



Genesee County
Soil & Water Conservation District
- Spring 2023 Issue -



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Preparing Spring Gardens

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New Conservation Technician: Rebecca Olsen



Hello! My name is Rebecca Olsen and I am the new technician here at Genesee County Soil & Water.

I currently reside in Erie County and grew up with the love of everything outdoors! My hobbies mainly include, or are extensions of, fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, kayaking, gardening, cooking, and wildlife photography!

I'm a graduate of SUNY Cobleskill with a bachelors in Environmental Management and minor in Sustainability. While attending, I was grateful to receive hands-on learning in labs and to work with the local communities (academic and extra-curriculars). Since then, I have worked with NYS DEC in the Giant Hogweed Control Program. I am looking forward to meeting and working with you!



Annual Statewide Brush Burning Ban (2023)

→ Ban Begins March 16th and ends May 14th ←

Spring Burn Bans reduce wildfire risks and protects lives, properties, and our natural resources!



Invasive Alert!

Keep an eye out for Spotted Lantern Fly (*Lycorma delicatula*)

Concerns - wilting, defoliation, yield loss, dieback, and reduction of crops, orchards, and hardwood trees.

Recently found in Ontario, Monroe, & Erie County



Final nymph stage

Photo Credit: Cornell CALS



first nymph stage

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Source: Gardening Know How

Spring is right around the corner, let's get your gardens ready!

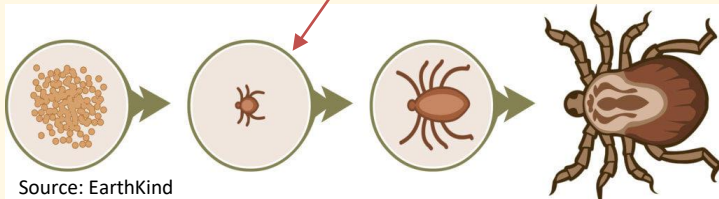
Site Selection: Selecting an area suitable for crops in terms of sunlight and slope can be crucial in crop production. If you have a sloped area where you would like to plant, ensure the slope is not too steep and plant perpendicular to the slope to prevent poor drainage and erosion. Watch your garden or prospected location for a week, taking note of the sun and shaded areas. Create a drawing of these areas and list what crops you'd like to grow. Match the crop to the location, is there enough space and sun/shade? If not, see companion planting! Are there other locations on your property that do receive required shade or sun? Try out raised garden beds or potting boxes in those areas, utilize the space!

Soil Testing/Preparation: If you never have, or it's been a few years, we recommend testing your soil to acquire information regarding nutrient levels and soil types- allowing a deeper insight in how to care for your soil (organic nutrients, water retention, etc.). Preparation also refers to tillage/no tillage. Tilling can weaken/disrupt physical and biological soil properties but may be needed when creating a new garden space (make sure soil is not saturated/wet to prevent further damage). Low/no tillage has become increasingly popular and can create healthy gardens. Previous roots/cover crops have/are decomposing, creating more nutrients, breaking up the soil, and improving water drainage. Placing a few inches of compost/mulch material can aid in feeding new plants and aid in nutrient building. For next year's garden, consider cover crops/warm grass mixes to support soil health!

Companion Planting/Pest Control: This method consists of growing different crops in the same space at the same time- creating mutual benefits and preventing pest infestations. Plants that naturally produce high nitrogen can be planted next to crops in need of high nitrogen. This also applies for crops that need shade; growing tall plants next to short plants to cast shadows during midday. Best known as a pest control method, certain crops can be planted in rows to release chemicals that discourage insects. For example, aromatic basil aids in repelling hornworm, a common pest of tomatoes.

Beware of Ticks!

First blood meal



Source: PhysicianOne

In a tick's life cycle, their first blood meal can contain Lyme Disease. If you find one, remove with pointed tweezers. If bulls-eye rash forms, see a doctor!

Source: EarthKind

Eggs Larva Nymph Adult

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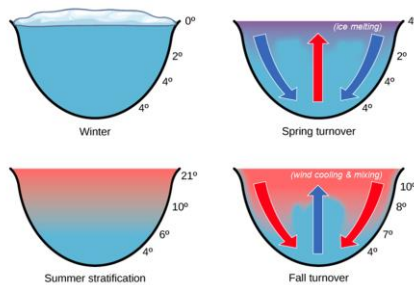
Pond Care & Fish Stocking

Pond Care: D.O. & Turnover

Dissolved Oxygen (DO): is free oxygen available to fish & aquatic life created mainly by photosynthesis and wave action. Why is it important? It's the leading factor in fish kills. Aquatic plants die quickly due to excess heat or aquatic herbicide use, creating increased decomposition. The organisms that break down the organic material consume too much D.O, leaving little to none for the fish and other aquatic life. Solutions include manual or biological control of excessive plant/algae growth or aeration devices for frequent reduced DO levels. Overcrowding can also contribute to low DO levels. If fish are seen at the surface piping, or a foul odor and a thick layer of algae is seen, it may be time to test your DO levels.

Turnover: is the annual cycle of seasonal temperature change in ponds & lakes. Water is most dense at 39° Fahrenheit. During the winter months, warmer, more dense water (closer to 39°F) is at the bottom while colder, less dense water (closer to 32°F) is on top near the ice. Warmer spring weather heats the top layer, causing it to "sink" and forces the bottom layer up. This process is opposite in summer/fall. Turnovers are important as DO levels are lowest at the bottom layer. If left

this way, D.O. levels would continue to decrease, creating detrimental effects like fish kill, as stated above. Pond turnover can be prevented through aeration.



Source: NYS Parks & Historic Sites

Triploid Grass Carp

(*Ctenopharyngodon idella*)

Stocking Triploid Grass Carp is a biological control method that's been introduced to over 50 countries due to its ability to control aquatic plants. Being bred to be sterile, natural overpopulation and further damage is prevented.

Will Eat

- Duckweed
- Watermilfoil
- tender, succulent plant species
- Coontails

Won't Eat (Broadleaf or Floating Leaved plants)

- Cattails
- Bulrush
- Waterlily
- Filamentous algae

5 requirements to obtain permit

1. Pond size must be 5 acres or less
2. No endangered, threatened, rare/special concern species (plant or fish)
3. Not classified as or near a NYS Wetland
4. Not located on a permanent or source of stream deemed by USGS
5. 2 years has passed since last stocking

To prevent total devegetation, it's ideal to keep plant population 20-30% of surface area. Recommended approach is to stock below expected rates. Once stocked, 2 years must pass before restocking. Can slowly increase stocking in 2-year intervals. Rate of control can be long, but results can last years, be patient!

Link to Stocking Permit (required):

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/25024.html>

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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 May 12th, pick up May 19th @ 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:

1. **When is the order deadline?** We collect orders for fish distribution in the spring and fall.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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	1,000/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 (reduce if adding perch)	Rarely recommended.
Crappie 3-5"	-	100/acre, then rarely recommended.
Yellow Perch 3-5"	100/acre	Rarely recommended.

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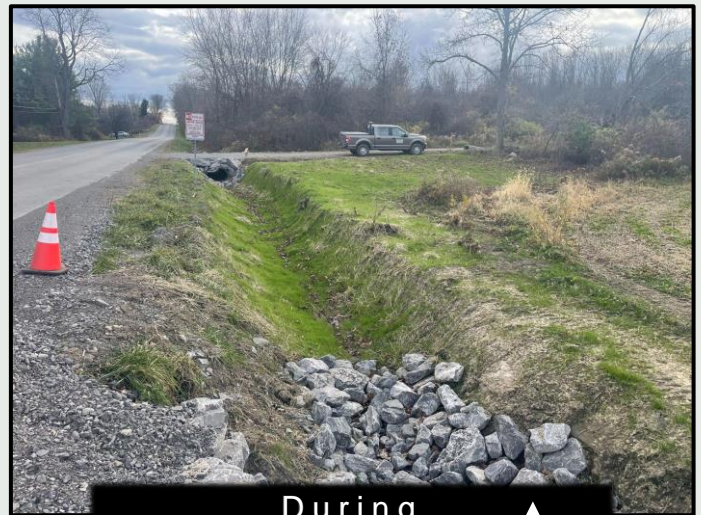
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In the fall of 2022, the District worked with the towns of Bethany and Pavilion to replace two failing culverts on Transit Road, the border between the two towns. The two culverts were unable to handle the runoff from the drainage area and were causing water to backup and flow across the road and into a neighboring home. The flooding had been a recurring problem in the area and was getting worse due to the heavy soils, steep topography, and intensifying storm events. District technicians surveyed the project site and worked with the towns to design new crossings. Both culverts were upsized, and the ditches were widened and deepened to increase capacity. Each ditch was immediately stabilized with biodegradable netting, straw, and hydro mulch. 60 tons of angular rip-rap stone was used to armor inlets and outlets of the crossings. This project was supported by funds from the Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance..



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