



Genesee County Soil & Water Conservation District

~ Summer 2023 ~



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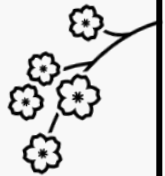
What Have Our Technicians Been Up To...

In the last few months, our technicians have been conducting field work throughout the county! They have been collecting soil samples to be tested to determine soil health (organic matter, pH, hardness, and other nutrients). While sampling, they've also been inspecting cover crop

growth and health. As warm weather approached, technicians also began hydroseeding bare soil on roadsides to prevent erosion! GCSWCD is also assisting NRCS with onsite wetland reserve easement monitoring by inspecting sites for invasive species, berm erosion, and wildlife habitat!

“Nature does not hurry yet everything is accomplished.”

—Lao Tzu



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Hello! My name is Emily Edmunds, and I am the new Conservation Intern for Soil and Water. I currently reside in Cattaraugus County with my fiancé. I love to be outdoors, so some of my favorite things to do are hiking, kayaking, swimming, reading, motorcycle riding, and being with family and friends.

I am a graduate of Hartwick College with a bachelor's degree in Environmental, Sustainability, and Society. While attending college, I did two agricultural internships that led me to love working with farms, soil health, and crops. I worked with farms to promote food programs to low-income families, and I presented a project that explained antibiotic usage in livestock affecting the rise in antimicrobial resistance bacteria. I look forward to working with farmers and doing some educational outreach opportunities.

Cover Crop & Warm Season Grasses

Do you want to become more sustainable in terms of repairing your garden's soil health after harvest? A way to increase moisture & nutrient content while reducing compaction, erosion, and weed production? Cover crop planting is a great option to ensure your garden is well taken care of during the cold winter months. Cover crops can replenish nutrients like nitrogen or phosphorus while reducing compaction that could later affect root growth and depth (see photo). Contact your local Soil & Water Conservation District to learn more and about purchasing!

Have a section of field/yard that you want to fill in, all while improving wildlife habitat? Ask us about our warm season grass mix as well! Tall grasses create habitat and food for wildlife and provide shelter during nesting seasons. With minimal upkeep, this might be the right option for you!

High compaction in the soil prevented these roots from growing down further and were forced to grow along the border of high compaction and medium/low compaction. You can see how the roots begin to take a right curve at a certain depth (red arrow).



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The 2022 Conservation Farm of the Year Award Recipient Naas Farms, LLC.

Since 1959, the Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District has honored a deserving agricultural producer with the Conservation Farm of the Year Award. This award is given to those who have displayed a long-term commitment to sustainable conservation, by leading by example, and who implements farm conservation best management practices. The 2022 Conservation Farm of the Year recipient was awarded to Naas Farms, LLC.

Naas Farms, LLC. is a 700-acre grain and vegetable farm owned and operated by Bruce and Jessica Naas of Oakfield, NY. Taking care of their land has been their top priority and have adopted many best management practices over the years to further improve their land and the environment. Naas Farms, LLC.

grows crops with limited tillage or no-till equipment, plant cover crops after harvest of their commodity crop to improve soil health and reduce soil erosion, and are taking action in terms of safe storage facilities. Recently, the farm constructed an agri-chemical storage and mixing facility to reduce the environmental risks in storing/mixing their fertilizers and herbicides. The farm has also created pollinator habitats to promote the populations of our native bees and insects. Not only does Naas Farms, LLC. practice conservation on their own farm, but they also sell cover crop seeds and occasionally lend equipment to neighbors to promote soil health beyond their acreage.

Bruce and Jessica Naas have three children; Brett, Aaron, and Chelsey. Bruce and Jessica are active outside of their farming operation. They both have careers off the farm; Jessica driving school buses and Bruce working with NYS Department of Transportation! Bruce has also sat on several boards and committees including leadership roles in the Genesee County Farm Bureau, Farm Service Agency County Committee in Genesee County, and the NY Corn and Soybean Growers Association.

Naas Farms, LLC. has been an active participant with Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service since 1983. To recognize all of the work that they have done, the farm was presented the 2022 Conservation Farm of the Year Award at the Celebrate Agriculture Dinner on March 25th, 2023 at the Alexander Fire Hall.



Photo Credit: The Daily News

Jessica and Bruce Naas pictured on their farm in Oakfield, NY



Photo Credit: The Daily News

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Photo Credit: Bartlett Tree Expert

The **hemlock woolly adelgid** (*Adelges tsugae*), or HWA, is a small (1-2mm) invasive insect from east Asia. HWA was first detected in NYS in the 1980's and is host specific to hemlock trees (most commonly eastern hemlocks). HWA is easily identifiable by the small white woolly masses of wax (see photo on left) on the underside of the tree's branches.

HWA has a complex life cycle and can reproduce twice a year—up to 300 eggs in the spring alone. HWA will suck sap out of the trees, and it's believed to also inject a toxic saliva into the branches, causing needles to turn gray-green color and eventually die off. The infestation will also cause buds to die, allowing little growth in the future. Infected trees are susceptible to diseases and other insects as well, possibly increasing the rate of death.

To check your hemlock trees for HWA, pull down a branch and inspect the underside for white masses. If present, it's suggested to report the tree(s) and locations to Cornell's New York State Hemlock Initiative program.

Trim dead or infested branches from the tree and properly remove the debris from the base, as HWA can travel and spread. Chemical methods can aid in prevention, control, or slowing of infestation rate. A licensed pesticide applicator can apply a systemic insecticide at the base of the tree to be absorbed.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Pollinator Workshop

Come learn who our pollinators are, what they can do, and how YOU can help promote pollinators!

- ◇ Seminar on Monarch Butterflies
- ◇ Best Habitats, Gardens, and Food Sources
- ◇ Interactive Walk



Date: August 26th, 2023
Location: 11095 Bethany Center Road
 East Bethany, NY 14054
 (GC Park Interpretive Center)
Time: 9:00am—11:30am



Register Here!



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Links can be found on our Facebook Page and our website!

Tick Workshop



Familiarize yourself with everything about ticks to prepare for the fall season!

- ◇ Life Cycles, What To Do, & Lyme Disease
- ◇ Tick Removal Kits
- ◇ Materials to Build Personal Sweep Net

Date: September 30th, 2023
Location: 115 Cedar Street
 Batavia, NY 14020
 (Dewitt Park)
Time: 8:00am—11:00am




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Genesee County Soil & Water Conservation District
2023 FISH STOCKING ORDER FORM

Directions:

Submit completed order form and check or money order payable to GCSWCD at 29 Liberty Street, Suite 3, Batavia, NY 14020. Orders are secured once payment is submitted. Please call if you have questions at 585-343-2362 x5 8am-4:30pm Monday-Friday.

Triploid grass carp permits are required at the time of ordering. Fish Order Forms are accepted January – October each year. Order pick up dates are generally held in the spring and fall seasons.

Order deadline October 5th, pick up October 13th @ 10am

Name: _____		Phone: _____	
Alt. Phone: _____		Email: _____	
Address: _____		City: _____	Zip: _____
Species	Price	Quantity	Cost (Price x Quantity)
Fathead Minnows 2-3"	\$23.00/lb. (~150 fish/lb)		\$
Largemouth Bass 3-5" <i>Order in increments of 5</i>	\$3.00 each		\$
Blue Gill 3-5" <i>Order in increments of 5</i>	\$3.00 each		\$
Crappie 3-5" <i>Order in increments of 5</i>	\$3.00 each		\$
Subtotal:			\$
Subtotal + 8% Sales Tax:			\$
Triploid Grass Carp 10-14" <i>NYSDEC Permit is required prior to order Can purchase individually</i>	\$22.00 each No sales tax on Triploid Grass Carp		\$
<i>Please make checks payable to: GCSWCD</i>		Total Cost:	\$

NOTE: GCSWCD is not responsible for the fish and does not guarantee the survival of the fish after they leave the pick-up area. No refunds will be given for fish not picked up. Pick up time 10-10:30 AM.



FISH ORDER FAQ:

When is the order deadline? We collect orders for fish distribution in the spring and fall.

How are my fish transported? The hatchery truck delivers the fish to our parking lot at 29 Liberty St., Batavia. Your fish are to be picked up at 10 a.m. Please be prompt.

What containers & water should I use? We recommend a large cooler or clean garbage can with lid filled with at least 20 gallons of water per 100 2-3" fish, and 20 gallons per 50 4" fish. The water should be collected from your pond just prior to pick up. Do not use chlorinated water to transport your fish. Multiple containers may be needed for large orders or orders containing multiple species of fish.

How do I get triploid grass carp? A DEC permit is required to obtain triploid grass carp. Our office can assist you with your application. The DEC will notify you how many grass carp you are allowed based on the size of your pond and the weed cover. You must present your permit when ordering your triploid grass carp. NYSDEC permit applications for stocking Triploid Grass Carp are available at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7975.html>.

FARM FISH POND LICENSE:

Prior to stocking fish in your pond, you should obtain a **Farm Fish Pond License** from DEC. The license allows the licensee, their immediate family, and their employees to take fish at any time, in any size, in any number, and in any manner as stipulated in their individual license. The farm fish pond license also serves as a stocking permit, eliminating the need to obtain a separate DEC fish stocking permit which is required to stock fish into any waters of the state. The Farm Fish Pond License is free and is good for five years. See <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7975.html> for information.

WARM WATER POND RECOMMENDED STOCKING RATES:

Largemouth bass/ bluegill combination, bass/bluegill/perch combination, or bass/ minnow combinations are generally recommended. See Table 1 for standard stocking rates. The largemouth bass/minnow combination is satisfactory in ponds one-sixth acre or larger, a minimum 8ft deep, where plants are present but not abundant.

Note stocking bluegill with the bass provides another species for the angler to enjoy, especially children. However, an intensive amount of fishing pressure must be placed on the bluegill because of its high reproductive ability. In time, if an adequate number of bluegills are not removed, they will overpopulate the pond and become stunted. Research by Cornell University indicates that 15 times as many bluegills as bass can and should be harvested. The average bass/bluegill pond can support annual harvests of only about eleven adult bass per acre. Overharvest of adult bass will obviously tip the balance in favor of bluegills.

Black crappie can do well in ponds and provide excellent fishing; however, they are unpredictable in ponds. Often, crappie reproduction is high and small crappies overpopulate. They prey heavily on fry bluegills and bass, whose population can then decline. When stocking crappies, it is recommended that a high adult bass density be maintained to "crop" off small crappies. Not recommended in small ponds.

Table 1. Recommend Standard Stocking Rates

Fish Species	New Ponds or Following Fish Kill	Supplemental Stocking in Existing Ponds
Fathead Minnows 2-3"	400-1,000/acre	1,00/acre multiple times/yr. if only prey fish.
Largemouth Bass 3-5"	100/acre	50/acre if excessive harvest occurs.
Bluegill 3-5"	500/acre	Rarely recommended.
Crappie 3-5"	-	100/acre, then rarely recommended.
Yellow Perch 3-5"	100/acre	Rarely recommended.

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Benefits of Rain Barrels

Interested in saving on your water bill, becoming more sustainable, and help aid in pollution, runoff, and erosion prevention this summer? Rain barrels are a great alternative to watering gardens and landscapes while allowing you to implement best management practices (BMP's) around your home. Placed under downspouts, they collect water from roofs of any structure to be later utilized as a source of outdoor water use.

Collecting this stormwater could play an important role in runoff to our water bodies, flooding on your property, and erosion prevention. Roofs collect, on average, 600 gallons of water per inch of rain. The water then picks up chemicals, sediments, and other pollutants while flowing to sewer systems or waterbodies - flushing unwanted pollutants into our environment. By collecting some of this water we can reduce the amount of potential pollutants, slow the flow of water to prevent heavy erosion, and reduce heavy flooding on your property and impervious structures like driveways and roads. Not to mention, saving money on water bill as stored water can be used throughout the summer and lower well water intake (especially during dry spells!). Please note that rain barrel water is not to be used as drinking water as it has not been treated.

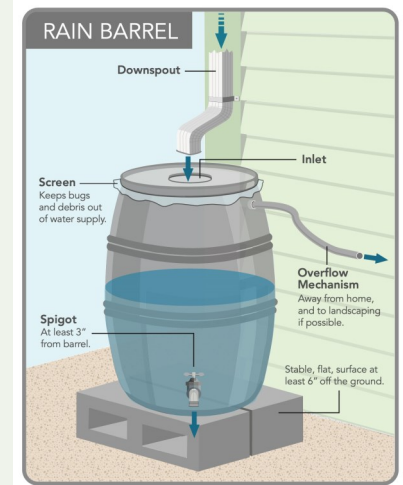


Image courtesy of Lincoln Stormwater Program

Seasonal Mowing - When and Why?


Although mowing your front/backyard is on a continuous timeframe during the summer, knowing when to mow tall grass fields is crucial to wildlife. Seasonal mowing creates habitat, food, and nesting for wildlife such as birds, deer, rabbits, turkeys, and other species. It's also essential to pollinators in the spring as they require necessary food sources while other flowers come to bloom.

There are two types of tall grasses: cool season and warm season. While they both provide necessities for wildlife, their maintenance can also impact soil health and regrowth rates. Taller grasses have deeper roots allowing for increased soil stability, increased water retention, and provide shade to soil to prevent weed growth.

It is recommended that both types of grasses be cut from August to September, when bird nesting seasons have ended. However, cool season grasses should be cut every other year while warm season grasses should be cut annually. This allows enough time for regrowth and accumulation of energy to regenerate in the spring. It's recommended they be cut at a minimum of 5 inches in height, as there may already be new growth underneath and to limit distress caused to plants.

If there are trails throughout the fields for personal recreation, they can be mowed during the year. They should also be cut at a minimum of 5 inches and be wide enough for proper and appropriate use.



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