



Conservation News

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SPRING 2022

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937-642-5871 x 3

www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district

Union SWCD 2022 Annual Tree Sale to be held on April 23!

Mark your calendars for this year's tree sale!
The sale will be held at the Union County Agricultural Center parking lot and we will be conducting the sale as a drive through event again this year.

Evergreen Species - sold in packets of 25 for \$30/pkt
Norway Spruce, White Spruce and White Pine

Hardwood and Shrub species sold in packets of 5 for \$10/pkt.
**Black Walnut, Rose of Sharon, Sugar Maple,
White Swamp Oak, Tulip Polar,
and White Flowering Dogwood**

The sale will be held from 9:00 a.m. until Sold Out or Noon.
Trees are available on a first come first serve basis.

Cash and checks are accepted, but please wait until time of purchase to write out any checks.

Order form and a description of each species
is included in this newsletter!

NRCS Office Status Update

LaRae Baker, NRCS Resource Conservationist, will be on detail from January 31st until the end of May. She will be Acting State Agronomist for Minnesota NRCS. Ron Nieman, District Conservationist, will be the main point of contact for the NRCS Marysville Field Office during this time. Please contact Ron via email at ron.nieman@usda.gov or phone at 937-484-5527 x3.

**Would you like to receive *Conservation News* by email on a quarterly basis?
Email bnickel@unioncountyohio.gov to be included on our list.**

2022 UNION SWCD TREE AND SHRUB SALE

The sale date for 2022 will be Saturday, April 23rd, at the
Union County Agricultural Center's parking lot at 18000 St. Rt. 4, Marysville, Ohio.

The sale will start at 9:00 a.m. and run until sold out or Noon.

Any remaining seedlings will be sold the following week, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.,
in the Union SWCD office located in Suite B of the same building.

All seedlings to be sold will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

We will not accept orders prior to the sale. All stock are seedlings only.

Please make selections below and bring the completed form with you on the day of the sale.

After ensuring that all species desired are still available, we will total your order.

Cash or check only, we do not accept credit cards for payment.

EVERGREENS (transplants) (25 per packet)

# Packets	<u>Cost/pkt.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Age</u>	Sub-Total
_____	\$30/pkt.	Norway Spruce	12-18"	(2-1)	_____
_____	\$30/pkt.	White Spruce	12-18"	(2-1)	_____
_____	\$30/pkt.	White Pine	8-12"	(2-1)	_____

**Evergreen packet cost breakdown – packet \$27.90 + tax \$2.10 = \$30

HARDWOOD/SHRUB (seedlings) (5 per packet)

# Packets	<u>Cost/pkt.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Age</u>	Sub-Total
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Black Walnut	18-24"	(1-0)	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Rose of Sharon	12-18"	(2-0)	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Sugar Maple	12-18"	(2-0)	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Swamp White Oak	12-18"	(2-0)	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	Tulip Poplar	12-18"	(1-0)	_____
_____	\$10.00/pkt.	White Flowering Dogwood	12-18"	(2-0)	_____

**Hardwood/Shrub packet cost breakdown – packet \$9.30 + tax \$0.70 = \$10

ACCESSORIES

_____	\$10/bundle	Marking Flags (100 in bundle)	_____
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**Marker flag bundle cost breakdown – bundle \$9.30 + tax \$0.70 = \$10

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

PAID w/ CASH \$ _____

PAID w/CHECK \$ _____ # _____

Please include your email address below if you would like to receive our quarterly newsletter.

*(See more information on tree species at our webpage under the Sales & Rentals, Tree Sale tab.)

<http://www.co.union.oh.us/Union-Soil-Water-Conservation-District/>

2022 Union SWCD Tree Sale - Brief Descriptions of Species

1. Norway Spruce – *Picea abies*

This hardy spruce is a fairly fast growing evergreen that can reach a mature height of 80'+ and a naturally pyramidal spread of 25-30'. Its dark green needles make it a fine landscape specimen or very effective as screen plantings. Norway spruce will not tolerate excessive moisture for prolonged periods.

2. White Spruce – *Picea glauca*

This non-native spruce, to 60' high and 20' wide, is more tolerant of heavier clay soils and wetness than the Norway spruce. It is slower growing than Norway spruce and has a symmetrical shape with blue-green needles. The primary benefit locally is that it will better tolerate the acidic heavy clays. It will not survive extended seasonal wetness.

3. White Pine – *Pinus strobus*

According to many the Eastern White Pine is a NE Ohio native. This beautiful pine is majestic in appearance and may reach a mature height of 80'+ with a 40' pyramidal spread. Its soft blue-green needles add beauty to the landscape. It is a fairly fast grower and loves full sun but will tolerate partial shade. It prefers moist, but very well drained soils.

4. Black Walnut – *Juglans nigra*

Native to eastern North America and valued for its decorative wood. The dark fine-grained wood of black walnuts is used for furniture, paneling, and gunstocks. A black walnut tree usually is between 65' to 100' tall and has a trunk about 2' to 3 feet in diameter, with deeply furrowed dark brown or grayish black bark.

5. Rose of Sharon - *Hibiscus syriacus*

The Rose of Sharon is not a native to Ohio. It is a late spring-leaving deciduous shrub and is tolerant of a wide range of conditions, including poor soil, heat, humidity, drought, and air pollution. Mature size can range from 6 to 16 feet tall and 2 to 10 feet wide. This fast grower can add up to 2 feet of growth in a single season. Flower colors include white, red, pink, lavender, blue and bicolors, with single or double forms. Plants have a graceful vase-shaped habit, with small attractive green leaves that are toothed, with no significant fall color. Plants will bloom best in full sun but can tolerate some light shade.

6. Sugar Maple – *Acer saccharum*

Another Union County native, Sugar Maple can be expected to grow across Union County – except in areas of extended seasonal wetness. This maple is the most efficient at producing maple syrup. Growth habit includes a broad canopy and beautiful fall color. It prefers plenty of space and sunlight. Will tolerate shade with subsequent slower growth,

7. Swamp White Oak, or “Bicolor Oak” – *Quercus bicolor*

If Union County had an official tree, this would be an excellent candidate. While it is tolerant of extended seasonal wetness, this white oak family tree is just as much “at home” on higher and drier sites. It is used as a tree lawn tree where space is afforded but grows anywhere adequate space will permit (Mature height 60', with a 50-60' wide crown). Swamp white oak has recently been referred to as “Bicolored Oak” in the landscape industry - taking from its scientific second name of *bicolor*. This reference is to the summer's glossy green leaves that are silvery white on the backside. Long-lived.

8. Tulip Poplar – *Liriodendron tulipifera*

Tulip poplar is one of the tallest of the native American hardwoods. It is a tall, fast-growing tree, reaching 150 feet or more in the forest. It grows to 70 to 90 feet tall with a 35- to 50-foot spread in cultivation. Thrives in deep, rich, well-drained but moist soil and full sun. It is pH adaptable but performs best in soil that is slightly acidic. This tree is sensitive to drought and may require summer irrigation to prevent early leaf abscission.

9. White Flowering Dogwood – *Cornus florida*

Flowering dogwood is a small deciduous tree growing to 30' high and is often wider than it is tall when mature, with a trunk diameter of up to 1'. Flowering dogwood does best in moist, acidic soil in a site with some afternoon shade, but good morning sun. The fruit is a cluster of two to ten drupes, which ripen in the late summer and the early fall to a bright red, or occasionally yellow with a rosy blush. They are an important food source for dozens of species of birds. The leaves turn a rich red-brown in fall.

Wild About Wildlife

Brent Nickel, Union SWCD
District Administrator/ Wildlife Specialist
bnickel@unioncountyohio.gov

Spring Wildlife, Habitat, Interests and Concerns

Backyard Wildlife Habitat

A fun, easy project for the family is to create habitat in your very own back yard. It can be as simple as reducing the amount of lawn that you mow. Even uncut lawn grasses like fescue and bluegrass can provide cover benefits to many small animals. Simple shelters made of log piles, firewood stacks, and brush provide needed safe places to hide from predators. Consider designating an area for a bird and butterfly garden and when choosing plants for the area try to choose natives. Native plants usually provide the best sources of food and cover and generally support more species of wildlife. Many pollinators are attracted to very specific species of plants, such as the Monarch Butterfly. Monarch Butterflies need milkweeds to lay eggs and for the caterpillar to develop into a butterfly. Take some time this spring to plan out a beneficial habitat project for your favorite species and be rewarded with great wildlife watching throughout the year.

Tallgrass Truths—Revealed! *Native Warm Season Grasses in Spring*

Unlike the familiar Cool Season grasses which begin to green in March—and again in the fall, Native Warm Season Grasses (NWSG) are on a far different schedule. Do not expect last year's unkempt-looking NWSG residue to green-up until July. NWSG makes 70 percent of its robust growth after July 1st—the “warm season”. It's namesake.

* For USDA Farm Bill grassland practice contracts, the annual Ground Nesting & Brood-rearing Season begins on **March 1st** and runs through **July 15th**. **Mowing is Prohibited** during this period of nesting, egg-laying, brooding, nestling development, and fledging of grassland birds.

Don't Forget Your Best Friend

Training and Testing seasons are upon us and most dog related hunting seasons won't be back until early fall. So take advantage of any local training groups and keep your best friend in shape and sharp on their skills. Most wildlife areas are open for training and exercising now until May 1. Dogs may not be trained or exercised on state public hunting areas **May 1 through August 31**, except on designated dog training areas. Keep an eye out for testing and trial days and come out and watch some amazing dogs show off their talents.

What's In-Season

Current **Hunting and Fishing Regulations** are available on line at:

<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/wildlife>

Hard copies of **“Hunting With Permission”** forms and **Hunting Regulations** and **Fishing Regulations** are available at our office.

Download the latest version of the **HuntFishOhio APP** in the Apple Store or Android/Google Store to get all of your Division of Wildlife needs right on your phone!

Share Your Love for the Outdoors - Take A Kid Fishing

Spring fishing affords many opportunities for nice catches of Crappie, White Bass, Bluegill and larger species such as Saugeye, Walleye and Catfish. So string up an extra pole and take a youngster with you when you head out to your favorite hole to wet a line. Teach them to tie a fishing knot, let them play in the bait box or minnow bucket, make a game of packing out litter and show them how much fun a few hours wetting a line can be. Take pictures and display them. It's amazing what kids can remember from photos. Most of all, have fun and create memories!

**Secure the future of Fishing for Tomorrow.
Take a Kid Fishing**

Canada Geese – A Closer Look!

Efforts to legally discourage Canada geese from nesting on properties should have begun by now. It takes uncommon persistence to keep them from instinctively nesting. If, despite one's very best efforts, one still needs assistance, the Ohio Division of Wildlife has an on-line website to assist with human-geese conflicts.

Go to:

- **www.wildohio.com**
- Click onto **Wildlife Resources**
- Find **Canada Goose Conflicts** – then Click.

Recommendations to PONDer

Look now for any unwanted curly-leaf pondweed, filamentous algae, duckweed, and watermeal in ponds. If there is a history of their presence, they will likely be there again... I have fact sheets available in my office that covers a wide variety of common pond problems and the potential treatments of those problems

Injured—or what appears to be Helpless Wildlife?

Call or contact the **Ohio Wildlife Center** – 614-793-WILD (9453) – then follow their every instruction!

<https://www.ohiowildlifecenter.org/help-wildlife/>

Drainage Maintenance Update

Our Drainage Maintenance staff has been busy over the winter months. We have been out on several ditches addressing a variety of maintenance items. We have spot dipped the following ditches: Sugar Run, Landon Patton, Jerome Village GPN 7, and Cattail Swamp Ditch. We will be back out this spring to level and grade those spoil piles that may be present along the ditch from the winter clean out.

With Spring rain in our future, now is a good time to go out and check your tile outlets and inlet structures. A plugged inlet or outlet can lead to flooded basements or cause a septic system to back up. Remove all the material that may have collected around those areas to help reduce your chance of having a drainage issue this spring when the heavy rains arrive.

We have a couple of petition projects that are beginning to move forward this year. The Morris Beery project is nearing completion and the final hearing will be set in the next couple of months. We have also been working hard on the Mill Creek Log Jam Project. We have an Engineering consultant drafting a plan set and hope to have the project ready for its first hearing this year. The Commissioners have also hired a consultant to help with our project load. Milt Link has been brought in to assist with all these projects. Milt brings decades of drainage experience and knowledge with him and is a welcome addition to our county staff.

As of April 1st, 2022, I have resigned my position as Drainage Maintenance Supervisor. I have started my own business that will need my full attention. I would like to thank the Union County Soil & Water board and staff for the opportunity to grow with this county. I would also like to thank the Union County elected officials and city officials that I have had the opportunity to work with and learn from in my time here. Thank You to all the residents of Union County that I had the opportunity to assist. I will miss you all.

If you have any drainage related questions, please contact our office Monday – Friday from 8-4:30 p.m. at the contact information listed below.

Jeremy Burrey
Drainage Maintenance Supervisor
18000 St. Rt. 4
Marysville OH 43040
Phone: 937-642-5871 X 2228

Up the Crick...

Using resources today, conserving for tomorrow.
Joseph Grove, Urban Technician -
jgrove@unioncountyohio.gov



As Seasonal Rains Come In, Here Are Some Tips to Help Your Yard Better Manage Stormwater

- **Clean Up | Fertilize Carefully | Consider Alternatives to Fertilizer**
 - ◇ When it rains, litter and fertilizer are washed into storm drains and flow into our rivers and streams. The litter causes pollution and the fertilizer can cause harmful algal blooms that impact drinking water and wildlife. Cleaning up litter, carefully following the instructions on fertilizer, or using lawn clippings or chopped leaves as a chemical free alternative can help keep our waterways clean and healthy.
- **Patch Grass | Mulch | Mow Sharp and High | Plant Trees and Shrubs**
 - ◇ The best way to prevent stormwater runoff (and ponding in your yard) is to slow the water down as it flows and make it easy for soil and plants to absorb it. Dense lawns with slightly taller grass can help to slow rainwater down and divert it over a wider area (instead of it all running into low spots) while mulch and plants can help to soak it up faster.
- **Lawn Care Tips for the Spring Months:**
 - ◇ Remove Debris. Begin by raking your lawn and collecting all the debris. This includes dead leaves, branches, sticks and even trash.
 - ◇ Reseed. When you evaluate your lawn, look for bare spots.
 - ◇ Mow. Be sure to mow your lawn to prevent the development of future weeds.
 - ◇ Aerate. If your lawn is struggling, aerating it can help air and nutrients enter the soil.
- **Fun Things to do During the Spring Months**
 - ◇ Go walking, hiking, or biking at any park, trail, or recreational facility.
 - ◇ Go fishing, boating, camping, or even a road trip.
 - ◇ Remember to be careful, safety first, and have a fun time.

NRCS Updates

Making Your Land More Resilient to Drought

Many farmers and ranchers west of the Mississippi River had a very difficult year in 2021 due to drought. Those in other areas of the country were spared from the worst of the drought this time but may not be as lucky in the future. You may want to consider some conservation practices that can help make your land and livestock more resilient to drought and help your bottom line. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service can help you through conservation practices that boost soil health and manage grazing lands.

Soil Health

Soil health conservation practices, such as reduced- or no-till, cover crops, and residue management can help make your soil, and the plants you grow or animals you raise, healthier. Increases in soil organic matter improves your soil's water-holding capacity which makes your farm more resilient to drought. Reducing or eliminating tillage increases ground cover which reduces water loss through transpiration and evaporation.

Rotational/Prescribed Grazing, Water Sources for Livestock

Prescribed grazing (rotating livestock among paddocks) can increase the resilience of your livestock operation during difficult conditions such as droughts. NRCS conservationists can work with you to plan a livestock rotation to increase the availability and suitability of the forage on your land. Division fences, planting native warm season grasses to provide forage during the summer slump and installing reliable watering facilities are all examples of potential practices that can be implemented under a prescribed grazing plan. Having available forage and water for livestock can make a big difference in difficult conditions when managed correctly.

For more information go to www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Welcome to our Newest Staff Member!



Taylor Golden is our new Administrative Assistant!

My family moved to Marysville in 2000 from the Washington DC area. I lived in Union County for most of my life and graduated from Marysville High School in 2013. In 2016, I graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University where I earned a BA in Politics & Government. After college I moved to Franklin County, and currently reside in Hilliard. I worked for Franklin County for 5 years before coming to Union Soil & Water in February 2022. In summer of 2021, I went back to school to study Business Administration. Outside of work and school, I am a houseplant enthusiast, and I enjoy attending Broadway musicals, traveling, spending time with my family, and cheering on the Buckeyes and Bengals in the fall.

Welcome Taylor!

Don Cook Memorial Scholarship

The Don Cook Memorial Scholarship was established in 1995 in memory of Don Cook. The program allows campers to have learning experiences that will enable them to develop an appreciation for conservation and the outdoors, both of which were very important aspects of Cook's life. Sponsored by Cook Real Estate, Dean Cook Insurance, and Union SWCD, scholarships are available for youth attending 4-H Camp.

This year we are offering (4) scholarships worth \$80 each to 4-H members attending 4-H camp @ Camp Clifton in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

To apply, write a short essay about "Something new I want to do at camp this year".

Mail or drop off your letter of application by May 3rd to:

Union Soil and Water Conservation District
18000 St. Rt. 4, Suite B
Marysville, OH 43040

****Recipients will be notified direct so please include contact information with your essay***

Looking for SWCD Supervisor Candidates

Union SWCD is seeking two candidates for its Board of Supervisors. The 77th Annual Banquet and Election which will be held on Aug. 3, 2022.

Board Supervisors guide the district, its staff, and cooperating agencies in efforts to implement conservation programs in the county that address management and conservation of soil, water, and related resources.

Board members should have a sincere interest in conservation and must have the enthusiasm, dedication, and time to serve as elected officials.

This is a volunteer position, but supervisors can be reimbursed for mileage & expenses (registration, lodging, meals, etc.) related to events involving Soil & Water professionals.

What a potential supervisor needs to know:

- * Candidate must be over 18 years old and a resident of Union County.
- * This is a volunteer position and runs in 3-year terms.
- * Board meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of the month @ 6:00 p.m.
- * Attendance at occasional outside meetings, events, or training is required.

If you are interested in becoming a Board Supervisor for Union SWCD, please contact Brent Nickel, District Administrator by email @ bnickel@unioncountyohio.gov or phone at (937) 642-5871 Ext: 2220.

2022 Affiliate Members

Platinum Level Affiliate Members



Bokes Creek
Hot Shots



Gold Level Affiliate Members



Silver Level Affiliate Members



Bronze Level Affiliate Members



Become a Union SWCD Affiliate Member

<https://www.unioncountyohio.gov/affiliate-members--donors>



Affiliate membership dollars are used to help contribute to a variety of natural resource education efforts for Union County residents. Such efforts include field days, pond clinics, displays, tours, camp scholarships and presentations to schools and civic groups.

Membership Benefits:

Annual Meeting Ticket(s)	Listed in our Annual Meeting Program
Listed in our Annual Report	Listed on our website
Recognized in our quarterly newsletter	Recognized on Annual Meeting PowerPoint

Please complete the form below:

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Website: _____

Choose one of the following Affiliate memberships available:

_____ Diamond Membership	\$500 or more
_____ Platinum Membership	\$250 - \$499
_____ Gold Membership	\$100 - \$249
_____ Silver Membership	\$50 - \$99
_____ Bronze Membership	\$25 - \$49

Send this form along with a check payable to: Union SWCD
18000 State Route 4, Suite B
Maryville, OH 43040

If you have any questions please contact Taylor Golden at
937-642-5871 x 2221 or tgolden@unioncountyohio.gov

SWCD Equipment for Sale and Rent

The following items are available for sale:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| • Marking flags | \$10 per 100 flags, available year round |
| • Soil Survey Narratives | \$15 each or free online, available year round |
| • Topographic Quadrangles | \$6 each, available year round |
| • Soil Survey Aerial Maps | Free |
| • Fish Fingerlings | Prices vary, sale held in Fall |
| • Tree Seedlings | Prices vary, sale is in April |



The following equipment is available for rent: (subject to schedule and availability)

- | | |
|--|--|
| • John Deere 1590 No-Till Drill (15-foot) | \$15/ acre w/ \$150 minimum charge |
| • Tree Puller | \$100 per day
\$150 per weekend
\$300 per week |
| • Straw Blower (tailgate mulcher)
- \$150 deposit | \$100 per day
\$150 per weekend |
| • Tree Planter | \$40 per day |

**All equipment must be scheduled through the Union SWCD office
at 937-642-5871 during regular business hours.
Please contact Brent Nickel at ext. 2220 to schedule.**

Upcoming Events:

April 14, 2022 - Union SWCD Board Mtg. - 6:00 PM - Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

April 23, 2022 - Union SWCD Tree Seedling Sale - 9:00-Noon Ag Center - Parking Lot

May 12, 2022 - Union SWCD Board Mtg. - 6:00 PM - Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

May 30, 2022 - Memorial Day HOLIDAY - Office Closed

June 9, 2022 - Union SWCD Board Mtg. - 6:00 PM - Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

June 20, 2022 - Juneteenth HOLIDAY - Office Closed

July 4, 2022 - Independence Day HOLIDAY - Office Closed

July 14, 2022 - Union SWCD Board Mtg. - 6:00 PM - Ag Center - Buckeye Mtg. Room

We are Hiring!

Check out our webpage for more information on positions being advertised!

Spread the word to those who may be interested.

<https://www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district>

**Would you like to receive *Conservation News* by email on a quarterly basis?
Email bnickel@unioncountyohio.gov to be included on our list.**

The Union Soil and Water Conservation District and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibit discrimination in their programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.

Mailing Address Goes Here

Union Soil & Water Conservation District
18000 State Route 4 North, Suite B
Marysville, Ohio 43040
(937) 642-5871 option 3
www.unioncountyohio.gov/union-soil-water-conservation-district

Conservation News

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