



**WINTER 2023**  
**NIAGARA COUNTY SOIL & WATER**  
**CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**  
 An Environmental Publication

Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District  
 4487 Lake Avenue  
 Lockport, New York 14094  
 Phone: (716) 434-4949 Ext. 4  
[www.niagaraswcd.com](http://www.niagaraswcd.com)

**\*\*\*TREE SEEDLING ORDER FORM ENCLOSED\*\*\***

**QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED, ORDER EARLY SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT!**

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO DAVID WILSON**  
**FOR TWENTY YEARS ON THE NCSWCD BOARD**



The Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District has been fortunate to have David Wilson as a board member for twenty years, fifteen of those were served as Chairman of the Board. Prior to serving on the NCSWCD Board, Mr. Wilson served on the FSA County Committee for many years. You also may know him from all of his volunteer work with the Wilson Fire Hall.

Mr. Wilson operated Wilson Agri-Corp until retiring from farming. David was one of the first farmers in Niagara County to grow soybeans! Along with soybeans, they grew cabbage, corn, and other crops. David and his wife, Janice, then moved to Cambria, where they continue to serve the community.

A heartfelt thank you to David for all of the time and knowledge he brought to the District.

**HERE'S WHAT IS COMING UP IN 2023**

Seeding Sale	Fish/ Carp Sale	Field Days	Irrigation
Envirothon	Niagara County Fair	Wildlife Festival	
Site Plan Review	4 Hr. Contractor Trainings	Tree Planting	
Knotweed Control	Surface Water Monitoring	Water Bug Sampling	
Cover Crops	Ag. Chemical Facility /Petroleum Storage	And so much more!	

**DISTRICT RECEIVES CLIMATE RESILIENT**  
**FARMING GRANT FOR FOUR COUNTY FARMS**

The Niagara County SWCD has been awarded a grant from the NYS Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Program to implement 500 acres of cover crops on four farms in the Tonawanda Creek Watershed. This is the first grant from the CRF program awarded to the NCSWCD.

This year's grant will implement 500 acres of cover crops each year for the next three years. The farms will plant a cover crop mix of grasses and tillage radish. The grasses will grow and provide organic material and nutrients as green manure when tilled into the soil. The radishes will grow down into the soil opening up pathways for oxygen and water to enter the soil, along with providing organic matter and nutrients when tilled into the soil. These crops will provide erosion control when planted after row crops. The improvement in soil health allows the soils to capture more water during extreme runoff events and sustain crops during droughts by holding water in the soil for crops to utilize.

The CRF program assists with implementing cover crops in watersheds across NYS with a primary goal of soil health. The cover crops add organic matter to the soil and provide nutrients, which reduces the need for adding fertilizers and improves the tilth of the soil. This allows more water and oxygen to move through the soil, making it more sustainable and resilient to the extremes of climate change with extreme storm events and droughts occurring in the future. The use of cover crops also reduces erosion and protects watersheds from sedimentation.

NCSWCD has received several cover crops grants in the past for farms in different watersheds in the county through the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program. These grants were geared towards reducing erosion from runoff during storm events which reduce the amount of sediments entering streams. If you are interested in cover crops and how we may be able to assist, please call the office or email [David.reckahn@ny.nacdnet.net](mailto:David.reckahn@ny.nacdnet.net).

**District Directors**

**David C. Wilson**  
*Chairman*

**James Bittner**  
*Vice Chairman*

**Gerald Farnham**  
*Treasurer*

**Mary Gumaer**  
*Member*

**Scott White**  
*Member*

**William Collins**  
*Legislator*

**Shawn Foti**  
*Legislator*

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**NCSW Board Meetings**

Board Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of every month. Please contact the office for more information.

**Follow Us for More District News on Facebook**

Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District

Eighteenmile Creek Great Lakes Area of Concern



**How Can We Help You?**

- Seedling/Tree Sale
- Pond Stocking/ Carp Sale
- Bird/Bat/Duck Houses
- Eighteenmile Creek RAP
- Invasive Species Control & Eradication
- Pond Site Evaluations
- Pond Maintenance
- Agriculture Value Assessments
- Inter Seeder Rental
- No-Till Drill Rental
- Educational Programs
- Drainage /Tiling Assistance
- Bird/Bat/Duck Houses Permit Application Assistance
- Mining Assistance
- Erosion Control
- Flood Prevention
- Water Conservation & Use
- Wetlands
- Ground Water, Water Quality & Quantity
- Nonpoint Source Pollution
- Forestland Protection
- Wildlife
- Recreation
- Manure Management
- Waste Water Management

And so much more!



**DON'T FORGET TO RECYCLE! BINS, DONATIONS, EVENTS & MORE**

Did you know that every town and city in Niagara County has recycle pick-up? It's true. Between 16-20% of household garbage is being recycled in the County, the national average is 35%. There are many benefits from recycling. Recycling conserves natural resources and helps to protect the Earth. Many new products can be made with recycled materials. Re-using materials also decreases the processing of raw materials and the pollution that comes along with it.

We can get to 35% and here's how:

- Roadside Bins
- Use Reusable Water Bottles/ Coffee Mugs
- Use Reusable Storage Containers instead of Plastic Baggies
- Use Reusable Grocery Bags
- Donate Autos and Clothing
- Recycling Events for Electronics, Hazardous Waste, and Large Items (appliances)
- Take Plastic Shopping Bags and Recyclable Packaging to Grocery Stores for Recycling
- Take eligible beverage containers to bottle redemption facilities and grocery stores for \$.05/container
- Compost Yard Waste or Take to the Street for Town Pick-Up (if available)
- Take Unused Prescription Drugs to "No Questions Asked" Drop-Offs at many Police Stations and Pharmacies
- Call your Town for Tire Drop-Off Sites
- Many town/village halls, CCE Niagara, and Schools take items for recycling

OK for Bins:

- Newspaper, Office Paper, Paper Bags, Junk Mail, Magazines, Cardboard, Pizza Boxes, Paperboard
- Clear Bottles and Jars
- #1 & #2 Plastic Jugs & Bottles with Small Top
- Aluminum Cans, Metal Cookware, Steel Cans, Tin Cans

Not OK for Bins:

- Aerosol Cans
- Batteries
- Paint Cans
- Propane Tanks and Hazardous Materials
- Trash and Yard Waste

Follow Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District, Rethink Your Waste, Modern Disposal Services, and your towns/villages/cities on Facebook or websites for Recycling Events! If you have any questions about your recycling days or how to get a bin please contact your town or our office and we will help get you to the right place.

**Recycling Guidelines**

**Best Items to Place in Your Recycling Cart**  
Please be advised that if your recyclables are placed in a plastic bag, they will be disposed of as trash. All recyclables should be placed in the cart loose.

**Paper** Newspapers, Office Paper, Paper Bags, Junk Mail, Paperboard & Magazines

**Cardboard** Appliances & Home Storage

**Plastic** Jugs & Bottles with Small Top Openings

**Metal** Aluminum Cans, Metal Cookware, Steel & Tin Cans

**Bottles & Jars** Clear Bottles & Jars

**Unacceptable Items in Your Recycling Cart**

**Unacceptable Metal** Aerosol Cans, Propane Tanks, Batteries & Paint Cans

**Electronic Waste** Electronics, Cords & Christmas Lights

**Clothing** Clothing

**Styrofoam** Styrofoam

**Plastic Bags & Film** Plastic Bags & Film

**Coated Fiber Products** Coated Fiber Products

**Unacceptable Glass** Light Bulbs & Photo Glass/Mirrors

**Wood Items** Wood Items

**Yard Waste** Yard Waste

**Medical Waste/Syringes** Medical Waste/Syringes

**As well as...**

- Diapers
- Handcove/ Boots
- Concrete
- Flammable Liquids
- Dishes or Ceramics
- Hazardous Chemicals
- Chairs/Strapping
- Garden Hoses
- Chemicals (Dry or Liquid)
- Pool Liners/Tarp/Covers
- Refillable Pools
- Items with Gasoline

Like us on Facebook for Recycling Tips & Info  
ModernCorporation.com/FAQS  
800-330-7107  
MODERN Disposal Services



**EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR RENT**

Interseeder rental is available for farmers to plant cover crops between corn rows. Planting can occur between v3 and v7 stage, and won't impact the corn being grown. First use of the interseeder is free, subsequent uses will cost \$5/acre.



No-Till Drill rental is available for your next conservation seeding project. We provide the drill, delivery and cleaning, customer provides the seed. Cost is \$15/acre plus \$50 delivery in the County.

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.



# NIAGARA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



## 2023 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"	\$23	\$44	\$86		
Cedar, White - Arborvitae (2)	9-12"	\$21	\$40	\$76		
Fir, Concolor (2)	5-10"	\$20	\$38	\$72		
Fir, Douglas (2)	9-15"	\$27	\$52	\$97		
Fir, Fraser (2)	9-12"	\$22	\$42	\$79		
Pine, Austrian (2)	7-12"	\$19	\$36	\$68		
Pine, White (2)	7-10"	\$20	\$38	\$72		
Spruce, Blue (2)	9-15"	\$20	\$38	\$72		
Spruce, Norway (2)	18-24"	\$24	\$46	\$86		
Spruce, White (2)	10-18"	\$22	\$42	\$79		

EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Cedar, White (3+1=4yrs)	10-18"	\$26	These items are transplants  Order in 10's only	
Fir, Balsam (2+1=3yrs)	6-12"	\$23		
Fir, Fraser (2+1=3yrs)	7-12"	\$24		
Pine, White (2+1=3yrs)	10-18"	\$23		
Spruce, Blue (2+1=3yrs)	10-18"	\$24		
Spruce, Norway (2+1=3yrs)	12-18"	\$22		

DECIDUOUS TREES Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	25 For	50 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Birch, Canoe (1)	12-18"	\$18	\$43	\$81		
Cherry, Black (1)	12-18"	\$16	\$38	\$72		
Hazelnut, American (2)	12-18"	\$18	\$43	\$81		
Hickory, Shagbark (2)	12-18"	\$21	\$50	\$95		
Maple, Red (1)	12-18"	\$16	\$38	\$72		
Maple, Sugar (1)	12-18"	\$19	\$45	\$86		
Oak, Red (1)	12-18"	\$17	\$40	\$77		
Oak, White (1)	18-24"	\$16	\$38	\$72		
Paw Paw (2)	12-18"	\$21	\$50	\$95		
Pecan, Northern (1)	12-18"	\$17	\$40	\$77		
Persimmon (1)	12-18"	\$16	\$38	\$72		
Sycamore (1)	12-18"	\$16	\$38	\$72		
Tuliptree (1)	12-18"	\$17	\$40	\$77		

### SPECIAL OFFERS

Species & Age (years)		Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Chestnut, American (2)	16-24"	5 seedlings for \$21	
Apple, Starter Package	4-6'	5 trees for \$91	
Apple, Wildlife Package	4-6'	5 trees for \$63	

**\*\*Clip & Save\*\*\***

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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 21, 2023**    8:00am to 4:00pm  
**Saturday, April 22, 2023**    9:00am to 12:00pm

Location: **Merchant Building - Niagara County Fairgrounds - 4487 Lake Ave (Rt 78), Lockport**  
**For Information and Questions: (716) 434-4949 Ext. 4**

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

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS	Avg Height	10	25	50	Total #	Total
Species & Age (years)	in Bundle	For	For	For	Ordered	Cost
Butterfly Bush (1)	12-18"	\$16	\$38	\$72		
Cranberry, American	12-18"	\$16	\$38	\$72		
Dogwood, Red Osier (1)	12-18"	\$15	\$35	\$68		
Eastern Sweetshrub (1)	6-12"	\$18	\$43	\$81		
Elderberry (1)	12-18"	\$16	\$38	\$72		
Lilac (2)	12-18"	\$16	\$38	\$72		
Nannyberry (1)	12-18"	\$18	\$43	\$81		
Ninebark (1)	18-24"	\$17	\$40	\$77		
Serviceberry / Juneberry	12-18"	\$16	\$38	\$72		
Winterberry (1)	12-18"	\$18	\$43	\$81		

CONSERVATION PACS		**Price**	Total # Pacs	Total
			Ordered	Cost
Edible Fruit	All Pacs Include 10 Plants 2 of Each Variety (See Description)	\$35		
Nut Tree		\$22		
Perennial Flower		\$22		
Wetland Habitat		\$22		

OTHER ITEMS	**Price**	Total #	Total
		Ordered	Cost
Pachysandra - Groundcover - 50 rooted cuttings	\$43		
Milkweed Seed - 150mg packet	\$5		
Wildflower Seed - 4oz bag (covers 2500 sq ft)	\$16		
Conservation Grasses - Deer Plot Mix Large 25lbs bag (covers 3/4 ac)	\$104		
- Deer Plot Mix Small 10lbs bag (covers 1/3 ac)	\$90		
- Tall Mix Large 25lbs bag (covers 1 ac)	\$55		
Fertilizer Tablets - 25 Count (20-10-5 pellets)	\$4		
Marking Flags - 100 Count (30" wire staff)	\$14		
Bat Roost - Bachelor	\$17		
Bat Roost - Maternity	\$27		
Bluebird House	\$18		
Wood Duck Box	\$44		

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

**Total Order \$**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

All orders must be prepaid by cash or check payable to  
Niagara County SWCD.

Drop off /Mail to: Niagara County SWCD  
4487 Lake Ave, Lockport NY 14094

We do not accept credit cards. For additional information call (716) 434-4949 Ext. 4

**Order# (Office Use Only)**

**\*\*\*PLEASE CALL FOR AVAILABILITY AFTER 2/17\*\*\***  
**\*\*LAST DAY TO ORDER IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023\*\***

\*\*\*Clip & Save\*\*\*

\*\*\*Clip & Save\*\*\*

\*\*\*Clip & Save\*\*\*

\*\*\*Clip & Save\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET! MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

**AN EMAIL REMINDER WILL BE SENT PRIOR TO THE PICK UP DATES**

**\*\*\* PICK-UP DATES FRIDAY, APRIL 21 & SATURDAY, APRIL 22 \*\*\***

*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\*\***

**\*\*DECIDUOUS TREES\*\***

**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.

**Birch, Canoe (*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. Will create thickets from root sprouts.

**Hickory, Shagbark (*Carya ovata*)**

Plant a shagbark hickory in a large landscape for excellent shade. This Midwest native is named for its bark, which peels away in large, flat, curving plates, giving the tree a shaggy appearance. As a member of the walnut family, the hickory produces edible nuts. Enjoys moist, well drained soil. Matures to 60-80' tall.

**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 to rocky soils. Native widely used for wetland plantings. Great for wildlife habitat.

**Maple, Sugar (*Acer saccharum*)**

Most known as the source of maple syrup. Green foliage turns a brilliant red-orange in fall. Grows to 65-75' at a rate of 2-3' a year. Prefers a deep, well-drained to rocky soils. Great for wildlife habitat.

**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. And "ski track" appearance on mature bark. 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 to 60-80' tall and is about the same in width as it is tall. It has irregular branching and attractive flaky, light gray bark. Rounded, grayish-green 4-8" long leaves become purple-red in the fall, dull leaf tips. Prefers full sun and acidic soil. Its small 1" acorns are popular with wildlife.

**Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*)**

A popular native fruit tree that grows to approximately 30' tall, at a rate of 1-2' a year. Prefers full sun and moist, well-drained soil. Needs to be protected from wind. Grows a large, yellowish-green to brown fruit that tastes like a mix of mango, banana, and citrus.

**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.



**\*\*DECIDUOUS SHRUBS\*\***

**\*\*CONSERVATION PACS\*\***

**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.

**Eastern Sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*)**

Deciduous shrub with glossy, aromatic, leathery, dark green leaves with deep red flowers. Will grow 6-9' high and wide. Prefers a sunny area with partial shade and a moist, well drained soil. Great for a butterfly garden.

**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'.

**Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)**

A large full shrub with white flowers in the springs and blue berries in the fall. Berries are edible and known for a prune/banana like flavor. Grows in moist to well-drained soils and up to 20' tall.

**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. Grows upright to 10'. Used for hedges and erosion control on streams and rocky banks. Great for borders and winter wildlife habitat. Able to withstand harsh conditions.

**Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)**

A native to North America, this 6-20' suckering multi-stemmed shrub thrives on moist, well-drained acidic soil and tolerates a wide pH range. White flowers in April produce dark purplish fruits in June. That is how it got its other recognized name of "Juneberry". This shrub is enjoyed by many types of birds. Prune regularly for best fruit production.

**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.

**\*\*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 (5 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.

**Each pac contains 10 seedlings total - 2 of each variety**

**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- White, 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, Stella De Oro  
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.

**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**

**Don't Forget, Mark Your Calendars Now!**

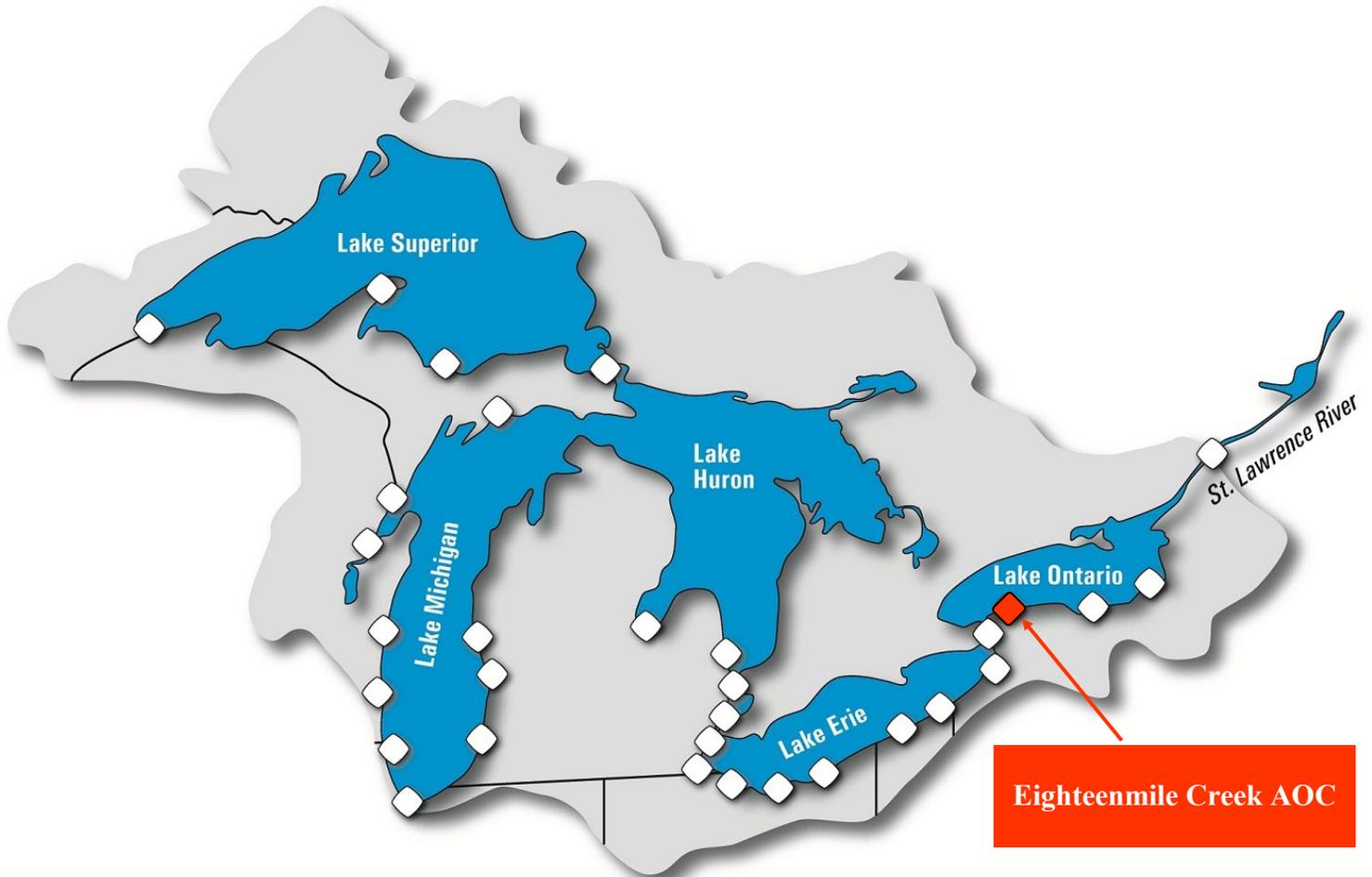
If you cannot pick up your order on the scheduled dates, please make arrangements with someone to pick it up for you.

**Pickup Days: Friday, April 21, 2023 8:00am to 4:00pm**  
**Saturday, April 22, 2023 9:00am to 12:00pm**

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

Extra, Unsold Trees/Seedlings will be available for sale on a cash and carry basis on the above pickup dates. Follow us on Facebook to for a list of what we will have available!

# EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AREA OF CONCERN



## 2022 REPORT CARD



### A COMPILATION OF SUCCESSSES, IMPROVEMENTS & CURRENT CONDITIONS



# 2022 AOC Newsletter Update

Progress has continued at Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern (AOC) throughout 2022. In the past few years many studies have been completed to assess the status of each Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI). Currently, there's only one outstanding study looking into the benthic macroinvertebrate community and sediment toxicity. All other reports have been posted on the Eighteenmile Creek AOC website at <http://eighteenmilerap.com/DATA.html>.

## A Deeper Dive into BUI 6. Degradation of Benthos

Most of the Beneficial Use Impairments for the Eighteenmile Creek AOC have been thoroughly addressed with studies over the years. Over the last year, the Degradation of Benthos BUI has become a greater focus to determine whether this BUI is impaired and if it is, what's causing the impairment.

Why do we look at the benthic macroinvertebrate community? The benthic macroinvertebrate community, or the bugs that live at the bottom of a waterbody, interact with sediments, water, and pollution. The environment and amount of pollution determine what invertebrates can inhabit an area. Most invertebrates can be categorized in a broad spectrum of pollution tolerant to pollution intolerant. This makes macroinvertebrates a great indicator of stream health.

There are two BUIs that rely on the macroinvertebrate community, BUI 3. Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations and BUI 6. Degradation of Benthos. Each of the criteria are described on the next page of the report card. The Degradation of Benthos is more strict so any assessment focused on this BUIs can satisfy both criteria.

The last Eighteenmile Creek AOC macroinvertebrate survey was completed in 2014 (final report was published in 2017). In this study USGS and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) looked at macroinvertebrate community structure and sediment toxicity (a test that takes sediment from a creek and tests if there are any detrimental effects on benthic macroinvertebrates). Results of this study were generally positive, but at the time did not have results that clearly met the removal criteria.

Community condition was assessed using NYS DEC biologic assessment profile (BAP) criteria. This criteria uses a combination of five indicators such as species richness and diversity that gives each sampling site a score and are placed in a ranking. There are four ranking tiers that range from a best-case scenario of 'Non-impacted' to worst case 'Severely Impacted'. Two sites sampled in the AOC ranked in the non or slightly impacted tiers which satisfy our first removal criteria, but one site ranked moderately impacted. Since the first criterion is not met, the second two criteria of our new criteria must be met for any potential BUI removal.

When this study was completed in 2017 old BUI removal criteria didn't compare Eighteenmile Creek community and toxicity to a reference site. The old criteria was not representative of the AOC and became vague/immeasurable. In addition, one site in the AOC named emil-3, ranked poorly in community and toxicity tests. Without sediment samples collected from each sampling site, it was unknown if the poor results at emil-3 were caused by contaminants such as PCBs, metals, or pesticides, or if it's caused by natural influences such as poor habitat or seasonal eutrophication in the creek. In 2020, new measurable removal criteria were drafted and listed on the next page.

In 2021 a new study started to assess how close the Degradation of Benthos BUI is to removal. Eight sites were sampled in the AOC (compared to three in the 2017 report). One of these sites is located close to emil-3 site that ranked poorly in the previous study. Within the sampling effort, community structure and toxicity testing will be directly compared to reference sites in Oak Orchard Creek. A link to a USGS data release is below. A final report of this study will be available in mid 2023. Be sure to check our Eighteenmile Creek AOC Facebook page and website for updates and copies of the final report.

George, S.D., and Baldigo, B.P., 2022, Macroinvertebrate community and sediment toxicity data from the Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern, New York, 2021, New York: U.S. Geological Survey data release, <https://doi.org/10.5066/P9N8T0WP>

## Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations BUI

Recent testing has shown that contaminants in the Eighteenmile Creek AOC are not directly impacting fish and wildlife populations. A data review is in progress to start removal of this BUI. A quick summary of the current status of this BUI is available on the next page, and more details will be available in subsequent newsletters and report cards.

Below: Mayfly nymph collected by USGS in 2021



Below: USGS field crew using ponar dredges to collect samples



Left: Longnose gar collected from Eighteenmile Creek during the 2019 fish community survey

## Where are we at with the BUIs?

It's easiest to discuss these as their own separate topics.

BUI 1. Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption	
<b>Removal Criteria:</b>	There are no AOC-specific fish and wildlife consumption advisories issued by New York State
<b>Discussion:</b>	Migratory fish such as trout and salmon had their advisories relaxed to be the same as Lake Ontario's. This is an improvement, but resident fish above and below Burt Dam continue to have elevated levels of PCBs. An AOC specific consumption advisory is expected to remain in place until remedial work is complete and there has been a declining trend of contaminant levels in fish. Knowing Superfund remedial work will take years to complete, this BUI is unlikely to be removed in the near future.
BUI 3. Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations	
<b>Removal Criteria:</b>	Fish community metrics (e.g., diversity, abundance, biomass, and condition) are similar to reference site(s); AND  Benthic macroinvertebrate community composition is within the range expected and similar to reference site condition; AND  PCB concentrations in fish tissue and other prey are below thresholds likely to result in acute toxicity to fish or piscivorous wildlife (birds and mammals).
<b>Discussion:</b>	The first part of this removal criteria was addressed in the fish community study by USGS in 2019. In general, there are no major differences in fish communities between Eighteenmile Creek and Oak Orchard Creek. Since the communities are similar, this part of the criteria is considered to be met.  Benthic macroinvertebrate communities were addressed in reports from 2013 and 2017. Minor differences in macroinvertebrate communities were found between Eighteenmile Creek and Oak Orchard Creek. To confirm these results, in 2021 USGS started a study to assess benthic macroinvertebrate communities and toxicity. Preliminary results suggest this criteria will be met. A final report can be expected in mid-2023.  The third part of this criteria was addressed with the mink study from SUNY Brockport. SUNY Brockport modeled acute (lethal) toxicity to mink and determined no impairment.  The RAC tentatively approved removal of this BUI, pending results of the USGS study that is ongoing. No suggested impairment is likely, drafting a BUI Removal Recommendation will start in 2023.
BUI 5. Bird or Animal Deformities/Reproductive Problems	
<b>Removal Criteria:</b>	PCB concentrations in fish tissue from comparable functional feeding groups are similar to reference site(s); OR  PCB concentrations in fish and other prey are below tissue concentrations known to cause deformities or reproductive impairment in piscivorous wildlife.
<b>Discussion:</b>	It's well known that resident fish in the AOC have elevated levels of PCBs. Therefore, this part of the BUI will not likely be met until after remediation is complete (see BUI 1 Discussion). The second criteria for deformities or reproductive impairment is also impaired based on the SUNY Brockport mink study.
BUI 6. Degradation of Benthos	
<b>Removal Criteria:</b>	Benthic macroinvertebrate communities are "non-impacted" or "slightly impacted" according to NYSDEC indices; OR  Benthic macroinvertebrate community condition is similar to unimpacted control sites of comparable physical and chemical characteristics; AND  Toxicity of sediment-associated contaminants is similar to unimpacted control sites of comparable physical and chemical characteristics.
<b>Discussion:</b>	The first criteria uses DEC guidelines as a measuring stick, which is a good starting point for assessment. Previous studies have shown that benthic macroinvertebrate at both Eighteenmile Creek and a suitable reference site are slightly to moderately impacted using DEC indices, requiring use of the second and third criteria for a chance at removal.  Analysis of benthic macroinvertebrate community structure and sediment toxicity are generally similar between Eighteenmile and Oak Orchard Creek, although one site in the AOC ranked worse than other sites. A recent data review suggests that other factors such as seasonal eutrophication or poor habitat could be the cause of impairment. USGS started an assessment in 2021 to confirm impairment status. This study assess community structure, toxicity and habitat at sites in Eighteenmile Creek and a reference site. A final report of this study is expected in mid-2023.

## 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.

**If you have a vested interest in Eighteenmile Creek and want to help advance the RAP, contact our office and we would be happy to speak with you!**

## GREEN Outreach, Clean Sweep, and Newfane Field Days

Through the Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN) we’ve teamed with our local General Motors plant in Lockport to explore the Eighteenmile Creek watershed. The program allows students from Lockport, Newfane and Niagara BOCES to visit streams within the Eighteenmile Creek watershed and other areas in the county to investigate water quality issues. Throughout the school year classes will discuss solutions to the issues found on their fall field trips. The classes will implement their solutions in spring 2023. 2022 projects included a pollinator habitat in Olcott, invasive waste bins at Olcott Harbor, and nesting boxes in parks around the county.

Our Clean Sweep event was successful thanks to Cub Scout and Boy Scout Pack #4. The team of 15 collected over 200 pounds of garbage at Fisherman’s Park!

The third grade classes at Newfane Elementary spent a day learning about different areas of the great outdoors from a variety of instructors. The stations were manned by the Niagara County Department of Health, AWARE, NYS DEC Environmental Conservation Officers, WNY PRISM, NYS DEC Forestry, Niagara CCE and US. Fish & Wildlife Services.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Contact:

**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](http://www.eighteenmilerap.com)



# Annual Fish Sale

Order Deadline: April 28, 2023

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](http://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**. 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!



# Annual Grass Carp Sale

Order Deadline: April 28, 2023

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

**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](http://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.



Fish Pick-Up will be in the morning hours a day in May, once pick-up dates are set, we will email/call

Keep the top portions as your instructions for container/water needs for pickup.

2023 Pond Stocking				2023 Grass Carp Stocking			
Type of Fish	Cost	# of Fish	\$ Amount	Type of Fish	Cost	# of Fish	\$ Amount
Perch 3-4"	20/\$70			Grass Carp 12-14"	ea./\$23		
Bass 4-5"	20/\$75						
Catfish 4-5"	15/\$30						<b>Delivery Fee \$4</b>
Sunfish 2-4"	25/\$65						4.00
Golden Shiners 2-3"	50/\$30						<b>Total Due</b>
Fathead Minnows 1"+	100/\$21						
Fathead Minnows 1"+	1000/\$165						
(*NYS sales tax included as required)		<b>Delivery Fee \$4</b>	4.00				
		<b>Total Due</b>					
Name: _____				Name: _____			
Address: _____				Address: _____			
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____				City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____			
Email: _____				Email: _____			
Daytime Phone: _____				Daytime Phone: _____			
<b>All orders must be prepaid by cash or check payable to Niagara County SWCD. Drop off /Mail to: Niagara County SWCD 4487 Lake Ave, Lockport NY 14094</b>				<b>All orders must be prepaid by cash or check payable to Niagara County SWCD with <u>ALL 3 Original DEC Grass Carp Permits</u> Drop off /Mail to: Niagara County SWCD 4487 Lake Ave, Lockport NY 14094</b>			
We do not accept credit cards. For additional information call (716) 434-4949 Ext. 4				We do not accept credit cards. For additional information call (716) 434-4949 Ext. 4			

## TYPES OF FISH AVAILABLE

**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 under-side 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.



## USFS GRANT HELPS TO REPLACE 400 TREES LOST IN NIAGARA COUNTY



NCSWCD began work with the Niagara County Parks Departments and the Cities of Lockport and Niagara Falls to plant 400 trees that will replace trees lost from the Emerald Ash Borer. Funding was provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through the United States Forestry Service to increase species diversity by planting over 20 different species throughout the project. Various species are offered to combat invasive species and offer climate resiliency including fruit trees to hardwoods, flowering trees to wetland trees. In 2022, a combined 175 trees have been planted in Lockport, Niagara Falls, Oppenheim Park, and Krull Park. An additional 135 will be planted in 2023 and 90 in 2024 in these same locations.



## JAPANESE KNOTWEED TREATMENT IN 2022



With winter fast approaching, another successful season of the District's Japanese knotweed treatment program has concluded. Japanese knotweed is an invasive perennial plant that is a member of the buckwheat family, and is believed to have been first introduced to the United States in the late 1800's. Since its introduction, knotweed has become a very resilient invader of backyards, streambanks, forests, drainage ditches and roadways across the country. Knotweed can grow to over 10 feet tall and has reddish-brown stalks that are hollow, similar to bamboo. The leaves of the knotweed plant are green, and heart shaped with a triangular tip. In late summer the plant produces cascading white clusters of flowers. Knotweed is easily transferred from location to location through its vast underground root system, seed dispersal, or through small pieces of root or stems that are transported with dirt/

brush piles from property to property or small fragments of knotweed can wash down stream creating new patches along waterways. Once knotweed establishes in an area, it grows extremely aggressively outcompeting and eliminating native vegetation and creating damaged ecosystems. The loss of native trees and shrubs causes negative impacts for insects, birds, and mammal populations, all of whom depend on native plants for food, shelter, and safe travel corridors. Knotweed affects our local environment in several other ways including, reducing the amount of plant and animal diversity, destabilizing stream banks and shorelines, decreasing overall water quality and lowering the levels of soil nutrients found in local soils.

Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District has continued to work on eradicating Japanese Knotweed for the last several years. The District has utilized treatment crews during the spring and summer months, to locate new and existing patches, educate property owners about Japanese knotweed and to treat knotweed throughout the county. Treatment at various locations consists of cuttings, stem injection of herbicide, foliar spray of herbicide or a combination of treatment methods. The District's Japanese knotweed crew was able to conduct treatments on over 370 sites across Niagara County and treated well over 65 acres of knotweed patches on public and private land. This past summer NCSWCD was also fortunate to have the expertise and help of WNY PRISM (Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) in the field for a few days assisting our crew in the stem injection treatment of patches located in Niagara Falls and Wheatfield. Thank you to PRISM and their Invasive Species Crew Assistance Program for their support this season and all the important work PRISM does in WNY.



If you believe you may have Japanese knotweed on your property and you would like us to come out and take a look or discuss possible treatment options, please contact our office at 716-434-4949 ext. 4.

## NYSDEC REGENERATE NEW YORK FUNDING

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) provided funding through Regenerate NY to plant trees, control invasives, management woodlands and protect seedlings from deer browsing. In 2022, \$750,000 was available to landowners statewide. This was the second year of funding provided by NYS DEC and the plan is to have another program in 2023.

Any landowner in NYS owning more than 10 acres and less than 1,000 acres is eligible. The project must cost at least \$10,000 and not more than \$50,000, the landowner must provide a 25% match of cash or in-kind services for the project. The projects must fall into one or more of the following 4 project areas.

**Afforestation/Reforestation** – Conduct activities that encourage the establishment or regeneration of commercial tree species to create or maintain a forested landscape.

**Forest Stand Regeneration** – Apply treatments to an area that enhance or stimulate the regeneration of forest stands currently in a degraded or otherwise unproductive condition.

**Competing Vegetation Control** – Employ mechanical removal or chemical control to address aggressive native or invasive plant species that interfere with forest establishment or regeneration.

**Deer Exlosures** – Install fencing around an area to protect young trees from deer. Fencing may also be used to exclude deer from an area with no established trees to allow natural regeneration to occur.

With Niagara County having one of the highest percentages of Ash trees lost and a very high deer population, Niagara County resident applications should rank high. If you are interested and would like more information on the grants you can visit the NYS DEC website or follow this link <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/119950.html> .

### NYS Erosion, Sediment Control & Stormwater Training

NYS 4-Hour Course

February 1, 2023  
March 3, 2023

Both days start at 9:00am  
Registration Forms at  
[www.niagaraswcd.com](http://www.niagaraswcd.com)

Niagara County Fairgrounds  
4487 Lake Avenue  
Lockport, NY 14094  
716-434-4949 ext 4



**\*\*\*TEACHERS\*\*\*  
&  
\*\*\*STUDENTS\*\*\***

Are you interested in the environment? We have some programs you may be interested in!

**Environmental Field Days**

**Envirothon**

**GREEN Program**

Students from all grades are welcome!

If you have any questions or are interested in these events please call the office or contact Katie at [Katherine.pfeifer@ny.nacdn.net](mailto:Katherine.pfeifer@ny.nacdn.net)

## CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

### Don't Lose Your Benefits!

**Have you, will you or are you thinking about doing any of the following activities that have not been evaluated by NRCS on land you farm?**

- Land clearing?
- Working new land?
- Excavation?
- Stump removal?
- Create a new drainage system?
- Constructing a building or structure?
- Improving an existing drainage system?
- Modifying an existing drainage system?
- Maintaining an existing drainage system?
- Land leveling?
- Dredging an area?
- Filling an area?
- Plant an agricultural commodity on land where an NRCS determination of Highly Erodible Land (HEL) or wetland has not been made?

**If you answered yes and want to remain eligible for USDA program payments, you MUST file Form AD-1026 with FSA and answer yes to one or more of the following questions:**

**• 5 • 9 • 10A • 10B • 10C**



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Feb. 2010



SOMEONE IS SITTING IN THE  
SHADE TODAY  
BECAUSE SOMEONE PLANTED  
A TREE A LONG TIME AGO.

#### Non-Discrimination Statement

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