

CONSERVATION NEWS

Portage Soil & Water Conservation District

Spring 2012

Volume 53

There's Still Time to Order Plants!!!

If you received a notice from our office or saw the update on our website that blueberries were sold out, please note that we were able to obtain thirty more blueberry packets. Feel free to contact our office to confirm current availability, because they are going FAST!!! We still have some wonderful fruiting plants, such as purple raspberries, black chokeberry, 'Dolgo' Crabapple and Cornelian Cherry available, but they are also in short supply. Even though Cornelian Cherry is not generally thought of as a "fruit" tree, and is typically grown for its spring floral display, we found quite a few recipes for Cornelian Cherry jam. Please visit our website at www.portageswcd.org for recipes that utilize these underused, yet very nutritious, fruits that are available through our sale.

As thrilled as we are to have so many wonderful fruiting specimens in our sale, we hope you will not overlook the huge variety of plants available that have many other admirable features. For instance, the Japanese Tree Lilac is a wonderful tree. Although this beauty is not native to our locale, it has been grown in the United States for many years and has not displayed invasive characteristics. With white blooms that are very showy and fragrant, dark, green heart-shaped leaves, a single trunk with an open, structural form, ornamental bark, and tolerance to poor soil sites, this small sized tree is suitable for any landscape! Just be careful with the weed whacker, because the bloom of Japanese Tree Lilacs will be greatly reduced if they need to use their energy to heal wounds. And were we wrong to think that a beautiful, fast growing shade tree that requires little fall cleanup would be of interest to our patrons? If that sounds good to you, then please consider the Thornless Honeylocust; we still have some and you can't go wrong with this very adaptable tree!

Spring Fish Stocking Sale

Our 2012 Spring fish sale is going to be at the Randolph Fairgrounds off State Route 44 in Randolph. It will be in the grassy, public parking lot. If you have any questions, please call the office, 330-297-7633 x101.

Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 Time: 10:00 a.m. SHARP!!

Place: Randolph Fairgrounds

4215 Fairgrounds Road Randolph, Ohio 44265

- * Bring a covered container recently filled with your own pond water
- * Arrive promptly – the fish truck will only be there for a short time
- * Please be advised that if you have a large order you may want to be a little early.
- * Due to the tree sale, pick-up reminders will **NOT** be sent out prior to pick up date.
 - * Please mark pick up date and the location on your calendar!

Order Deadline:

Friday, April 20, at 3:00 p.m.

Tree Pick Up:

**April 18, 19 & 20
(Wednesday - Friday)
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
SWCD Office
6970 SR 88, Ravenna**

Fish Sale Pick Up:

**Tuesday, April 24
10:00 a.m. SHARP
Randolph
Fairgrounds**

Pond Lily Pick Up:

May 16, 2012

**Visit the Portage SWCD
online at
www.portageswcd.org**

- **Tree Sale Info, Tree Sale Recipes and Tree Descriptions**
- **New Programs**
- **Stormwater Info**

CRESTWOOD EARTH DAY!!

**April 27, 2012
4:00–6:00 pm
Family friendly event,
open to the public.
FREE!!!**

Spring Time = Lawn Care Time!

It's time to emerge from the winter hibernation and start thinking about lawn care again. Some of us can't wait for the smell of fresh cut grass and are just itching to fire up the riding mower. Or maybe you have big plans for the planting beds and your green thumb is throbbing. Others?.....Not so much. Whatever your reaction, lawn care provides us with an opportunity to be more environmentally conscientious. Here are some conservation practices that you can incorporate into your lawn care routine.

Use sustainable turf care methods. Set the mower blades higher and let the grass grow longer. By letting the grass stay a little longer (2 ½ – 3 ½ inches) you promote root growth and help the grass to out-compete unwanted weeds. Many people think that this means that you will have to mow more often but this is not the case. Most grasses grow faster when cut shorter, so you will likely mow less if you keep the grass longer. Keeping your lawn mower well maintained is also beneficial. Besides the obvious air quality benefit of keeping the mower tuned up you should also make sure that the mower blades stay sharp. Dull blades pull the grass which results in damaged roots, particularly if you are keeping the grass longer. Consider using mulching blades to return those nitrogen rich clippings to your lawn.

Minimize use of fertilizers. It's a common misconception that regular fertilizer application is necessary for a healthy lawn. Does it make sense to add nutrients if your soil already has sufficient or even excessive levels of nitrate, phosphorus and potassium? Having your soil tested will help you limit fertilizer application and ensure that the soil nutrients are kept at optimal levels. Soil tests are inexpensive and you may only need to test once every 3-4 years. Contact our office for soil test information. If your soil test indicates that you need to fertilize be sure to do so in the fall rather than the spring. Fertilizing in the fall helps to promote root growth which will make the lawn healthier, and it reduces the chances that the fertilizer will contaminate storm water due to a spring rain storm.

Reduce storm water runoff. Impervious surfaces (i.e. roofs, driveways, etc.) increase the volume of water that leaves a site during a rain event. A great way to minimize this effect is to install rain barrels that collect the storm water runoff from your roof. The stored water can then be used during dry periods for watering your planting beds. Another way to reduce runoff is to install a rain garden. Typically rain gardens are depressions placed so that they can collect and temporarily store storm water runoff. These areas are planted with water tolerant plants and they promote ground water infiltration as opposed to allowing the runoff to reach storm water conveyance systems.

For more information visit these websites:

Stormwater Runoff reduction: <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/GWQ037.pdf> www.rainbarrelguide.com

Conservation landscaping: <http://www.epa.gov/region30/greenkit/landscap.htm> <http://www.envirolandscaping.org>

Education Corner

Attention Teachers!! If you are looking for a truly fun opportunity to obtain either graduate credit hours or continuing education hours, please consider registering for one (or both!) of our annual **Wonders of Watersheds (WOW) Educator Workshops!** Both workshops are FILLED with new program ideas for hands-on activities for your classroom and up to 3 hours of college credit is available for each workshop.

For more details, please contact Lynn at 330-297-7633 x111 or e-mail: lvogel@portageswcd.org

Gully Erosion

Springtime is a good time to assess your fields for erosion problems such as gully erosion. Most gully can be fixed with relatively simple designs and obtaining cost share to reduce your out of pocket cost can be an option on fields in crop production. USDA has cost share programs available through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist with erosion control practices. The cost share helps pay for the installation cost and provides annual rental payments for the small amount of ground that is taken out of production to fix the problem. Signing up in the spring to plan for fall construction is ideal, so call our office at 330-297-7633 ext. 3 and we'll come out to take a look at it.



Newsletter Sponsors

Please tell our sponsors that you saw them in our newsletter!



Any of these trees would be great to use as clip art



Please use new /corrected ad for Advanced AND please restore it to to 2nd column and 4th row position

2012 TREE ORDER FORM
Preorder Deadline is Friday, April 6, 2012

Name _____	<u>**Office Use Only**</u>
Address _____	Check # _____ M.O# _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	Cash _____ Certificate _____
Email Address _____	SWCD Employee Initials _____
Daytime Phone _____ Cell _____	Date _____ Receipt # _____
Phone _____	

___ Check here only if you are a new customer or an update to our mailing list.

Tree Pick-Up
April 18, 19, 20, 2012 (Wednesday-Friday)
9:00am - 6:00pm
Portage SWCD, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna OH 44266

Ordering Information:

Packets are reserved on a first come, first served basis - ORDER EARLY!!
We order from nurseries in the fall, so we may "sell out" of popular species.

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Please enclose completed order form and check made payable to *Portage SWCD*.

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Please mark pick-up dates on your calendar
Reminders will not be sent out!

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Orders must be picked up April 18-20; otherwise refunds will not be guaranteed.

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Please note the number of trees per packet - packets cannot be split.

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Plants are bare-rooted and packed in a moisturizing gel.
They should be planted as soon as possible after pick-up.

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For copy of tree descriptions please call the office and we will mail you a copy.

Mail order form & payment to:
Portage SWCD, 6970 SR 88, Ravenna OH 44266
Phone: 330-297-7633 x101 Fax: 330-296-5917

Species		Age	Size	Packet Price	# Packets
Features					
Blueberries (3 pk)	EC	1 yr	4.5" pots	3 for \$18	LOW
'Dolgo' Crabapple <i>Malus x dolgo</i>	BCEF	2 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$10	
Meadowsweet <i>Spirea alba</i> (3 pks)	BFNW	1 yr	12 - 24"	3 for \$8	OUT
'Royalty' Purple Raspberry (3 pk)	E	1 yr	12 - 18"	3 for \$14	
Sweetbay Mangolia <i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	BFW	1 yr	4 - 8"	3 for \$12	OUT
Sweet Shrub <i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	FN	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8	
Evergreens					
American Arborvitae <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	G	3 yr	4 - 8"	10 for \$9	
Canadian Hemlock <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	G	3 yr	7 - 14"	5 for \$9	
Canaan Fir <i>Abies balsamea</i> var. <i>phanerolepis</i>	G	3 yr	7 - 14"	5 for \$9	
Eastern White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	G	3 yr	7 - 14"	10 for \$9	
Norway Spruce <i>Picea abies</i>	G	4 yr	15 - 30"	10 for \$9	LOW
Meyer's Spruce <i>Picea meyeri</i>	G	4 yr	7 - 14"	5 for \$9	
Red Pine <i>Pinus resinosa</i>	G	3 yr	12 - 24"	5 for \$9	
Deciduous					
American Larch <i>Larix laricina</i>	CNW	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$9	
Black Walnut <i>Juglans nigra</i>	BEN	1 yr	10 - 20"	5 for \$9	
Black Gum Tupelo <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	BCNW	1 yr	18 - 24"	5 for \$8	
Gobbler Oak <i>Quercus acutissima</i>	BC	2 yr	12 - 24"	5 for \$8	OUT
KY Coffeetree <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	CN	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$9	
Mountain Ash <i>Sorbus americana</i>	BCF	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$8	
Pin Oak <i>Quercus palustris</i>	BNW	2 yr	12 - 24"	5 for \$8	
Red Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	CEN	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$7	
River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i>	CNW	3 yr	24 - 36"	5 for \$8	
Sugar Maple <i>Acer saccharum</i>	CEN	2 yr	12 - 24"	5 for \$8	
Thornless Honeylocust <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i>	BCF	1 yr	12 - 24"	5 for \$8	
White Oak <i>Quercus alba</i>	BCN	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$7	
Shrubs					
American Elderberry <i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	BENW	2 yr	24 - 48"	5 for \$7	LOW
Black Chokeberry <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	BCENW	2 yr	18 - 24"	5 for \$8	
Buttonbush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	FNW	1 yr	18 - 24"	5 for \$7	
Red Osier Dogwood <i>Cornus sericea</i>	BFNW	2 yr	15 - 30"	5 for \$7	OUT
Winterberry <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	BCNW	3 yr	10 - 20"	5 for \$9	OUT
Witchhazel <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	CFN	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$9	
Flowering & Fruiting Trees					
Cornelian Cherry <i>Cornus mas</i>	BF	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$9	
Japanese Tree Lilac <i>Syringa reticulata</i>	F	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$9	
Paw Paw <i>Asimina triloba</i>	BEN	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$12	LOW
Persimmon <i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	BEFN	1 yr	12 - 18"	5 for \$9	
Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	EFN	2 yr	24 - 36"	5 for \$8	
American Plum <i>Prunus americana</i>	BEFN	2 yr	24 - 48"	5 for \$8	LOW
Other Items					
Pond Lilies				\$15.00 each	
<input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Pink <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow					
B-bird/wildlife value C-fall color E-edible F-flowering G-evergreen N-native W-tolerates wet soils					

SPRING FISH SALE ORDER FORM

Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 10:00 am SHARP!!
Randolph Fairgrounds—4215 Fairgrounds Road, Randolph 44265

Please fill out form & send it with your check payable to
Portage SWCD, 6970 State Route 88, Ravenna OH 44266

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone # _____

Cell Phone # _____

White Amur Carp @ \$12.00 each X _____ = \$ _____

Largemouth Bass (2-3") @ \$0.85 each X _____ = \$ _____

Bluegill (2-4") @ \$0.70 each X _____ = \$ _____

Yellow Perch (2-4") @ \$0.75 each X _____ = \$ _____

Channel Catfish (4-5") @ \$0.75 each X _____ = \$ _____

Shellcrackers (2-4") @ \$0.90 each X _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Order Deadline: Friday, April 20, 2012