

Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District
**Summer 2024
Newsletter**



DISTRICT NEWS & UPDATES

Genesee County Soil & Water Conservation District is currently transitioning to new email addresses. Please be aware that addresses will be updated on our website and other forms of outreach.

Thank you for your patience!

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THANK YOU!

This years Tree & Shrub Program sold over 12,000 seedlings! We want to thank all the volunteers who helped pack all the orders and to the Agricultural Society for allowing us to host out of the Agricultural Museum Building!

2024 Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner!



Arbor Day Poster Winner... McKenzie! of Byron-Bergen Central School



McKenzie with her "Trees, Bees, and Me" poster

Students at Byron-Bergen Central School participated in the 2024 Arbor Day "Trees, Bees, and Me" Poster Contest! Students were asked to creatively express how the relationship between trees and pollinators, such as bees, provide for us throughout each day. Staff at GCSWCD awarded McKenzie with a 1st place certificate and chocolates from Oliver's Candies! We want to thank all of the students who participated! Be sure to check out McKenzie's poster at our booth during the Genesee County Fair on July 20th-27th!



Safer
for me!



Home Made Hummingbird Nectar Recipe

Ingredients

- 1 cup white sugar
- 4 cups water

Instructions

- Add sugar to boiling water
- Cool to room temp
- Add to favorite feeder!



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2024 Conservation Farm of the Year!

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 a producer that has displayed a long-term commitment to sustainable conservation, leads by example, and implements farm conservation best management practices.



The Cupicha Family Farm with their 2023 Conservation Farm of the Year Award

The 2023 recipient is Cupicha Family Farm in Bethany, NY!

After immigrating from Poland in 1933, the Cupicha family established their farm in Bethany, NY. The farm is currently owned and operated by Mark Cupicha, a 3rd generation farmer. Mark operates the farm with the key values that were instilled in him from previous generations, which emphasize high quality care of his land and animals. The farm currently operates approximately 405 acres of land, of which 225 acres are tillable. Throughout the years, the Cupicha family has found success as both a dairy and beef operation through exceptional animal husbandry and growing high-quality feed.

The farm sits between the Upper Headwaters of the Black Creek Watershed and the Little Tonawanda Creek Watershed, adjacent to the Genesee County Park and Forest. A large majority of the farm's cropland is on steep sloping ground. Genesee County Soil and Water has worked with the farm to install numerous drainage and erosion control projects, including diversions and contour strips. Mark has been dedicated to preventing soil erosion and conservation efforts have always been at the forefront of the farm's land management and crop production. Mark and the entire Cupicha family have always felt strongly that if you take care of the soil, it will take care of you! To recognize the work that has been done, the Cupicha Family Farm was presented the 2023 Conservation Farm of the Year Award at the Celebrate Agriculture Dinner on March 16, 2024, at the Alexander Fire Hall. Thank you Cupicha Family Farm!!

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Why Should You Cover Crop Your Garden?



Our cover crop mix in a staff's garden bed!

Although you hear about cover crops primarily being used on farms, they can also be used in gardens! What exactly are cover crops? They are any singular or multiple species mix of seeds that are grown, in the off season, to cover the soil for enrichment. Recommended mixes or singular seeds include, but are not limited to, annual ryegrass, radish, cereal rye, and oats!

Benefits of cover cropping your garden can range from controlling erosion, suppressing unwanted weeds, reducing compaction, increasing moisture and nutrients, improving yield, and attracting pollinators or other beneficial insects!

Interested in trying it out for yourself? Give the office a call at 585-343-2362 to purchase our cover crop mix!




**Check out
what else we
have for sale
at the office!**

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Genesee County Soil & Water Conservation District 2024 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 season.

Order deadline Sept. 27th , pick up Oct. 4th @ 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)		\$
WE WILL ONLY HAVE MINNOWS AND GRASS CARP AVAILABLE THIS FALL			
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	Grass Carp	\$
Final Total:			\$

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 NOT 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.

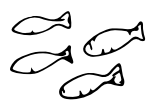
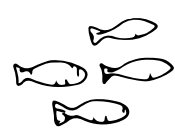
Note stocking bluegill with the bass provides another species for the angler to enjoy, especially children. However, an intensive amount of fishing pressure must be placed on the bluegill because of its high reproductive ability. In time, if an adequate number of bluegills are not removed, they will 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.

Pond Workshop



Come join us for our Pond Workshop with presenter Lee Frisbee, of Frisbee Landscaping!

We will be discussing popular pond topics such as algae management, weed management, and general pond health!

When? September 21st, 2024
8:30am - 10:30 am

Where? DeWitt Recreation Park
(under the pavilion)
115 Cedar Street
Batavia, NY 14020

**do not need to register prior to event

Invasive Update: Box Tree Moth Quarantine

Plant quarantines are to prevent/reduce the risk of transporting dangerous plant pests and diseases from one area to another. First reported in NYS in 2021, efforts are still being made to prevent the spread. Here's an updated 2024 map of quarantined states in New York. If you detect any life stage of Box Tree Moth, please report it to NY Agriculture and Markets website.



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