Agricultural Assessment. Agricultural Assessments allow qualified landowners to receive a property tax exemption and are applied for through your local town assessors office. Interested applicants must first obtain a "Long Form" from their assessors office. By law, the Soil Group Worksheet must be completed by the Soil

and Water Conservation District. It is then turned into the assessor along with the long form. Both forms are required for each parcel of land entered into agricultural assessment. The forms must be turned into the assessors office by March 1, 2014. However, you should call to have your Soil Group Worksheet completed as soon as possible to avoid the rush. The District charges \$35 for each worksheet. Landowners who have been in the agricultural assessment program, but have sold off some portion of their parcel(s) MUST have a

new Soil Group Worksheet completed and must still meet eligibility requirements. Please be sure to have the following information when calling: tax parcel ID number, acreage, property owner, owner's mailing address, and address of the property. If you rent your farmland out we need to know the exact acreage that is rented to the farmer.

To continue to receive the agricultural exemption it is required that you apply for it on an annual basis (NYS form RP-305-r).

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Staff:

- Dennis Kirby, Manager
- Judy Bennett, Secretary/Treasurer
- Katie Sommerfeldt, Technician
- Megan McAnn, Technician

Directors

- Edward Morgan, Chairman
- William Eick, Vice-Chairman
- James Neal, Farm Bureau Rep.
- John DeFilippis, Legislative Rep.
- John Kast, Farm Rep. at Large



District Invites you to attend 71st Annual Meeting

Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District cordially invites you to attend their 71st Annual Meeting to be held on January 15, 2016 at Tillman's Village Inn at 12:00 pm. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Please R.S.V.P. by January 11, 2016 by calling (585)589-5959 ext. 5.

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FREE ESTIMATES





Orleans County Soil & Water Conservation District



2016 Tree and Shrub Seedling Order Form

1. Order forms must be received in our office by March 11, 2016 as this is our final reporting date to our suppliers.
2. Payment is required at time of order.
3. **Tree Pickup will be Friday April 22nd** between 8 AM and 6 PM and **Saturday April 23rd** between 8 AM and 1 PM at the Conservation Log Cabin at the Orleans County 4-H Fair Grounds. Please arrange for someone to pick up your seedlings if you are unable to do so. The District will not be responsible for replacement of orders that remain unclaimed after April 23rd.
4. Seedlings must be planted **as soon as possible** after pickup to ensure survival.
5. Bare-root seedlings are not subject to sales tax. Sales tax is included in the price for other conservation supplies. Seedlings are to be used for conservation purposes.
6. Delivery is available to locations within Orleans County for a \$15.00 charge.

Please Print Clearly

NAME: _____ Phone: _____

ADDRESS: _____

email: _____

Trees MUST be ordered in quantities specified. Please do not split between different varieties!

CONIFER SEEDLINGS	AGE/SIZE	25 FOR	50 FOR	100 FOR	QTY	TOTAL COST
White Pine	3-0/6-14"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$56.00		
Concolor Fir	3-0/8-14"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$56.00		
Fraser Fir	3-0/8-14"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$56.00		
Colorado Blue Spruce	3-0/10-16"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$56.00		
White Spruce	3-0/9-15"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$56.00		

CONIFER TRANSPLANTS	AGE/SIZE	10 FOR	50 FOR	100 FOR	QTY	COST
White Cedar (Arborvitae)	2-1/8-15"	\$18.00	\$85.00	\$160.00		
Douglas Fir	2-2/15-24"	\$18.00	\$85.00	\$160.00		
White Pine	2-1/10-16"	\$18.00	\$85.00	\$160.00		
Colorado Blue Spruce	2-2/18-24"	\$17.00	\$80.00	\$150.00		
Norway Spruce	2-2/15-24"	\$17.00	\$80.00	\$150.00		

Subtotal Page 1 _____

DECIDUOUS SEEDLINGS/SHRUBS	AGE/SIZE	10 FOR	30 FOR	50 FOR	100 FOR	QTY	COST
Black Cherry	1-0/12-18"	\$10.00	\$26.00	\$45.00	\$80.00		
Sugar Maple	1-0/12-18"	\$11.00	\$30.00	\$50.00	\$100.00		
Silver Maple	2-0/18-24"	\$12.00	\$33.00	\$55.00	\$110.00		
Pin Oak	1-0/12-18"	\$10.00	\$26.00	\$45.00	\$80.00		
White Oak		\$11.00	\$30.00	\$50.00	\$100.00		
Forsythia	1-0/12-18"	\$10.00	\$26.00	\$45.00	\$80.00		
Lilac	1-0/10-18"	\$10.00	\$26.00	\$45.00	\$80.00		
White Flowering Dogwood	1-0/12-18"	\$11.00	\$30.00	\$50.00	\$100.00		

CONSERVATION PACKS (Seedlings)	PRICE	Qty	COST
Songbird Pack (2 each): Sgt. Crabapple, Juneberry, Elderberry, Chokeberry, Arrowwood	\$16.00		
Nut Tree Pack (2 each): Chinquapin Oak, Black Walnut, Sawtooth Oak, Red Oak, Pin Oak	\$16.00		
Shade Tree Pack (2 each): Sycamore, Red Maple, Hybrid Poplar, Silver Maple, Chinquapin Oak	\$16.00		
Native Flowering Pack (2 each): WF Dogwood, Elderberry, Am Cranberry, Juneberry, Black Chokeberry	\$16.00		

CONSERVATION SUPPLIES (Tax Included)	PRICE	Qty	COST
Fertilizer Tablets each/100	\$ 0.11/\$10		
Root Dip 1 oz.	\$ 1.50		
Tree Shelters 2 foot (includes 2' Oak Stake)	\$ 5.00		
4 foot (includes 4' Oak Stake)	\$ 9.00		
Tree Mats used for weed control (includes 5 sod staples)	\$ 2.50		
Marking Flags per flag/per bundle of 100	\$ 0.11/\$10		
Bluebird Box	\$12.50		
Bat Box	\$12.50		
Kestrel Box	\$20.00		
Wood Duck Box	\$30.00		
Winter Nesting Box	\$25.00		
Rain Gauge	\$5.50		

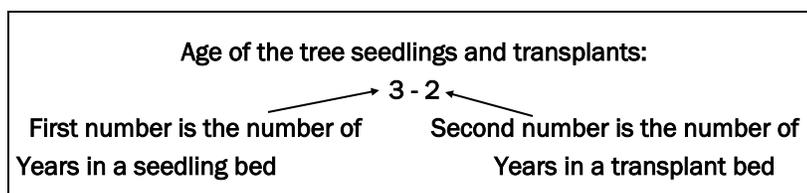
Subtotal from Page 1 _____
 Delivery Charge (\$15.00) if Applicable _____
 Total Enclosed _____

Mail order form along with check or money order payable to: Orleans County SWCD, 446 West Avenue, Albion, NY 14411.



Species	Growth Rate	Size at Maturity	Soil Types	Uses	Sun Requirements
White Pine	Moderate to Rapid	80-100'	Most soils	C, T, H, W, S, E, N	Partial Shade to Full Sun
Concolor Fir	Slow–Moderate	50-75'	Deep, well drained	C, T, W, E	Full Sun
Fraser Fir	Slow	30-40'	Moist, well drained loam	C, T, H, W, E	Full Sun
Colorado Blue Spruce	Slow	30-60'	Organic, Moist	C, T, H, S, E	Full Sun
White Spruce	Slow	40-60'	Adaptable to many soils	C, T, H, S, E, N	Partial Shade
White Cedar/Arborvitae	Slow	30-50'	Moist, deep, loamy, acidic, alkaline	T, H, W, S, E, N	Full Sun
Douglas Fir	Slow	60-120'	Moist, loamy, well drained	C,T, H, W, E	Full Sun
Norway Spruce	Slow	40-60'	Adaptable to many soils	C, T, H, S, E	Full Sun
Black Cherry	Rapid	Up to 50'	Well to moderately drained loamy soils	T, H, E, F, N	Full Sun
Sugar Maple	Slow to Moderate	Up to 75'	Deep, fertile, moist and well drained	T, H, S, E, N	Partial Shade
Silver Maple	Rapid	50-70'	Wide range of soils	T, S, E	Full Sun
Pin Oak	Moderate	Up to 75'	moist, fertile, acidic, well-drained soils	T, H, W, E, N	Full Sun
White Oak	Slow	60-80'	Acidic Soil	T, H, W, E, N	Full Sun
Forsythia	Rapid	8-10'	Any Soil	H	Full Sun
Lilac	Rapid	8 to 15'	Well drained, silty, clayey, or loamy	S, E	Full Sun
White Flowering Dogwood	Slow	30'	Prefers cool, moist acidic soils	E, H, T, W	Full Sun

Uses: C = Christmas Tree, W = Watershed, S = Shelterbelt, E = Environmental Forestry, H = Habitat/Food Wildlife, T = Timber, F = Human Food, GC = Ground Cover, N = Native





Species	Growth Rate	Size at Maturity	Soil Types	Uses	Sun Requirements
Songbird Pack					
Sgt. Crabapple	Slow	6-8'	Prefers moist, organic, slightly acid soils	H, F, S	Full Sun
Juneberry	Moderate	15-25'	prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soil	E, F, H	Full Sun to Partial Shade
Elderberry	Rapid	Up to 15'	Moist	H, S, E, N	Full Sun to Partial Shade
Chokeberry	Slow	3-5'	Prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soils	H	Full Sun or Partial Shade
Arrowwood	Slow	5-9'	Dry to fairly wet	E, H, N	Full Sun to Partial Shade
Nut Tree Pack					
Chinquapin Oak	Moderate	40-50'	Prefers rich, well drained , acidic soils	H	Full sun
Black Walnut	Moderate	50-75'	Prefers moist soils, will tolerate drier	F, H, T, N	Full Sun
Sawtooth Oak	Moderate	40-60'	Well drained, acidic	H, E	Full sun
Red Oak	Moderate	Up to 75'	Moist, well drained	T, H, W, E, N	Partial Shade
Pin Oak	Moderate	Up to 75'	moist, fertile, acidic, well-drained soils	T, H, W, E, N	Full Sun
Shade Tree Pack					
Sycamore	Rapid	75-100'	Moist	T, W, S, E	Partial Shade to Full Sun
Red Maple	Moderate to Fast	40-70'	Prefers moist, acidic soils	E, H, T, W, N	Partial Shade to Full Sun
Hybrid Poplar	Rapid	Up to 100'	Adapts to most soils types, even wet areas	T, S, E	Full Sun to Partial Shade
Silver Maple	Rapid	50-70'	Wide range of soils	T, S, E	Full Sun
Chinquapin Oak	Moderate	40-50'	Prefers rich, well drained , acidic soils	H	Full sun
Native Flowering Pack					
White Flowering Dogwood	Slow	30'	Prefers cool, moist acidic soils	E, H, T, W	Full Sun
Elderberry	Rapid	Up to 15'	Moist	H, S, E, N	Full Sun to Partial Shade
American Cranberry	Moderate	8-12'	Well-drained, moist soil	E, F, H, S, N	Full Sun to Partial Shade
Juneberry	Moderate	15-25'	prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soil	E, F, H	Full Sun to Partial Shade
Black Chokeberry	Slow	3-5'	Prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soils	H	Full Sun or Partial Shade

Got Turkeys?



The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is looking for landowners to help with a large-scale study of wild turkey movements, survival, and harvest. In January 2016, DEC will begin the final year of a four-year study in which wild turkey hens (female turkeys) will be captured and fitted with leg bands. The objective of the banding study is to examine harvest rates, survival rates, and movements of hens. All work is done by DEC personnel on public and private lands from January through March.

DEC seeks landowners in DEC Regions 3 through 9 who would be interested in allowing birds to be trapped on their land, as well as alerting project coordinators when they see turkeys on their property. After turkeys are trapped and banded, they will immediately be released at the same location. Not all locations are suitable for deploying capture equipment, so landowners should contact their regional project coordinator to discuss the suitability of their property. Our Region 8 Coordinator is Scott Smith in Bath, NY. Phone: 607-776-2165 (ext. 16)

DEC would appreciate reports from landowners, hunters, bird watchers or others about winter turkey flock locations anywhere in New York State. Observations of turkey flocks (of even a few birds) during January through March can be reported to the project coordinator for your region.

If you are interested, please consult the project coordinator for your region.

For more information, contact DEC at (518) 402-8886 or by
E-mail at wildlife@dec.ny.gov (subject line "Turkey Study")

Grassed Waterway

A grassed waterway is a Best Management Practice (BMP) that is a shaped or graded channel that is established with suitable vegetation to carry surface water at a non-erosive velocity to a stable outlet. It is used in areas where added water conveyance capacity and vegetative protection are needed to control erosion resulting from concentrated runoff.

Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District recently installed a grassed waterway in the spring of 2015 stretching 1,550 ft. The area used to get eroded every year in the spring time and was getting eroded more frequently and severely with the newly installed tile on the neighboring farm that empties into the ditch. This grassed waterway has many curves

before it finally empties into the Iroquois Wildlife Refuge. One curve is almost a complete right angle, so to help stabilize this curve from the erosive force of the water it was armored with stone. This Grassed waterway will serve to protect Oak Orchard Creek and Lake Ontario from nonpoint source pollution that may come from this farm or the surrounding area.



Original Ditch



Completed Grassed Waterway

Building a Soil Health Network



The Orleans and Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation Districts are in the beginning stages of a new initiative to build a network of farmers called the Western New York Soil Health Alliance (Alliance). This is intended to be a Farmer led and run, peer to peer organization. The mission of the Alliance is to promote the successful application of good soil health practices through shared ideas, experiences, education and new technology. It is important for farmers to share knowledge and experiences gained

LOCALLY through on-farm trials and practices. Much information is available on the internet about soil health topics, but it often is not pertinent to our local climate and seasons.

Planting Cover Crops is one of the central practices to building soil health and was the topic of the first public workshop put on by the Alliance. Over 100 people attended to hear 5 local farmer's experiences with planting cover crops at different times of the year, with different species and the varied outcomes. There was also a report by Dave DeGolyer of WNY Crop Management on an interseeding trial done this year with 6 species of cover crops. Aaron Ristow from the Cornell Soil Health Lab brought us a review and explanation of the value and use of the new Cornell Soil Health test.

For more information on the Alliance, call Dennis at our office, 585-589-5959

New NRCS Employee



Meet Mallory Barrow, who has joined the NRCS team in the office as a Soil Conservation Technician. Mallory graduated with her Master's Degree from the University of Illinois. Her major was Environmental Science with a minor in GIS. Mallory has a variety of experiences including working as a veterinary technician, US Army HR specialist, GIS spatial analyst graduate assistant and most recently interned for the Illinois EPA..

She looks forward to meeting and working with the people in this area. Please join us in welcoming Mallory to the Albion Field office.



Trees (continued)

trees will also help protect our water from pollution. As raindrops fall through a tree canopy, they are slowed down, thus reducing the rain's energy. When the rain reaches the ground it can then be absorbed rather than runoff and cause erosion.



barnyards and livestock. As stated earlier, trees offer aesthetic beauty, but they also offer economic opportunity. Trees are used for Christmas trees, burning fuel, timber, lumber, furniture, veneer, and various other wood products that can be sold.

Livestock and wildlife both benefit from trees in many ways as well. The shaded and sheltered forest pasture environment provides protected grazing where livestock can grow faster with less environmental stress. As for wildlife, trees and windbreaks provide a diverse habitat, food, and cover.

Trees benefit more than just wildlife. They act as windbreaks. People in turn benefit because windbreaks help to reduce odors from nearby

Like humans, trees need certain conditions in order to survive. When choosing the type of tree to plant there are things one needs to consider to ensure successful growth. Questions that should be answered before making the final decision on a tree variety are: what is the soil preference, what are the moisture and sunlight requirements, and what is the ideal soil pH (pH test kits are

available at your local Cooperative Extension office). Knowledge of these habitat requirements will greatly increase the success of your trees.

Remember, your tree seedlings need plenty of water in their first year, but too much water can cause their roots to rot. In other words, if we are not getting any rain, make sure to water your trees often.

The 2016 Spring Tree and Shrub order form is enclosed in this issue of Conservation Update. If you have any questions that you cannot find the answer to in this newsletter, please give the District office a call at 589-5959, ext. 5 and we will be glad to help you in any way that we can.



The Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program is a locally led conservation planning, implementation and educational program offered by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. By Participating in AEM, farmers can document their environmental stewardship and contribute to a positive image of agriculture in their communities.

Through AEM our District is able to document the importance of farming in the county, provide technical assistance to our farms and help implement conservation Best Management Practices (BMP's) to protect and improve our farmland and local water-



"Cocktail mix" of cover crop plants seeded after wheat Harvest.

ways.

Some of the BMP's applied in Orleans County this last AEM fiscal year include: Subsurface Tile Drainage, Grassed Waterways, Cover Crop Plans, Filter Strips, Stream Crossings, Vegetated Treatment Areas, Heavy Use Areas, and Streambank Protection Projects.



Ryegrass and Radish after corn harvest. Inter-seeded in corn crop at the end of June .

Orleans County has been able to help a total of 42 Farmers this year through the AEM Process.

Anyone with interest or questions on the AEM program in Orleans County can contact Megan McAnn, District Technician, at 585-589-5959 ext. 107 or megan.mcann@ny.nacdnet.net.



ORLEANS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.orleansny.com/soilandwater

446 West Avenue

Albion, NY 14411

**2016 Tree &
Shrub Order
Form Inside!**



Pictured L to R: Megan McAnn, Dennis Kirby, Judy Bennett, Katie Sommerfeldt

District Update

2015 saw a couple of personnel changes for Soil & Water. Megan McAnn was added to the staff and will be specializing in working with the AEM planning process that is used for all of our ag conservation projects. She has also been busy helping Katie and learning about the drainage work we do in the County.

John Kast was added as a member of the Board of Directors to replace the retiring Mike Paduchak. James Neal and Bill Eick will celebrate 10 years as members of the Board at the end of 2015.

Katie has been busy, as usual, surveying and designing drainage projects for farmers and highway departments. She has completed 245,065 feet of tile drainage systems (over 46 miles) as well as over 11,000 feet of ditch improvement surveys for highway departments. In addition she has been involved in designing 13 culvert replacement projects. As part of those projects she was instrumental in helping file for 7 drainage permits from DEC or the Army Corps of Engineers. Other Ag related projects designed and installed were 2 stream crossings, a grassed waterway and the completion of the

Knowlesville flooding abatement project.

We continued working with our two grants to encourage the use of cover crops on farmland throughout the County. Over 1,750 acres of cover crops were planted through these programs, which will help build the health of the soil on these farms as well as improve production and help to capture unused nutrients for the next crop.

We were awarded a special grant from the NYS Dept. of Ag. & Markets to work in conjunction with the Genesee County Soil & Water Conservation District to help create a Farmer-led and run organization to promote practices for the improvement of the health of our farm soils in the area. A Steering Committee has been created and work is underway to build this organization.

Our tractor mounted boom mower was shared by the 10 Towns, County and Oak Orchard Small Watershed Protection District to mow and clean both sides of drainage ditches throughout the County. This keeps the drainage ditches clear and water flowing, avoiding any back-up of water and localized flooding

The slashbuster was used to clear

and open up over 5,250 feet of stream blockages and is scheduled to be kept busy again this coming winter.

We fielded over 600 calls from County residents needing advice or assistance during the year. This includes the drainage work, but also information on invasive species, wetlands and other land use issues, as well as planning Best Management Practices (BMP's) for conservation of our natural resources.

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) is our planning process used to encourage use of BMP's. 2015 saw 15 more farmers participate in planning new conservation practices for their operations.

As usual, we handled many calls for Ag Value Assessment worksheets, had successful tree sale and fish sale events, as well as shoreline cleanup and tire collection projects.

Best wishes and a prosperous New Year from the Staff and Directors at the Orleans County SWCD.