



Calhoun Conservation District
13464 – Preston Drive Suite 110
Marshall MI 49068

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Tree Sale Issue

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DOWN TO EARTH-DISTRICT NEWS

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Tracy Bronson, Executive Director
Kristine Boley-Morse, Watershed Coordinator
Mike Rubley, Groundwater Technician
Rick Pierson, Watershed Coordinator/Environmental Ed Coordinator

USDA/NRCS

Ed Lusch, District Conservationist
Larry Antoine, Soil Conservation Technician

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCED

In light of recent budget cuts, our Annual Meeting will be held on February 23, 2010 at the Calhoun Conservation District office in Marshall from 2pm to 5pm. Please join us for light refreshments, program updates, and most importantly, your chance to vote in the Director election. This year we have one spot open on our Board of Directors. Jason McHugh (previously appointed) is running for that spot. Absentee ballots are also available at the District office until two hours before the Annual Meeting.

SPRING 2010 TREE SALE

Orders will be accepted through March 31, 2010 or when supplies are exhausted, whichever comes first! Distribution will be at the Calhoun County Fairgrounds 4-H Horse Barn on April 23rd and 24th --we'll send you a postcard reminder.

CONIFERS

Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*) - Very tolerant of sandy, dry soils and exposed sites. Has long, soft needles. Medium growth rate to 80+ ft.

White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) - Excellent windbreak and hedge. Long, soft needles. Great for Christmas trees, wildlife habitat, or as an ornamental. Transplants easily in a wide range of soils. Fast growing to 100 ft.

Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens glauca*) – Medium growth rate. Height to 100 ft. Adaptable-prefers rich, moist soil in full sun; also thrives on dry, well-drained sites.

Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) – Grows fast. Height to 100 ft. Grows on most sites except in sour or water soaked soil.

White Spruce (*Picea glauca*) – Medium growth rate. Height to 60 ft. Best in well-drained, sandy soils.

Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) - Grows medium. Height to 100 ft. Prefers moist, well-drained soil and good air circulation.

DECIDUOUS TREES & SHRUBS

White Oak (*Quercus alba*) – Height to 80 ft. Broad, dense headed tree with purple-red fall color, excellent for wildlife.

Red Oak – (*Quercus rubra*) – Rapid growing. Height to 80 ft. Broad, round topped head with large leaves turning dark red in fall. Often planted as a shade or street tree.

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) - Makes a nice tree for lawns, streets and parks. Develops bright red flowers in spring before leaves appear. Bright green leaves turn brilliant red or orange in fall. Can tolerate wet, swampy, conditions. Grows 40 - 60 ft.

Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) – Height to 65 ft. Beautiful foliage has distinctively shaped leaves and large flowers characteristic of its Magnolia heritage. Popular street and shade tree, valuable hardwood source.

River Birch (*Betula nigra*) – Fast growth, 50-70 ft. Showy bark. Best growth on moist soil, but has proven to be adaptable to dried sites. Good lawn tree-shade is light and allows turf to grow, useful along streams and in naturalistic areas.

Common Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) – Fast growth, 35-40 ft. Prefers moist, well-drained soil with full sun. Excellent wildlife tree.

Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus mas*) - Height to 20 ft. Small yellow flowers in early to mid April. Bright red fruits in mid summer are quickly eaten by birds. Full sun or partial shade, adaptable to many soils.

Allegheny Serviceberry (*Amerlanchier laevis*) – Medium growth rate, 15-25 ft tall. Showy white flowers in early May. Black pome fruit, a favorite of birds and other animals. Full sun, prefers wet sites.

Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*) – Height 8-12 ft (equal spread). Moderate growth rate. Showy white flowers attractive to birds and wildlife. Edible fruit, great for hedges and shrub borders. Sun to partial shade.

Redosier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) - Grows 7 to 9 ft. high, 10 ft. wide or more. Flowers in June, fruits in August-October. Shade intolerant.

Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomim*) - Prefers moist to wet sites in soils of various composition and pH, it adapts to dry soils, poor soils, or soils that are wet in winter and spring, and dry in summer and autumn. Medium growth rate. Height to 10 ft. Excellent wildlife food and cover.

Mountain Ash (*Sorbus americana*) – Grows 10-30 ft high, prefers full sun, adapts to many soil types, dislikes dry soil. Bright red to orange red berries in fall that last into the winter, attracts birds.

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis Canadensis*) – 3-4 ft. – Height 20-30 ft (equal spread). Showy, purplish and pink flowers in spring. Use for showy lawn flowering or group plantings.

Red Elderberry (*Sambucus pubens*) – Height 5-12 ft (equal spread). Large, white flower clusters, red fruit clusters in summer. Adaptable to amount of sunlight, prefers moist soils. Use as a shrub border to attract birds.

DWARF FRUIT TREES

*Honeycrisp Apple –The fruit is large and the skin is 50 - 90% red over yellow background. The flesh is cream colored and exceptionally crisp and juicy with a sub-acid flavor. Ripens mid to late September.

*Lucky Jon Apple - more intensive red color over a larger percentage of the fruit surface at maturity, dark red blush covering 80 - 95% of the fruit surface. Ripens mid to late September.

Apple trees need a pollinator of a different variety. These two species can pollinate each other

“UPCYCLED” RAIN BARRELS & COMPOSTER – NEW THIS YEAR!



All barrels are 35 to 40 inches tall. Upcycled and sanitized plastic barrels formerly used for food product shipping. Modified into rain barrels and assembled with a spigot, linking fitting at bottom end, overflow fitting near top, and screen enclosure for top. Designed to leave out all year 'round. Available in 60 gallon (black) or 55 gallon (blue or terra-cotta).

The composter is a tumbling style. It only requires a 3x4 foot area to use. All pieces of the composter are in a kit inside the barrel (including the stand) and are easy to assemble (instructions included). Best composting action is achieved in full or partial sun. Black, 55 gallon barrel.



(Additional sizes, colors, and accessories for rainbarrels are available...contact Tracy at the District office for more info)

SPRING 2010 TREE ORDER FORM

Hurry--orders due by March 31, 2010

Species/Age, Size	Each	10	25	50	100	500	Quantity Ordered	Total Price
CONIFERS								
Red Pine/3-0, 12-18"		\$9	\$14	\$23	\$41	\$180		
White Pine/3-0, 12-18"		\$10	\$15	\$24	\$43	\$190		
Blue Spruce/2-0, 9-15"		\$10	\$15	\$25	\$45	\$200		
Norway Spruce/3-0, 12-18"		\$10	\$15	\$24	\$43	\$190		
Douglas Fir/2-0, 10-18"		\$11	\$16	\$25	\$45	\$200		
CONIFER TRANSPLANTS								
White Pine/2-2, 12-18"	\$5							
White Spruce/2-2, 14-20"	\$5							
DECIDUOUS								
White Oak/2-0, 8-14"		\$30	\$45	\$75	\$135	\$600		
Red Oak/2-0, 12-18"		\$26	\$39	\$64	\$115	\$510		
Red Maple/2-0, 12-18"		\$25	\$37	\$61	\$110	\$490		
Tulip Poplar/2-0, 12-18"		\$27	\$40	\$67	\$120	\$530		
River Birch/2-0, 12-18"		\$25	\$37	\$62	\$111	\$490		
Common Persimmon/2-0, 12-18"		\$25	\$37	\$62	\$111	\$490		
Cornelian Cherry/2-0, 12-18"		\$33	\$50	\$83	\$149	\$660		
Allegheny Serviceberry/2-0, 12-18"		\$31	\$47	\$78	\$140	\$620		
Highbush Cranberry/2-0, 12-18"		\$18	\$27	\$45	\$81	\$360		
Redosier Dogwood/2-0, 12-24"		\$10	\$15	\$24	\$43	\$190		
Silky Dogwood/2-0, 12-24"		\$10	\$15	\$24	\$43	\$190		
Mountain Ash/2-0, 12-24"		\$20	\$30	\$49	\$88	\$390		
Eastern Redbud/2-0, 12-18"		\$29	\$43	\$72	\$129	\$570		
Red Elderberry/2-0, 12-18"		\$31	\$47	\$78	\$140	\$620		
DWARF FRUIT TREES								
Honeycrisp Apple/½" caliper, bud 118	\$16							
Lucky Jon Apple/½" caliper, bud 118	\$16							
RAIN BARRELS & COMPOSTER								
60 Gallon Black Rain Barrel	\$75							
55 Gallon Blue Rain Barrel	\$75							
55 Gallon Terra-Cotta Rain Barrel	\$75							
55 Gallon Black Composter	\$125							

TOTAL ALL ITEMS \$ _____
6% Sales Tax \$ _____
Donation (Tax Deductible) \$ _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please mail order forms with payment to:
 Calhoun Conservation District, 13464 Preston
 Drive, Marshall MI 49068

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL: _____

(In an effort to reduce negative environmental impacts, please give us your email address so we can send future newsletters electronically-this list will be kept confidential)

PA89 of 1939 prohibits seedlings purchased from Conservation Districts from being resold with roots attached. We do not guarantee survival. Our liability ceases when seedlings are delivered to buyer. The District reserves the right to cancel orders and refund payments due to reasons beyond our control.

THREE NEW CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Calhoun Conservation District received three new grants that will bring in \$693,775 for conservation work in Calhoun County over the next several years. One project will focus on reconnecting Rice Creek to the floodplain in four key locations in Marengo and Sheridan Townships; a second project will develop a watershed management plan on Crooked Creek, Pigeon Creek, and Dibble Drain; and the third project will reconnect a significant wetland separated for years by a road through the middle of it.

Rice Creek is disconnected from the floodplain in many areas where it is designated a County drain. When historical dredging occurred in the 1920's the dredge spoils were side-cast along the banks of the creek, separating the creek from its natural floodplain. This allowed drainage to occur more rapidly but dried up many natural wetland areas decreasing their function of recharging groundwater and providing wildlife habitat as well as eliminated their natural function of storing storm water floodwaters. The increased rate of drainage also causes much higher rates of stream bank erosion.

The reconnection of Rice Creek to its natural floodplain in key locations will begin the process of restoring the damage incurred from this historical practice. Though dredging and drainage is important in some agricultural areas, storing flood waters in specific wetland areas is also important. This project will strive to help strike that balance.

Crooked Creek, Pigeon Creek, and Dibble Drain all have poor water quality and high phosphorus levels. The first step to addressing these concerns is to develop a detailed 'watershed management plan.' The Conservation District will develop such a plan for these specific watersheds, as it has done on Nottawa Creek, Rice Creek, and the Battle Creek River watersheds. Identifying all of the watershed issues and potential solutions to those issues as they relate to improving water quality and flow will be a priority.

Calhoun Road, also known as 30 Mile Road, crosses the south branch of Rice Creek and is located along the Calhoun and Jackson County line. At this crossing the large floodplain wetland is literally cut in half by the gravel road separating the north half of the wetland from the southern half. Because the culvert allowing flow of the creek beneath the road is undersized, this portion of the road often floods in the spring and fall making the road impassable. The new project will allow an environmentally sound arch type culvert and several cross-flow culverts to be installed. These will eliminate the flooding problem and reconnect the wetland, allowing a more natural floodplain wetland function and aquatic habitat migration.



KNOW YOUR NUTRIENTS – Mike Rubley, Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program

The price of fertilizer has increased dramatically this year, the question becomes how producers will deal with this increased cost and retain maximum yields with their crops. There are many alternatives to purchasing fertilizers, and yet being able to retain the proper amount of nutrients required to obtain yields. The application of manure as a nutrient source is one option available. In order to increase the efficiency of manure application for plant nutrient uptake, it is essential to know what there is to work with.

Soil testing provides information as to how much nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are already available in the soil. Testing the nutrient content of the manure provides information on the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium available. Each crop has a specific nutrient requirement that can be determined by looking at crop species and yield goals.

By subtracting the amount of essential nutrients that are already in the soil with the nutrients that are required to reach the crop yield goal, the nutrient deficiency can be determined. Taking the nutrients contained in the manure based on a manure sample test, and the nutrient deficiency, the amount of manure per acre that is required to reach crop nutrient needs for yield goals can be determined.

Manure application on fields is another factor that should be given thought. Nitrogen, if not incorporated into the soil, will volatilize to the atmosphere quickly depending on heat and humidity. To achieve the most benefit from nitrogen in manure, it is important to incorporate manure within 48 hours after application. Nitrogen however, has a high leaching ability. Due to the high leaching ability, nitrogen can be pushed through the soil as water is added to the soil. If enough water is added, the nitrogen can be pushed out of the crops root zone.

Phosphorus is another nutrient that remains very mobile in the environment. Phosphorus contained in manure has a tendency to be picked up by water molecules, and transported off the field. Since phosphorus can move off fields so easily, fields with slopes greater than three percent should not receive any liquid manure, while fields with slopes greater than 6 percent should not receive solid manure. Phosphorus does not volatilize if left on the soils surface, yet it is a good management practice to incorporate the phosphorus into the ground to reduce potential runoff risks.

Creating a nutrient management plan is the basic idea surrounding the soil and manure testing. The plan should account for the amount of nutrients applied to the crop through a given year. When fertilizer prices were relatively cheap, manure was dealt with as a problem rather than a resource. With the increasing costs of fertilizer, the nutrients in manure can be utilized as an economically efficient alternative. Considering how nutrients move through the environment can also save money, by using a practice that reduces the amount of nutrient loss to the environment. Programs are available to help producers make decisions with providing proper nutrients for their plants. Contacting the local NRCS staff and the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program are excellent starting places.