



Niagara Nature News

An Environmental Publication by Niagara County
Soil & Water Conservation District
Winter 2021 - NEWS

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Conservation District
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Let's Celebrate Trees

Trees are an important part of our lives, performing major environmental, physical and emotional roles.

Environmentally they provide shade, shelter, food and fuel. They help with soil erosion, serve as windbreaks, protect wildlife and are a source for paper products.

From the birth of a new baby, to a wedding, to a new home...trees have been a commemorative way to celebrate life events. We bond with them emotionally. They are in the family photos we take whether in our backyard or on vacation. We all have those fun memories of camping in the woods, climbing our favorite trees, reading under a shade tree, or passing time watching squirrels scamper up the trunk and birds flitting through the branches.

Christmas trees are a favorite. We decorate them inside our homes, outside our homes... and at public places like Rockefeller Center in NYC, for the whole world to see on a televised spectacular lighting ceremony!

Unfortunately, not every good thing lasts forever. The American Chestnut, once the most prominent tree in the eastern U.S., was decimated in the early 1900s from blight. In the past century, many trees of the same species were planted together for a dramatic effect. We now know that planting a variety in the same area is best. The diversity protects the livelihood of the forests. Currently, the ash trees are the latest to be drastically affected from insect blight.

Continued on page 13.

Photo of Eighteenmile Creek taken
from Cooke's Creekview Bed and
Breakfast



"You know me, I think there ought to be a big old tree right there. And let's give him a friend. Everybody needs a friend." — Bob Ross

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Give our Facebook pages a "Like":

Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District

Eighteenmile Creek Great Lakes Area of Concern



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.



Interseeder Rental

Interseeder rental is still 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 per acre.



Niagara County hosting Contractor Training

The Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District will present and host a 4-hour Contractor Training in Erosion and Sediment Control. The trainings will be held February 24th and March 3rd in the Training Center at the Niagara County Fairgrounds. These trainings will be very limited seating due to Covid-19 restrictions. Cost of the training is \$95 per person and registration forms can be downloaded from our website (niagaraswcd.com).

The training is required by NYS DEC for contractors working sites over 1 acre in size and must be completed every 3 years to be certified to install erosion and sediment control practices on the site. The training is also open to local government officials with certification credits for NYS Department of State training.

Please contact the District with questions about the trainings.

Japanese Knotweed Season Concludes in 2020

With the first heavy frost of the season, knotweed plants die back for the winter season, concluding the District's program to control the resilient invasive. It was another successful year of the District's knotweed eradication program in Niagara County. Several large patches over one acre in size were identified from scouting in 2019. These large knotweed patches after treatment are now reduced to a fraction of their original size, and in some cases, over a 90% reduction in knotweed plants was achieved.

The 400 sites that were treated over the last few years will be monitored and re-treated to assure 100% eradication is achieved, to prevent knotweed from coming back. Stem injection has been very effective in killing the plant. Sites with plants too small to stem inject required several foliar applications over multiple years to kill all the plants completely. This is why it is sometimes takes longer to eradicate small patches that don't have plants big enough to inject.

We seem to be winning the battle especially when we look at some of the other counties around the state. We still need help scouting as was pointed out when several new patches were found in 2019 and then again in 2020. So, if you think you have Japanese knotweed on your property call our office and we will come out to verify while we get ready to do battle again in the Spring of 2021.



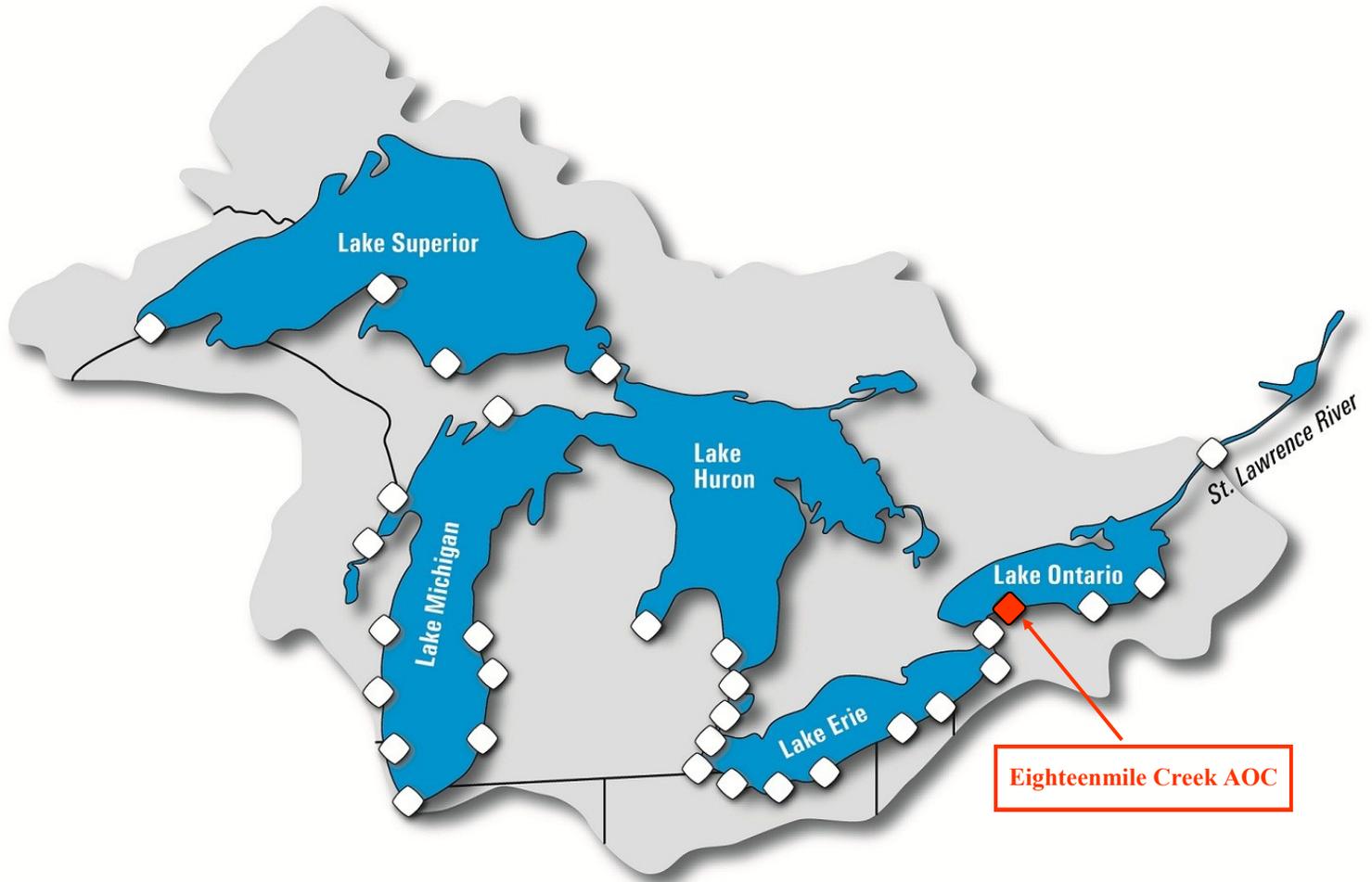
Hyde Park Lake 2018



Hyde Park Lake 2019

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



2020 REPORT CARD



A COMPILATION OF SUCCESSSES, IMPROVEMENTS & CURRENT CONDITIONS



2020 AOC Newsletter Update

Since 2020 has been a different year, we decided to provide a different type of update reviewing program success and the vision forward for this AOC. The bulk of the update will follow a Q&A format, with other topics being added in as necessary. Although COVID has cancelled many outreach events, programmatic goals are continuing to be reached for Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern (AOC).

Are the results from the mink contaminant study ready yet?

In 2018, a study was initiated to determine the impairment status of mammals within Eighteenmile Creek. Previous studies of Beneficial Use Impairments (BUI) #3 (“Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations”) and BUI #5 (“Bird or Animal Deformities/Reproductive Problems”) found that there were no reproductive or physical impairments for fish, birds, amphibians, or reptiles, but found possible reproductive impairment for mammals. Research has proven that mink are especially sensitive to dioxin-like co-planar PCBs, dioxins and furans, which at part per billion concentrations in the diet cause reproductive failure. This study is assessing whether contaminants of concern are negatively impacting mink populations, causing reproductive problems, or increased incidences of deformities within the Eighteenmile Creek AOC and upstream creek area.

This assessment by SUNY Brockport was designed to sample either mink themselves or their prey to determine the impairment status of these BUIs. Since the size of the AOC is small, the shorelines are steep, and there is a significant amount of traffic surrounding the creek, it was decided to conduct a prey assessment. The prey assessment uses a mathematical model created by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and adapted by SUNY Brockport to predict reproductive impairment or deformities using multiple samples of fish, crayfish, amphibians and Eighteenmile Creek water from different seasons. Samples were collected in Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Summer 2019, Fall 2019 and Spring 2020. A final report for this study is to be completed before the end of 2021. The US Army Corps of Engineers is also providing support for the Brockport project by providing fish and crayfish data from Oak Orchard Creek, which will be a reference site.

Have there been any recent milestones or goals the AOC has reached?

For 2020 in particular, this is a great question. There have been three major milestones the AOC has reached with the assistance of the EPA and NYSDEC: 1. Finalized new removal criteria for the remaining BUIs, 2. Removal of our first BUI: Restrictions on Dredging Activities, and 3. Designated the AOC as management actions complete.

Finalized new removal criteria for the BUIs: Developing an effective approach to addressing Beneficial Use Impairments (BUI) requires clear and measurable removal criteria. From 2018 to 2020, the Eighteenmile Creek coordination team, which includes Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District (NCSWCD), United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), worked closely with BUI technical review leads and subject matter experts from United States Geological Survey (USGS), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to review the existing BUI removal targets listed in the Eighteenmile Creek Remedial Action Plan Stage II Update (2011) and develop updated removal criteria. Several factors specific to Eighteenmile Creek were considered, including previous assessments, end points that can be directly measured within the AOC, and using regional reference sites when appropriate.

Revised criteria for BUIs 3) Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations, and 5) Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems were approved by the Remedial Advisory Committee (RAC) and submitted to USEPA Great Lakes National Programs Office (GLNPO) in August 2019. Updated criteria for BUIs 1) Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption, and 6) Degradation of Benthos followed with RAC and GLNPO approval in August 2020. Restrictions on Dredging BUI was not included in the updates since it was removed from the AOC in September 2020.

Removal of our first BUI: Restrictions on Dredging Activities: Removal of a BUI is no small task. You have to understand why the BUI was originally impaired, what work has been completed since listed as impaired, and determine if the previous work and/or other natural processes have been restored to prevent future impairment. It’s important to note that this BUI only applies in the Olcott Harbor. A review of multiple factors related to navigational dredging in Olcott Harbor, including sediment physical, chemical, and toxicological analysis, and recent and historical dredging permits, has shown little to no contaminant related dredging restrictions impacting the AOC. A geophysical survey was also completed by the US Army Corps of Engineers to show what types of sediments are in the bottom of the harbor. This information lends itself to show how water/sediment is moving in the harbor. The harbor survey showed northern areas comprised of mostly sand (likely washed in from Lake Ontario), while the southern parts of the harbor were fine grained sediments (from Eighteenmile Creek). Knowing this and the sampling results from the Town of Newfane dredging combines as two key pieces of proof that there is no impairment on dredging in the harbor. A full report describing the history and previous studies is available on eighteenmilerap.com.

Designated the AOC as management actions complete: The third major milestone reached is getting the AOC designated as “Management Action Complete”. In every AOC, the goal is to figure out what Great Lakes Restoration Initiative or Great Lakes Legacy Act actions (sediment remediation or habitat restoration) are needed to restore each BUI. When you know the projects that are needed and can give it a timeline, it is then designated as your management action list and sent to the EPA for approval. In order to remove Eighteenmile Creek AOC BUIs, remediation of source areas above Burt Dam is needed. The cleanup of source areas is being addressed through the EPA Superfund program, is not designated as an AOC management action. Since there are no known management actions below Burt Dam and the Superfund investigations/cleanup is ongoing, the NYS DEC with support of Niagara County Soil and Water and the Remedial Advisory Committee (RAC) submitted a letter stating no other management actions have been identified. The AOC program will continue to monitor the health of the creek as it pertains to the other BUIs that are still impaired. As the creek improves, BUIs will be removed accordingly.

Where are we at with the other BUIs?

The other BUIs are still impaired under the new removal criteria. It's easiest to discuss these as their own separate topics.

BUI 1. Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption	
Removal Criteria:	There are no AOC-specific fish and wildlife consumption advisories issued by New York State
Discussion:	Fish above and below Burt Dam continue to have elevated levels of PCBs. After a discussion with NYS Department of Health (DOH), an AOC specific consumption advisory is expected to remain in place until remedial work is complete and there has been a declining trend in contaminant levels in fish. Knowing Superfund remedial work will take years to complete, this is a BUI that is unlikely to be removed in the near future.
BUI 3. Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations	
Removal Criteria:	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).
Discussion:	The first part of this removal criterion was addressed in the fish community study by USGS in 2019. In general, there are no major differences in fish community metrics between Eighteenmile Creek and Oak Orchard Creek. Since the fish 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, but not at a level that would impact fish and wildlife on a population level. Since macroinvertebrate communities are similar to Oak Orchard Creek, this part of the criteria is also considered met. The third part of this criteria will likely be addressed with the mink study from SUNY Brockport. While Brockport is modeling chronic (long term) effects to mink from their prey, potential for acute (short term) effects will also be assessed to determine the status of this part of the criteria. Results of the Brockport study are expected sometime in 2021.
BUI 5. Bird or Animal Deformities/Reproductive Problems	
Removal Criteria:	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.
Discussion:	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. The second criteria for deformities or reproductive impairment will be addressed in the SUNY Brockport mink study that should be complete before the end of 2021.
BUI 6. Degradation of Benthos	
Removal Criteria:	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.
Discussion:	The first criteria uses DEC guidelines as a measuring stick, which is a good starting point for assessment. Previous studies have shown that both Eighteenmile Creek and a suitable reference site are slightly to moderately impacted by DEC guidelines, causing us to use the second and third criteria. Analysis of benthic macroinvertebrate community structure and sediment toxicity were generally similar between Eighteenmile and Oak Orchard Creek, although one site in the AOC ranked more poorly than other sites. A recent data review suggests that other factors such as seasonal eutrophication or poor habitat could be the cause of impairment. This BUI will be reviewed in 2021.

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.



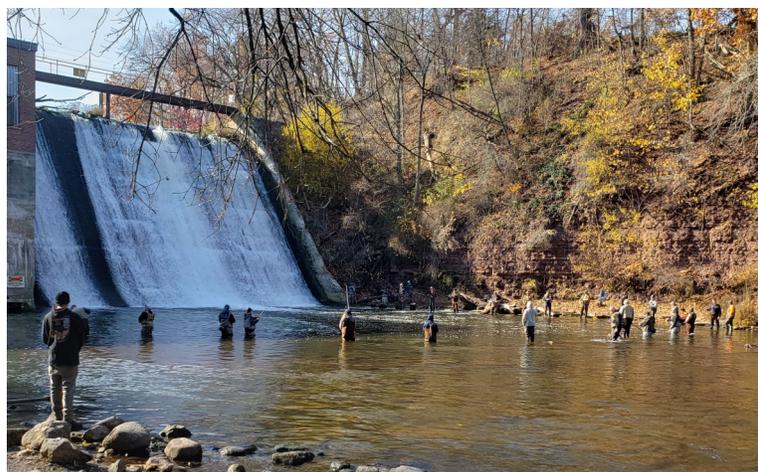
Left: A catch and release fish processing station from the 2019 fish community study implemented by USGS.

Right: A SUNY Brockport professor and graduate students preparing to collect fish for the mink prey study.



Left: SUNY Brockport graduate students preparing fish samples to be transported to the lab for processing.

Right: Fishermen enjoying the 2020 salmon run at Burt Dam.



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



**NIAGARA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2021 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, Concolor (3)	9-15"	\$21.00	\$40.00	\$76.00		
Fir, Douglas(2)	10-18"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$60.00		
Fir, Frasier (4)	15-20"	\$21.00	\$40.00	\$76.00		
Pine, Austrian (2)	7-12"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$60.00		
Pine, White (2)	4-7"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$60.00		
Spruce, Blue (2)	9-15"	\$18.00	\$34.00	\$64.00		
Spruce, Norway (2)	10-18"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$60.00		
Spruce, White (3)	9-15"	\$19.00	\$36.00	\$68.00		

EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Cedar, White (2+1=3yrs)	8-14"	\$19.00	These items are transplants- order in tens only	
Fir, Balsam (3+1=4yrs)	8-14"	\$20.00		
Fir, Fraser (3+2=5yrs)	10-18"	\$21.00		
Pine, White (2+1=3yrs)	10-16"	\$19.00		
Spruce, Blue (2+1=3yrs)	10-16"	\$20.00		
Spruce, Norway (2+1=3yrs)	14-20"	\$19.00		

DECIDUOUS TREES Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	25 For	50 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Cherry, Black (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Hazelnut, American (2)	10-18"	\$14.00	\$33.00	\$62.00		
Maple, Red (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Maple, Sugar (2)	12-18"	\$15.00	\$36.00	\$67.00		
Oak, Burr (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Oak, Red (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Pecan, Northern (1)	6-12"	\$13.00	\$31.00	\$57.00		
Persimmon (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Sycamore (2)	12-18"	\$13.00	\$31.00	\$57.00		
Tuliptree (2)	18-24"	\$14.00	\$33.00	\$62.00		
Walnut, Black (1)	12-18"	\$13.00	\$31.00	\$57.00		

SPECIAL OFFERS

Chestnut, American (2)	16-24"	5 seedlings for \$17.00			
Apple, Starter Package	4-6'	5 trees for \$85.00			
Apple, Wildlife Package	4-6'	5 trees for \$60.00			

****Clip & Save****

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

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

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

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

PICK-UP INFORMATION

Tree Seedling Distribution : Friday, April 23, 2021 9:00am to 4:00pm

Saturday, April 24, 2021 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)	6-12"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Cranberry, American (2)	12-18"	\$14.00	\$33.00	\$62.00		
Dogwood, Red Osier (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Elderberry (1)	12-18"	\$13.00	\$31.00	\$57.00		
Lilac (2)	12-18"	\$14.00	\$33.00	\$62.00		
Ninebark (1)	12-18"	\$13.00	\$31.00	\$57.00		
Rose of Sharon (1)	12-18"	\$13.00	\$31.00	\$57.00		
Winterberry (1)	18-24"	\$15.00	\$36.00	\$67.00		

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		\$20.00		
Perennial Flower		\$20.00		
Wetland Habitat		\$19.00		

OTHER ITEMS	**Price**	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Pachysandra - Groundcover - 50 rooted cuttings	\$35.00		
Milkweed Seed - 150mg packet	\$4.00		
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	\$36.00		

****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 5, 2021*****

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 wildlife 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****

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 to rocky 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.

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.

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 elliptical, 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 (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.

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
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 23, 2021 9:00am to 4:00pm
Saturday, April 24, 2021 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!

Fish Pickup

Order Deadline: May 8, 2021

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, 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!

Grass Carp & Minnow Pickup

Order Deadline: May 8, 2021

TENTATIVE Pickup Date: end of May/first of June

(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.

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!

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!!

2021 Pond Stocking				2021 Grass Carp Stocking			
Type of Fish	Cost	# of Fish	\$ Amount	Type of Fish	Cost	# of Fish	\$ Amount
Perch 4"	20/\$65			Grass Carp 12-14"	ea./\$22		
Bass 4"	20/\$65						
Catfish 4"	15/\$30			Subtotal			
Sunfish 2"	20/\$55			+ Delivery			\$4.00
Golden Shiners 2"	50/\$28			Total Due			
Fathead Minnows 1"	100/\$20			(*NYS sales tax <u>not</u> required)			
Fathead Minnows 1"	1000/\$150						
		Subtotal		Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Daytime Phone: _____			
(*NYS sales tax included as required)		+Delivery	\$4.00				
		Total Due					
Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Daytime Phone: _____				Mail with payment and ALL 3 ORIGINAL D.E.C. GRASS CARP PERMIT COPIES to: Niagara County SWCD 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094			
Mail with payment to: Niagara County SWCD 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport, New York 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.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility. Resource concerns are addressed by creating conservation plans specific to the landowner's objective. Popular conservation practices used in plans to address resource concerns are Cover Crops, Nutrient and Pest Management, Forest Stand Improvement, Prescribed Grazing, Micro-Irrigation and Animal Waste Management.

Program eligibility requires a conservation plan be developed by NRCS or an NRCS Technical Service Provider. A conservationist will visit you and evaluate the natural resources on your land. NRCS will then present a variety of conservation practices or system alternatives to help you address those concerns or management goals to improve or protect the natural resource conditions on your land. The plan can be used to apply for various conservation programs.

To learn more about EQIP contact Charlie Kesterson, Resource Conservationist at the USDA Lockport Service Center or for additional information visit:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/>

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Trees Continued...

Niagara County's forests have the highest percentage of ash trees of all counties in New York State. We need to replant a variety where we have lost ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer.

Arbor Day is a national observance to honor trees and the important part they play in our lives. Julius Sterling Morton, a Nebraska newspaper editor, believed that planting trees would help to provide shade, prevent erosion and beautify his state. He mentioned creating a "tree planting day" at an agricultural meeting in 1872, and in April of that year the first Arbor Day was held. Many states soon adopted the event and today it is observed around the world.

In New York State, Arbor Day is always celebrated on the last Friday of April... which just happens to be our tree seedling pick up date! This coronavirus pandemic has kept us locked in our homes long enough. By Spring it should, hopefully, be on the decline. So check out our order form and buy some seedlings to replant and revitalize your neighborhood. Plan on sharing the day (with masks and social distancing of course) with your family, friends, schools, churches and community groups in the outdoors, making memories and planting trees to benefit future generations.

March 1st Deadline for Soil Group Worksheets

Agricultural landowners owning or renting land need to get Soil Group Worksheets completed by our office and returned to their local assessor by March 1st to qualify for the 2021 tax exemption. For new landowners, you'll need to meet with the town assessor to be sure you qualify for the agricultural exemption, then bring your paperwork to the District to get the Soil Group Worksheet completed. Also, if you currently qualify for the exemption but made changes to the names or acreage on the parcel, a new worksheet is required. The fee is \$25 per parcel and we will need the following information:

- Copy of the most current tax map from your assessor showing the property boundaries and total acreage
- Your SBL/parcel tax number
- Are you farming or renting the parcel

Remember this form needs be returned to your town assessor by March 1st. We ask that you please get the information to us at least two weeks in advance to be completed on time.

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



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Feb. 2010

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