



Niagara Nature News

An Environmental Publication by Niagara County
Soil & Water Conservation District
WINTER 2020- ENEWS

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2019 Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern Update



Pictured left: During a fish community survey to assess the Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations BUI in June 2019 several bowfin were captured, measured and returned back to Eighteenmile Creek AOC.

In October, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan III was signed for federal fiscal years 2020-2024. This is significant because Eighteenmile Creek is listed as an Area of Concern (AOC) that is projected to become “Management Actions Complete” by the end of 2024. This does not mean that the AOC or the creek will be fully remediated by 2024, as an essential program for restoring Eighteenmile Creek, USEPA Superfund, will likely go beyond 2024. It is important to note that the AOC only spans from the mouth of Lake Ontario to Burt Dam (the “impact area”), and does not extend beyond Burt Dam (the “source area”). Additionally, EPA defines a management actions primarily as habitat restoration or sediment remediation completed through the AOC program. As the Superfund Program is intended to address contaminated sediments, which are the root cause of the AOCs Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs), additional management actions within the scope of AOC program may not be needed. Ongoing monitoring to assess the success of remedial efforts in restoring beneficial uses would continue to fall under the AOC program.

For the AOC to reach Management Actions Complete status, a series of events must occur.

The first milestone needed is to have finalized BUI removal criteria. Over the past few years, the Remedial Advisory Committee (RAC) and Remedial Action Plan (RAP) coordinator have learned some removal criteria are not SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timebound). When creating new criteria, it is important to incorporate previous studies so there is historical data to use as a building block. New criteria were adopted earlier this year for BUIs 3 and 5 (“Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations,” and “Bird/Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems,” respectively). BUIs 1 and 6 (“Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption,” and “Degradation of Benthos,” respectively) are in the process of being revised and will likely be approved before June 2020. As final removal criteria are approved, assessments are being performed to determine the status of these impairments.

Story Continued on page 13 under AOC Update

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Check out our spring fish program on page 7!
We are offering fish and grass carp to help enhance and maintain your pond! Choose from Perch, Bass, Catfish, and Bluegill.



FYI...

The District has a No-Till drill available for your next conservation seeding project.

\$50 delivery charge and \$15/acre rental fee

We provide drill delivery and cleaning.
Customer provides own seed.

(716) 434-4949
Ext. 4



Don't forget to pre-order your trees and shrubs early before they sell out! Our order form is located on pages 5 and 6, along with tree and shrub descriptions. Extra order forms are available in our office or on our website www.niagaraswcd.com



Protect your Lakeshore with tree and shrub plantings

After the historic flooding of 2019, Lake Ontario property owners will be looking for anything to protect the banks along the lake shore. Certainly where the shore is steep and property is in danger, the landowners have to resort to expensive bank stabilization, such as rock and other hard armor protection.

These solutions still need additional work to protect the areas where the hard armor and the soil meet. The addition of tree and shrub plantings help extend the lifespan of the protection by reducing soil erosion around the structures. If planted and maintained properly, a project with a 30-50 year lifespan can be extended forever with proper care over eroding bank areas.

For lake shore owners, shrubs would be preferred because they will not grow as tall, blocking scenic lake vistas. The District will be offering 2 nice shrubs for lakes, ponds and streams.

Story continued under Plantings on Page 13

Recycling Refresher

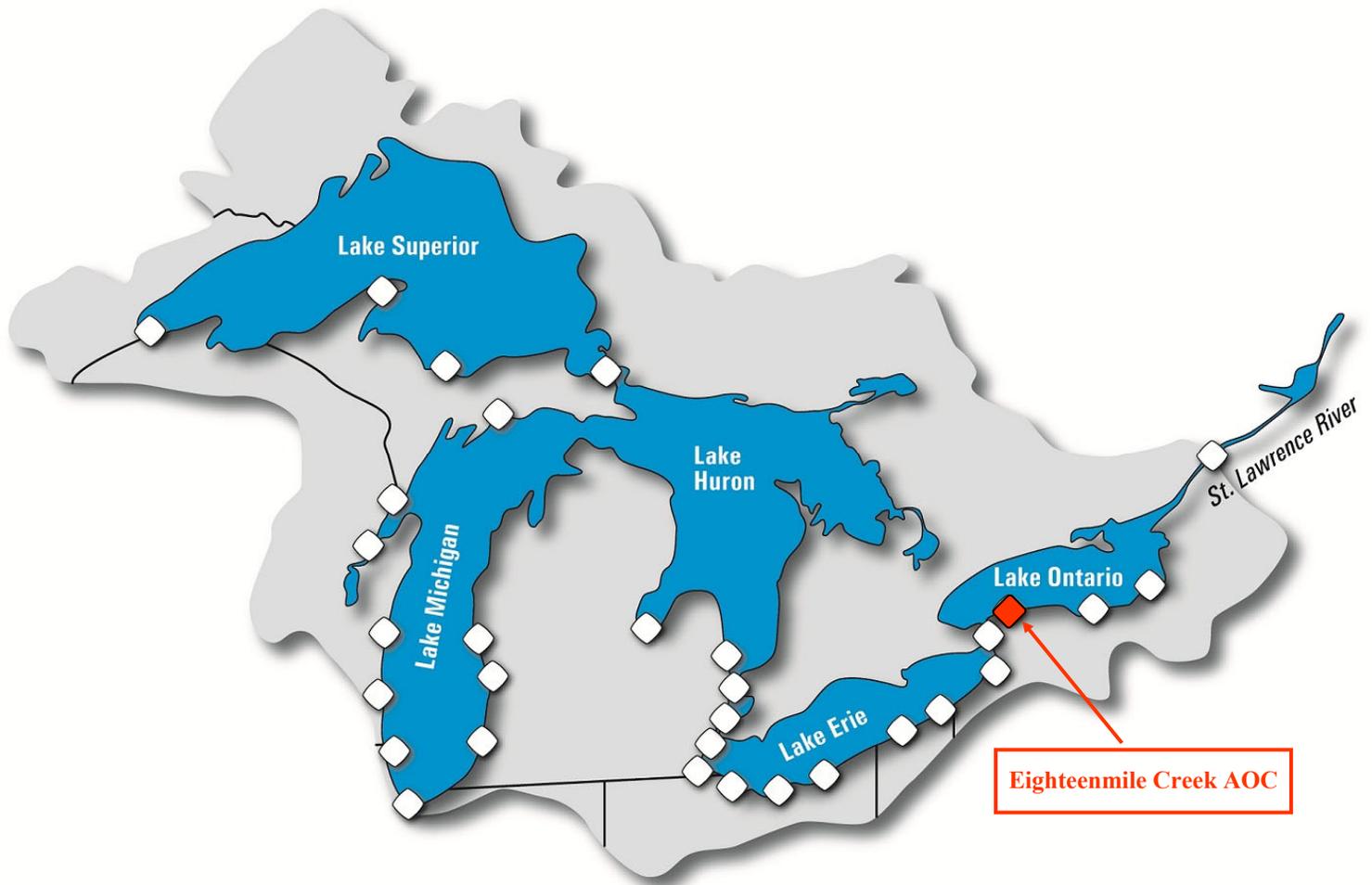
Our recycling carts are part of the solid waste solution but we have to be sure we are recycling correctly. Everything put into our bin or cart goes to a Materials Recovery Facility where it travels along conveyors and is sorted by workers and a variety of devices. Non-recyclable materials and excessive food residue cause serious problems and increase the processing costs to manage our recyclables because of extra handling and a longer journey to their final destination in a landfill. Non-recyclable materials bog down the process and add expense but also degrade the "good" stuff.

In general, your recyclable items should be rinsed before putting them in the bin. This helps reduce the smell of waste near your house and the amount of cleaning needed before processing. Personal waste items such as diapers, medical waste/syringes or clothing are not recyclable and should not be placed in a recycle bin. Other items such as cleaning supplies, paint cans, aerosol cans, propane tanks, Styrofoam, wood, electronic waste, and chords (including Christmas lights) should not be put in a recycling bin. Plastic bags and films (like the plastic wrapping around paper towels) should not be put in the recycling bin as they get wrapped up in the conveyors at the recovery facility.

Yard waste (including Christmas trees) is a waste stream that should not be placed in the bins. Check with your town, village or city as most have programs in place to handle yard waste separately.

The Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District is a local government subdivision under New York State law. The District was established as a public benefit by the County of Niagara in 1954. Your support of our programs aid in the District's conservation efforts to protect natural resources and water quality for our residents. In these wavering economic times, we thank you for your continued assistance in fulfilling our goals.

EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AREA OF CONCERN



2019 REPORT CARD



A COMPILATION OF SUCCESSSES, IMPROVEMENTS & CURRENT CONDITIONS



REPORT CARD

The Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern (AOC) Report Card was created by the Eighteenmile Creek Remedial Advisory Committee (RAC). **The purpose of this Report Card is to give a brief overview of the health, improvements and current conditions of Eighteenmile Creek during 2019.** The Eighteenmile Creek Watershed includes – the main branch of Eighteenmile Creek, Gulf Creek Tributary, East Branch of Eighteenmile Creek (Red Creek), and augmented flow from the NYS Erie Barge Canal.

Scientific data and research that was referenced during the development of this Report Card can be found at the Area of Concern website:

WWW.EIGHTEENMILERAP.COM

This Report Card offers six “indicators” related to the management of the creek’s overall health. They are: 1) Water Quality; 2) Contamination; 3) Fish & Wildlife; 4) Public Access & Recreation; 5) Remedial Action Plan; and 6) Environmental Education & Public Involvement.

Each indicator has been further divided into several “sub-categories” to assess how specific concerns are being addressed. Each sub-category has been assigned a **letter grade** based upon past successes, current health conditions, and trends over the past few years. The last column identifies action steps or immediate concerns to be addressed in order to meet restoration targets for the Area of Concern. This Report Card will be updated annually.

BENEFICIAL USE IMPAIRMENTS

- 1) Fish & Wildlife Consumption - **Impaired**
Delisting Targets → **Identified**
- 2) Degradation of Benthos- **Impaired**
Delisting Targets → **Identified**
- 3) Dredging Restrictions -**Impaired**
Delisting Targets → **Identified**
- 4) Animal Reproductive Issues - **Impaired**
Delisting Targets → **Identified**
- 5) Fish & Wildlife Populations - **Impaired**
Delisting targets → **Identified**

TRENDS	GRADING
Conditions Improving ↑	A Excellent
Conditions Unchanged ↔	B Good
Conditions Worsening ↓	C Fair
	D Poor
	F Failure

	CATEGORIES	GRADE	SUCSESSES & IMPROVEMENTS
WATER QUALITY	Overall Water Quality	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural Environmental Management Program has been deployed to document and prioritize water quality impairments. The City of Lockport has completed combined sewer overflow (CSO) inspection checks and reports them to the DEC. Actions are also taken to address issues with CSOs in the city.
	Quality of Storm Water	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City of Lockport separated storm water from the sanitary sewer on High Street (2018). Lockport High school raised awareness about reducing stormwater pollution in Olcott, NY.
CONTAMINATION	Spills, Discharges & Leaching of Contaminants	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory programs and monitoring by NYSDEC help reduce inputs to the creek. USEPA Superfund has continued to collect data to fully characterize the creek.
	Contaminated Sediment	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA has approved a Record of Decision for OU2 and OU4, contractors are working on a remedial design and construction is expected to begin in 1-3 years for both projects. EPA has continued their data gap analysis of OU3 and will create a baseline ecological and human health risk assessments.
FISH & WILDLIFE	Contaminant Levels in Fish & Wildlife	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish tissue results obtained through a study in 2012 are the first data set collected for a portion of Eighteenmile Creek upstream of Newfane Dam, the results indicate impacts to fish. Mink prey survey is currently underway to determine if there is reproductive impairment.
	Fish & Wildlife Diversity & Populations	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish community survey completed in June 2019 by USGS. Further analysis is needed, but fish communities appear to be similar to Oak Orchard Creek.
PUBLIC ACCESS & RECREATION	Public Access to the Creek & Adjacent Areas	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to Eighteenmile Creek via Fisherman’s Park and Olcott Harbor continues to be maintained by the Town of Newfane.
	Aesthetics of the Creek & Adjacent Riparian Areas	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town of Newfane Marina Director has been active in keeping the AOC clean of trash and a new fishing line recycling program has been implemented.
REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN	RAP Management	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US Army Corps of Engineers are looking to compile all data in the AOC and determine what data gaps are present. Before the end of 2020 two more BUI removal criteria may be modified.
	RAC Management	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RAC continues to address various aspects of the Remedial Action Plan and has provided input on Federal and State Superfund designation for the creek.
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	Public Awareness	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superfund remediation projects have brought the creek to the forefront of public media. A number of student classes and trips visit the AOC to learn about critical AOC issues.
	Watershed Stewardship	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 122 students from Newfane High School, Niagara Orleans BOCES, and Lockport High School participated in the “GREEN” Program.

CURRENT CONDITIONS	TREND	STEPS NEEDED FOR PROBLEM RESOLUTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact AOC is a Class B/C stream indicating that the primary use is contact recreation and fishing. NYSDEC monitors water quality through the Rotating Intensive Basin Study (RIBS) program and USEPA Superfund has continued their investigation into the AOC and source areas. PCBs, heavy metals are suspended in the water column that exceed water quality standards that discharge into Lake Ontario. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contaminated sediments within the watershed must be remediated. Failures to waste water systems in Lockport and Newfane must be identified and addressed. Unknown sources of agricultural runoff must be identified. USEPA Superfunds investigation will create management actions to remediate the creek and improve water quality.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined Sewer Overflows still have the potential to discharge into Eighteenmile Creek and the Barge Canal. During storm events, degraded water quality negatively impacts Olcott Beach along Lake Ontario, causing beach closures. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining Combined Sewer Overflows must be eliminated. Continue to work with various partners to determine the sources which negatively impact Lake Ontario.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites in the watershed still have the potential to negatively impact the AOC. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued progress from USEPA Superfund program to identify additional polluters within the watershed. Continue to remediate state and federal Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites and other sources of contamination.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sediments in Eighteenmile Creek exceed NYS standards for a variety of contaminants, including PCBs, pesticides, lead, etc. Contaminated sediments within the watershed continue to influence the overall health of the AOC. A number of historic power generation structures and oxbow lakes present in the creek act as “sinks” for contaminated sediment to accumulate. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize Federal Superfund program to address the current sediment contamination source in Lockport. Remediate all upstream sources of contamination, including the Eighteenmile Creek Corridor Site and Old Upper Mountain Road Site. Continue to identify new funding sources for post remediation monitoring within the AOC.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish consumption advisories of “Eat no fish” exist for the entire creek, including below Burt Dam, the AOC. Beneficial uses affected by elevated levels of PCBs in fish continue to be impaired at Eighteenmile Creek. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remediate upstream sources and contaminated sediments. Continued fish monitoring throughout the remediation process to verify effectiveness and trends. Determine if bioaccumulation of contaminants is possible for any other fish or wildlife in the watershed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coho and Chinook salmon and brown trout migrate from Lake Ontario each fall. The area also supports the reproduction of bass, northern pike and black crappie. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Olcott Pen Rearing Project. NYSDEC should continue its fish stocking program. Contaminated sediments may affect wildlife populations. A mink contaminant study should be completed before 2021.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AOC is accessible for anglers and general recreation activities from Fisherman’s Park and Olcott Harbor. A majority of the creek is secluded by a steep ravine. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate options for public access improvements to the creek in the City and Town of Lockport, NY.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Eighteenmile Creek AOC Corridor is pristine to the naked eye, displaying no visual Beneficial Use Impairments. Some abandoned industrial sites are adjacent to the creek area. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with annual AOC “Clean-Sweep” events. Educate recreational users and encourage them to “Pitch-In” and promote a healthy creek ecosystem.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eighteenmile Creek is a long term Area of Concern due to it’s complexity. A management action list is to be completed. Continue to work with federal and state partners to determine future needs of the AOC. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular status reports and updates should continue to be completed. Focus on monitoring needs and protocols to effectively assess progress post remediation. Continue oversight of all AOC activities and projects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RAC is comprised of a diverse group of members and representatives from different interest areas. The RAC meets to discuss various aspects of the RAP and to explore new opportunities to de-list the AOC. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on monitoring needs and protocols to effectively assess progress post remediation. Finalize BUI 1 and BUI 6 removal criteria. Develop a management action list to act as project checklist.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite a fish consumption advisory, the AOC is visited by 10,000+ anglers annually. Every year the AOC is utilized as an “outside classroom” for elementary and secondary classes. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to engage the public utilizing educational tools like the annual report card, various education events, AOC website, newsletters , Facebook, and press releases.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an increasing but still limited amount of participation from the public related to the AOC. Superfund activity has increased public participation/awareness. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue GREEN program with Lockport GMCH. Keep the public active with outreach and educational events. Continue to update the website and social media.

WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AREA OF CONCERN (AOC) ?

Local, state and federal officials identified a section of Eighteenmile Creek as one of 42 “Areas of Concern” (AOC) in the Great Lakes Basin. Eighteenmile Creek received this designation because of poor water quality and contaminated sediments present throughout the watershed. Eighteenmile Creek’s long history of use by major industries in the area, especially near the City of Lockport and Town of Newfane, has played a large role in the present condition of the creek.

WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN (RAP) ?

A RAP is an integrated, whole ecosystem approach to remediating impaired water bodies. The RAP first identifies use impairments, their causes, and contaminant sources, using existing studies and data. Next, existing cleanup and regulatory programs which apply to the water body are identified. A coordinated cleanup strategy is then developed to eliminate the use impairments. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation produced the Stage 1/2 RAP in 1997 in an effort to restore the integrity of the creek’s ecosystem.

WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK REMEDIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) ?

The Eighteenmile Creek RAC is comprised of a group of local, state and federal stakeholders, representing industries, organizations and local communities with a vested interest in the health of Eighteenmile Creek. The RAC is responsible for implementing the RAP, monitoring restoration efforts, and assessing ongoing needs and conditions. After a brief hiatus, the RAC reconvened in 2005 and is currently making progress in moving the RAP forward.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
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**Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District
U.S.D.A. Service Center
4487 Lake Avenue
Lockport, NY 14094
Phone: (716) 434-4949 Ext. 4
Website: www.eighteenmilerap.com**



**NIAGARA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2020 SEEDLING ORDER FORM**

EVERGREENS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	25 For	50 For	100 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Cedar, Red (1)	5-10"	\$20.00	\$38.00	\$72.00		
Fir, Balsam (2)	5-10"	\$19.00	\$36.00	\$68.00		
Fir, Concolor (2)	9-12"	\$18.00	\$34.00	\$64.00		
Fir, Douglas(2)	10-18"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$60.00		
Fir, Frasier (2)	9-12"	\$18.00	\$34.00	\$64.00		
Pine, Austrian (2)	7-12"	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$56.00		
Pine, White (3)	6-14"	\$20.00	\$38.00	\$72.00		
Spruce, Blue (2)	9-15"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$60.00		
Spruce, Norway (2)	10-18"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$60.00		
Spruce, White (2)	10-18"	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$56.00		

EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Cedar, White (2+1=3yrs)	8-14"	\$18.00	These items are transplants- order in tens only	
Fir, Balsam (3+1=4yrs)	8-14"	\$19.00		
Fir, Fraser (3+2=5yrs)	10-18"	\$20.00		
Pine, White (2+1=3yrs)	8-12"	\$18.00		
Spruce, Blue (2+2=4yrs)	12-18"	\$18.00		
Spruce, Norway (2+1=3yrs)	14-20"	\$16.00		

DECIDUOUS TREES Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	25 For	50 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Birch, Native (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Cherry, Black (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Hazelnut, American (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Maple, Red (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Maple, Sugar (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Oak, Burr (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Oak, Red (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Oak, White (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Pecan, Northern (1)	12-18"	\$13.00	\$31.00	\$57.00		
Persimmon (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Sycamore (1)	18-24"	\$13.00	\$31.00	\$57.00		
Tuliptree (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Walnut, Black (1)	12-18"	\$13.00	\$31.00	\$55.00		

SPECIAL OFFERS

Chestnut, American (2)	12-24"	5 seedlings for \$15.00		
Apple, Starter Package	4-6'	5 trees for \$85.00		
Apple, Wildlife Package	4-6'	4 trees for \$55.00		

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THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY REMINDER UNLESS AN E-MAIL IS PROVIDED WITH YOUR ORDER!!

PICK-UP INFORMATION

Tree Seedling Distribution : Friday, April 24, 2020 9:00am to 4:00pm

Saturday, April 25, 2020 9:00am to 12:00pm

Location: Merchant Building - Niagara County Fairgrounds - 4487 Lake Ave (Rt 78), Lockport

For Information Call #434-4949 Ext. 4

Extra Trees: Unsold seedlings will be available for sale on a cash basis on the above pickup dates.

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	25 For	50 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Butterfly Bush (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Cranberry, American (1)	6-15"	\$13.00	\$31.00	\$57.00		
Dogwood, Red Osier (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Elderberry (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Lilac (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Ninebark (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Rose of Sharon (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Serviceberry (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Winterberry (1)	12-18"	\$13.00	\$31.00	\$57.00		

CONSERVATION PACS		**Price**	Total # Pacs Ordered	Total Cost
Edible Fruit	All pacs include 10 plants -2 of each variety (see description)	\$33.00		
Nut Tree		\$19.00		
Perennial Flower		\$19.00		
Wetland Habitat		\$19.00		

OTHER ITEMS	**Price**	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Pachysandra - Groundcover - 50 rooted cuttings	\$32.00		
Milkweed Seed - 150mg packet	\$4.00		
Countryside Wildflower Seed - 4oz bag (covers 2500 sq ft)	\$14.00		
Conservation Grasses - Deer Plot Mix Large 25lbs bag (covers 3/4 ac)	\$104.00		
- Deer Plot Mix Small 10lbs bag (covers 1/3 ac)	\$70.00		
- Tall Mix Large 25lbs bag (covers 1 ac)	\$55.00		
Fertilizer Tablets - 25 Count (20-10-5 pellets)	\$3.50		
Marking Flags - 100 Count (30" wire staff)	\$11.00		
Bat Roost - Bachelor	\$16.00		
Bat Roost - Maternity	\$27.00		
Bluebird House	\$16.00		
Wood Duck Box	\$35.00		

****NYS Sales Tax of 8% already included****

Total Order \$

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ (to receive electronic notice)

All orders must be prepaid by cash or check payable to
Niagara County SWCD. We do not accept debit/credit cards.
Mail to: Niagara Co SWCD, 4487 Lake Ave, Lockport NY 14094
For additional information call #434-4949 Ext. 4

[Order# \(Office Use Only\)](#)

*****LAST DAY TO ORDER IS FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020*****

If ordering by mail after February 28, please call first for availability as stock may be sold out.

Clip & Save

Clip & Save

Clip & Save

Clip & Save

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Seedling orders are filled on a first come, first served basis. As we have no control over the weather or your choice of planting sites, times or techniques, the SWCD WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE for your trees and shrubs after they leave our distribution center. We cannot offer refunds or replacements. All trees and shrubs sold are to be used for effective conservation practices and will not be planted for ornamental purposes. Trees and shrubs sold will not be removed with roots attached for resale. This is in compliance with NYS Sale and Use Tax Regulations, 20 NYCRR, Section 529.2(c).

****EVERGREENS****

Cedar, Red (*Juniperus virginiana*)

This medium, slow growing native can reach 50' under adverse conditions in any soil type. Green needles turn rusty brown in winter. Its blue, waxy seed cones are beneficial food for birds, small mammals, and deer. Wood used for posts and archery bows. Aromatic heartwood used for closets and chests.

Cedar, White (*Thuja occidentalis*)

Pyramidal shape. Lacy, feathery, light green needles on flat branches. Grows to 60' in loamy, moist soils. Slow grower used for windbreaks, hedges, and wild-life food and cover. This native is also known as American Arborvitae.

Fir, Balsam (*Abies balsamea*)

A favored Christmas tree due to its aromatic fragrance. Has soft, 1" flat, deep green needles. Native tree with medium growth rate to 75' in cool, moist locations. Also excellent for wildlife food and shelter.

Fir, Concolor (*Abies concolor*)

Also known as "White Fir". Has silver trunk and dense, silver-blue needles with bluish band. Likes rich, loamy soils. Grows to 100'. Easy-to-care for native that makes a great ornamental specimen.

Fir, Douglas (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

Very popular native fir used as Christmas trees, lumber, windbreaks and ornamentals. Grows to 100' in well-drained soils. Holds small, soft, green needles for a long time and shears well. Good resistance to disease.

Fir, Fraser (*Abies fraseri*)

Premier Christmas tree. Grows to 40'. Needs well-drained soils. Intolerant of hot, dry places. Horizontal branches of shiny 1" green needles and gray bark. Slow growing native with a wonderful fragrance.

Pine, Austrian (*Pinus nigra*)

Fastest growing pine. Grows to 60' in heavy clay to light sand soils. Has long, dark green 5" needles in bundles of two. Pollution and salt tolerant. Makes a good Christmas tree and a hardy windbreak.

Pine, White (*Pinus strobus*)

Shade tolerant native, grows well in variety of soils, except wet, clay. Fast growth to 100'. Long, soft, green needles in bundles of five. Graceful, plume-like crown. Good for timber and x-mas trees. Sensitive to salt and windburn.

Spruce, Colorado Blue (*Picea pungens*)

Most popular of all spruces. Stiff, 1" needles range from dark green to silver-blue, depending on soil conditions and age. Grows best on moist, rich soils and will not tolerate drier conditions. Prefers full sun. Slow starting native, reaching 100' at maturity.

Spruce, Norway (*Picea abies*)

Fastest growing spruce. Has extremely attractive, strong, sweeping branches. Shiny 1" flat needles. Prefers well-drained, moist soils. Grows to 100'. Recommended for windbreaks and screens.

Spruce, White (*Picea glauca*)

Very hardy native, does well on variety of soils. Endures heat, drought, and crowding conditions. Grows to 60'. Dense, stiff, light green 1" needles. Good for windbreaks, pulpwood, and Christmas trees.

****DECIDUOUS TREES****

Birch, Native (*Betula papyrifera*)

Does well in cool, moist locations and can reach 80'. Oval green leaves turn bright yellow in fall and are a food source for butterflies. This native tree is also known as *Paper Birch* because its stunning snow-white bark peels off in paper-thin layers. And *Canoe Birch* since it was used by Native Americans to make canoes.

Cherry, Black (*Prunus serotina*)

Fast growth to 60' in various soil types. White flower clusters in May produce edible black fruits. Native tree used for furniture, firewood, jam, wine, wildlife food source. Easily identified by its thick burnt "cornflake" bark and when a young twig is scratched it has an almond-like scent.

Hazelnut, American (*Corylus americana*)

Also known as *Filbert* this large, multi-stemmed native prefers rich, well-drained soil and is pH adaptable. Growing to 8-15' tall, it is shade tolerant. Its long slender 8" catkins produce an acorn-like nut in late September that is enjoyed by humans, small mammals, deer, ruffed grouse and other large birds.

Maple, Red (*Acer rubrum*)

Known for its bright red flowers in early spring. Green foliage turns a brilliant red-orange in fall. Grows fast to 100'. Tolerates wet and swampy soils. Native widely used for wetland plantings. Great for wildlife habitat.

Maple, Sugar (*Acer saccharum*)

The State Tree of New York, this outstanding native grows to heights of 100'. Does best on well-drained soils. Dark green leaves turn brilliant yellow to fiery orange-red in fall. Used for maple syrup, lumber, firewood, wildlife habitat, or as an ornamental.

Oak, Burr (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

One of the most majestic of the oaks, and member of the white oak family, this native can grow to 80' tall with a broad-spreading crown. It prefers full sun and well drained soils, but is adaptable to a wide soil range. Yellowish-green flowers appear in April, along with leathery, dark green 6-12" leaves. Fruits are 1" oval acorn with fringed, burry cups. It's nicknamed *mossycup oak* because the shell of the acorn cup resembles moss. The acorns are an important food source for wildlife. Burr Oaks make superb low maintenance, long-lived shade trees.

Oak, Red (*Quercus rubra*) Native that does well on sandy to rich, loamy soils. Grows fast to 90'. Lustrous canopy of green leaves turn reddish-brown in fall. Has small red flowers in Spring. Produces 1" acorns. Tolerates city conditions. Excellent for lumber and wildlife.

Oak, White (*Quercus alba*)

A popular native shade tree that grows 60-80' tall, with a canopy about the same in width. It has irregular branching and attractive flaky, light gray bark. Rounded gray-green 4-8" long leaves become purple-red in Fall. Prefers full sun and acidic soil. Its small 1" acorns are popular with wildlife.

Pecan, Northern (*Carya illinoensis*)

Also known as Hardy Pecan, this native starts bearing nuts in 8-10 years. Best in rich, moist, well-drained soils in full sun, it typically grows 75-100'. Medium green leaves turn yellow in summer and brown in fall. Non-showy, greenish-yellow flowers in May give way to sweet, edible nuts in the fall. Each nut is encased in a thin husk which splits open in four sections when ripe, making a very decorative look. Like its cousin, the hickory, its hard wood is used for flooring, furniture and cabinets. A great urban shade tree. Acorns attract wildlife.

Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

An Eastern US native that grows 30-60' tall and 35' wide, in moist, sandy soils and full sun to partial shade. Distinctive dark gray bark and rounded oval crown. White to greenish-yellow flowers in late spring. Ripe, soft orange fruits in fall, so sweet you can eat them straight off the tree, are used for syrups, jellies and pies. Leaves can be used for teas. Great for rain gardens. Tolerant of drought, clay soil and air pollution.

Sycamore (*Plantanus occidentalis*)

This native tree is fast growing to 75' with a massive trunk of coarse mottled bark. It prefers moist soil and full sun. Deep red flowers in late March, followed by fuzzy-looking rounded fruit and yellow-brown Autumn foliage. Good urban tree. Can be used on difficult sites.

Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

This native likes full sun, moist slightly acidic soil and grows to over 70' tall. Its massive trunk boasts attractive gray bark and unique tulip-shaped leaves that turn golden in autumn. Beautiful flowers that bloom May to June resemble yellow - green tulips with reddish - orange centers.

Walnut, Black (*Juglans nigra*)

Grows well in deep, moist soils to 100'. Has a broad oval crown and compound leaves of 15-25 dark green leaflets. At 4 to 6 years old, it will produce flavorful, oil-rich sweet nuts in September to October. A native whose lumber is valued for furniture, cabinets, flooring and gun stocks.

****DECIDUOUS SHRUBS****

****CONSERVATION PACS****

Each pac contains 10 seedlings total - 2 of each variety

Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)

Multi-stemmed, with fragrant 4-10" flowers summer thru fall. Grows very quickly in all types of soil to 8'. A little heavy pruning each spring will keep it under control. Plant near a garden to attract hummingbirds, butterflies and bees.

Cranberry, American (*Viburnum trilobum*)

Fast growing to 8-12' this native prefers well-drained to moist soils. White flower clusters in May. Yellow to red fall color. Sour edible red fruits present summer thru winter are rich in vitamin C and enjoyed by humans and wildlife.

Dogwood, Red Osier (*Cornus sericea, syn. C stolonifera*)

Dense, fast growing 7-9' native also known as *red twig* for its dark red bark. Does well in damp soil conditions and is frequently used for bank erosion control. Hardy and attractive, it produces white flowers and berries, and boasts a purplish red fall color. Brilliant red stems are very showy in winter.

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

Vigorous grower to 12' in any type soil. Multi-stemmed, with clusters of purple-black fruits in late summer, used for jams and wine. A great native wetland plant. Good food source for wildlife.

Lilac, Common (*Syringa vulgaris*)

Easy to grow, old-fashioned favorite. Masses of fragrant white to lavender flowers and bright green leaves in Spring. Will grow in well-drained soils to 15'. Makes beautiful natural screen spreading 6-10'.

Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)

Easily grown deciduous native shrub, in full sun to part shade, and in a wide range of soil types. Noted for its reddish exfoliating bark and showy pinkish-white five petal flower clusters May-June. Has drooping reddish seed capsules and bronzy fall coloring. Grows upright to 10'. Used for hedges and erosion control on streams and rocky banks. Great for borders and winter wildlife habitat. An attractive addition to pollinator gardens. Able to withstand harsh conditions.

Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)

A member of the mallow family, this multi-stemmed, vase-shaped shrub grows 8-12' in various soil types and full to part sun. Has small green leaves and hibiscus type, bell-shaped flowers favored by hummingbirds and butterflies.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

This member of the Rosaceae family looks more like a small flowering tree than a shrub, growing 15-25', with a spread to 15'. Slightly fragrant, showy, white five-petal flowers in April (before leaves) give way to small dark-purple berries in June (hence its nickname "Juneberry"). If you can keep the birds away, the berries make delicious jams, jellies and pies. Leaves are of interest year-round: bronzy purple in spring, dark green in summer and red-orange in fall. Plant this native in full sun to part shade in moist, well-drained soil.

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)

Slow growing deciduous holly, easily grown in average or acidic, medium to wet soils, in full sun to part shade. Native upright, rounded shrub that typically grows 3-12' tall. Greenish-white flowers in spring give way to showy, bright red berries in late summer to fall, which persist thru winter on bare branches. Has elliptic, toothed, dark green 2-3" leaves that turn shades of maroon in autumn. Important food source for birds, especially the American Robin.

****SPECIAL OFFERS****

American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*)

The American Chestnuts were once one of the most plentiful, versatile and valuable forest trees in the eastern United States, until a blight in the early 1900s virtually eliminated most natural stands. This 100' tall hardwood was an important component of forestland that covered millions of acres. Its' straight, beautiful wood was widely used for railroad ties, fence posts, construction lumber, and furniture. It was also very important for wildlife, providing a prolific amount of nuts for white-tailed deer, wild turkey, black bears, and others. American Chestnuts do best in full sun on porous soils of moderate depth and fertility, such as rocky hillsides and gravelly or sandy soils. For pollination, plant all seedlings less than 100 yards from each other where their roots will not be disturbed. Rapid growers, they will produce nuts within 7-10 years.

Apple Trees:

All trees are 4-6' tall, 1/2" to 5/8" caliper, bare-root. The Nursery supplier will select and pack an assortment of various types for quality pollination.

Starter Package (5 trees)

Hardy, easy to grow varieties preferred for blight resistance and persistence.

Wildlife Package (4 trees)

Excess or misshapen trees not adequate for orchards, these are still suitable to enhance a backyard wildlife area and provide food for people, birds, deer, and other wildlife.

Edible Pac: Blackberry, Raspberry, Strawberry, Blueberry- Blue Ray & Jersey

Plant in sandy, well drained soil. Full sun. Use trellises for blackberry and raspberry. Water strawberry more frequently while fruit is forming (1-2"/wk). Space blueberry 4-6' apart with both types in close proximity for pollination.

Nut Tree Pac: Five Oaks- Chinquapin, Swamp White, Red, Pin, Sawtooth
All selections grow 50-80' and require at least 6 hours of sun daily. Acorns provide food for not only humans, but a variety of birds and other wildlife.

Perennial Pac: Daylily- Dream Baby & Frances Fay, Sedum- Autumn Joy, Iris- Blue King & Snow Queen
Plant in full sun to partial shade. Will flower year after year.

Wetland Habitat Pac: River Birch, Willow, Sycamore, Buttonbush, Red Osier Dogwood

These attractive trees and shrubs like the moisture and will provide habitat for birds and other wildlife in the wetter areas.

****OTHER ITEMS****

Pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*)

A carpeting plant with an interesting leaf pattern and inconspicuous white spike flowers. Grows 6-12" high in well-drained soil. Excellent for heavy shade.

Milkweed Seed

Monarch butterflies cannot survive without this host plant. Females only lay their eggs on native milkweed because their young caterpillars need it to grow and develop. Milkweed is disappearing from our landscapes. Planting it will not only help the Monarch, but the nectar is enjoyed by many other pollinators and hummingbirds as well. Plant in full sun to part shade, 1/2" deep in well-drained soils. Blooms sweet-scented light purplish 2-6' tall flowers in summer. Named for its milky white sap, it produces pod-like fruits that split to release new seed attached to fluffy, silky hairs that aid in wind dispersal. NOTE: Seeds need cold stratification. Place them in refrigeration for 30 days prior to planting. ALSO: DO NOT SPRAY THIS PLANT! Pesticide use is toxic to monarchs and their offspring.

Countryside Wildflower Seed

A **100% pure seed** mix of balanced blends of annual and perennial native wildflowers. Good for renovating old pastures, commercial sites and unused portions of lawn. Can be planted on moderate slopes to stabilize soil. Will grow in all soil types, even poor. The better the site, the better the outcome.

Deer Plot Mix

Mix of annuals and perennials that will attract and maintain deer. Includes several ryes, clovers, wheat, alfalfa, timothy, proso millet, birdsfoot trefoil, sainfoin, lathco flatpea, cicer milkvetch, and much more. Also good for birds and rabbits. Annuals provide growth the first year and act as nurse crop for perennials. Plant generously in open fields, along trails, or the edge of woods.

Tall Mix

Contains 20 short and tall varieties of annuals, including sorghums, millets, beans, and sunflowers. Grows 4 to 8 feet tall. Excellent for planting along fence lines, edges of woods, and strips in fields. Attracts pheasant, dove, quail, and turkey.

Fertilizer Tablets

A slow-release pellet 20-10-5 (nitrogen-phosphorous-potash) made specifically for 1-2 year old seedlings. Safe, easy, convenient. Planting instructions included.

**PICKUP INFORMATION
Mark your calendars now!!**

If you cannot pick up your order on the scheduled dates, please make arrangements with someone to pick it up for you. We do not have the space to keep the order past the pickup dates.

Pickup Days: Friday, April 24, 2020 9:00am to 4:00pm
Saturday, April 25, 2020 9:00am to 12:00pm
Location: Merchant Building – Niagara County Fairgrounds
4487 Lake Ave (RT 31), Lockport

Extra Trees:

Unsold seedlings will be available for sale on a cash and carry basis on the above pickup dates. We will not know until our prepaid orders are packed what the limited selection will be, so please come and browse!

Spring 2020 Pond Stocking

Order Deadline: May 8, 2020

TENTATIVE Pickup Date: third/fourth week of May
(We will call you the week before with time and date)

Spring 2020 Grass Carp

Order Deadline: May 8, 2020

TENTATIVE Pickup Date: third/fourth week of May
(We will call you the week before with time and date)

General Information: Stocking rates usually are 50-100 bass and a minimum of 1000 minnows/shiners per acre. NOTE* Do not skimp on stocking minnows, as game fish cannot grow without an adequate supply of natural food. If your pond is relatively new, be sure there is vegetation for reproductive habitat and aquatic life for a food chain. Recommended time to establish a pond with minnows before stocking other game fish is one year. You MUST obtain a stocking permit from the DEC prior to pickup. Applications are available in our office or on our website, www.niagaraswcd.com.

Pickup Information: Pickup will be at the SWCD office located at the northeast end of the Coop. Extension Administrative Building on the County Fairgrounds, Route 78, Lockport. At the time of pickup, **your fish will come in an aerated plastic bag.** You will need to bring a container to stabilize the bag for transportation home (plastic tote, cooler or box). Transferring the fish to your pond immediately is of utmost importance due to oxygen needs. The hatchery personnel will be available for only 1/2 hour for delivery so PLEASE BE PROMPT!

General Information: The average size of the carp will be between 12-14". Stock triploid grass carp in ponds which have been properly protected so they are unable to escape through inlets and outlets into other NYS waters. You MUST obtain a stocking permit from the NYS DEC before submitting your order because the issued permit tells you how many carp you are allowed. Permit applications are available in our office or on our website, www.niagaraswcd.com.

Pickup Information: Pickup will be at the SWCD office located at the northeast end of the Coop. Extension Administrative Building on the County Fairgrounds, Route 78, Lockport. At the time of pickup, you will need to bring a container **with a lid filled 1/2 full with pond water** (an 18-gal plastic tote holds 4 carp). These fish are highly perishable and must be transported as quickly as possible. The hatchery personnel will be available for only 1/2 hour for delivery so PLEASE BE PROMPT!

Call us for more information on how Grass Carp can benefit pond weed control.

Payment Information: Submit payment by check or money order with the bottom portions of these forms, payable to Niagara County SWCD. NOTE: Orders will be delivered on two separate dates. Keep the top portions as your delivery reminders and container/water needs for pickup. **THIS YEAR WE WILL ONLY HAVE ONE SPRING FISH & CARP PROGRAM, NONE THIS FALL, SO PLEASE ORDER NOW!!**

Spring 2020 Pond Stocking				Spring 2020 Grass Carp Stocking			
Type of Fish	Cost	# of Fish	\$ Amount	Type of Fish	Cost	# of Fish	\$ Amount
Perch 4"	25/\$55			Grass Carp 12-14"	ea./\$22		
Bass 4"	25/\$65						
Catfish 4" - 6"	12/\$30			Subtotal			
Sunfish 2" - 4"	25/\$55			+ Delivery			\$4.00
Golden Shiners 2"	50/\$26			Total Due			
Fathead Minnows 1"	100/\$20			(*NYS sales tax not required)			
Fathead Minnows 1"	1000/\$150						
		Subtotal		Name: _____			
(*NYS sales tax included as required)		+Delivery	\$4.00	Address: _____			
		Total Due		City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____			
Name: _____				Daytime Phone: _____			
Address: _____							
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____							
Daytime Phone: _____							
Mail with payment to: Niagara County SWCD 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport, New York 14094				Mail with payment and ALL 3 ORIGINAL D.E.C. GRASS CARP PERMIT COPIES to: Niagara County SWCD 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094			

FISH FACTS

Perch - The true perch of New York State include some of the best tasting and most popular freshwater fishes. As a family, they are widely distributed, adaptable to a wide range of habitats, and fun to catch on rod and reel. In addition, the less known members of the perch family, the darters, are probably the most colorful freshwater fish in North America. True perch are spiny-rayed fish which have one or more sharp spines on their fins. While they are quite variable in appearance, they all are slender in body shape, have two dorsal (back) fins, and one anal fin. True perch can be separated into two groups: larger perches and smaller perches.

Largemouth Bass - Found throughout NYS, they are considered one of the state's most important sport fish. These members of the Sunfish Family (Centrarchidae) prefer weedy, rocky areas to provide both protection and food supply. Usually weighing 3-5 lbs, they can get over 10 lbs and 2 feet in length. They are carnivorous; which means they'll eat small fish, crayfish, frogs, snakes, and some small mammals and birds if given the opportunity.

Channel Catfish - Catfish are characterized by scaleless skin and barbels, better known as whiskers, about their mouth. Channel catfish have a deeply forked tail and dark spots. The spotting, however, diminishes with age. Consequently, older channel cats are frequently mistaken as blue catfish. But the anal fin on blue cats has a flat outer edge and channels have a rounded edge. They can grow to be 4ft long and weigh up to 58lbs.

Sunfish - Sunfish include pumpkinseed and bluegill. They are small to medium-sized fish with a single anal fin (bottom rear) and a two-part dorsal fin (back). They are spiny-rayed, with one or more sharp spines found on their dorsal, pelvic (bottom front) and anal fins. These spines help protect them from being eaten by large fish and can prick the fingers of any angler who is not careful when removing the hook. Sunfish are green to brown on their backs and upper sides shading into brown, orange, or pink with traces of vertical bars along their bottom sides. The breast is yellow to copper-orange, and the sides of their heads have metallic blue and green overtones. The large, square-shaped, blue-black gill flap and conspicuous dark blotch on the back of the soft-rayed portion of their dorsal fins distinguishes bluegills from their close relatives, the pumpkinseed. Both fish average four to ten inches in length.

Golden Shiners - The golden shiner can be found throughout most of the US. These fish can be found in large schools around submerged structures where they primarily feed on zooplankton. The golden shiner spawns several times throughout summer while the water temps are 68-81 degrees. Spawning can be aided with the use of structures such as sunken evergreens or stacked pallets. The abundant reproduction of this fish makes it an excellent choice for stocking where predatory species are present. These fish are larger than fathead minnows (up to 6 inches in length) and are preferred by large predators.

Fathead Minnows - Fathead minnows are small and seldom exceed 3 inches in length. They are sturdy, heavy-bodied fish with small mouths and a lateral line that stops under the dorsal fin. They are generally dull in color, with dark bodies and a slight brass tint on the sides. They prefer ponds and slow moving water in streams. Fatheads spawn every 21 days, attaching their eggs to the underside of hard surfaces in the water, such as rocks, boards and PVC pipe, in warm waters of 65-85 degrees from April to September.

Triploid Grass Carp -The grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) is one of the largest members of the minnow family, commonly reaching weights in excess of 25 lbs. They can live up to 10 years. Native to Asia, this carp lacks the barbells and spiny dorsal and anal fin rays characteristic of its North American relatives, bearing a closer resemblance to a large creek chub. It is called "triploid" since it has been bred to retain an extra chromosome, rendering it sterile. Grass carp feed strictly by grazing on aquatic vegetation and are effectively used as aquatic plant control agents in over 50 countries.

Niagara County Japanese knotweed eradication program

The District has identified Japanese knotweed infestations at over 390 sites across the county. Herbicide treatments have been made on over 40 acres of land at 312 sites to try and eradicate the invasive plant. The summer field crew worked hard all summer long to treat the sites and identify additional infestations. Assistance with the project was provided by the Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (WNY PRISM). We thank PRISM for their help with the control of this invasive plant in our County. More information on the their organization can be found at wnyprism.org

If you know of any infestations of Japanese knotweed, please contact our office at 434-4949 to report the location.

****ATTENTION ALL SCHOOLS****

BE A PART OF THE LARGEST ENVIRONMENTAL COMPETITION
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Call 434-4949 to Register Now!

Check the websites www.envirothon.org and www.nysenvirothon.net

Interseeder available for cover crops. Call for details.





Plantings Continued

We have Ninebark and Red Osier Dogwood, which will both work well for shore stabilization.

Ninebark gets its' name from the very showy bark which they say has nine layers. The bark gives the plant a distinctive look in the winter. It grows along wet and well drained areas but will not take extended periods of water on the root system. The plant is fast growing in Hardiness zones 2-8 covering most of the US. It needs at least partial sun, growing to 8 -10' tall with white-pink flowers and colorful leaves in the fall.

Red Osier Dogwood gets its' name from the distinctive red bark. This is a perfect plant for growing along these wet areas. In fact, it requires some seasonal flooding to grow well, favoring sites along wetlands, streams and lakes. This plant produces white flowers June-August which later produces a small berry. It can be cut and soaked and spouted from cuttings. If you keep it trimmed it will help the root system expand, while protecting your view.

These plants will be great for your shore and stream stabilization efforts. If you cannot afford large rock or other hard armor protection, these plants can be combined with erosion mats, geotextile fabric and fiber rolls that can work on bank slopes very effectively.

These plants will be available on the 2020 order form so check it out and get your order in because supplies are limited. If you have questions on your site, contact the District.

AOC Update Continued

In 2019, sampling through the AOC program has included a fish community survey and mink prey study. The purpose of the fish community survey is to assess BUI 3 degradation of fish and wildlife populations to find out if contaminants are impacting fish populations in the AOC. Preliminary data doesn't suggest impairment, additional information can be expected next year. The mink prey assessment will determine if mink are being impacted by PCBs bioaccumulation from their prey (fish, crayfish and amphibians) and water. Samples have been collected throughout 2019 and will continue into 2020. A final report is not expected until the end of 2020.

In addition to these assessments, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is completing a data review to determine data gaps that are present for all BUIs. Once all assessments are complete, the next phase is determining management actions.

Management actions are defined as sediment remediation or habitat restoration projects that will lead to BUI removal. At this time, specific management actions are not known for the areas below Burt Dam. There will be a clearer understanding after assessments are completed. If there are any questions about the status of the Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern, please contact Scott Collins in our office.

Don't forget to submit your tree and shrub order form early!
It's common for us to sell out of many species before the order deadline.

Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District and Eighteenmile Creek Great Lakes Area of Concern are now on Facebook! Give us a "Like"



Find us on Facebook

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