



Niagara Nature News
 An Environmental Publication by Niagara County
 Soil & Water Conservation District
 WINTER 2010

Niagara County Soil & Water
 Conservation District
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**NIAGARA NATURE NEWS GOES
 QUARTERLY & ELECTRONIC**

For the past decade the Niagara Nature News has been offered to subscribers bi-annually via a Winter and Summer edition. Beginning with this issue we are offering subscribers the option of receiving the newsletter quarterly by adding a Spring and Fall edition.

There is a catch! The new Spring and Fall editions will only be made available in electronic format (Adobe Acrobat (pdf) rather than as a paper copy.

Only 5% of Niagara Nature News subscribers will receive this newsletter electronically today. The electronic version can be made available to all subscribers. However, we will need your e-mail address. Please submit your e-mail address and other contact

information by either contacting Victor DiGiacomo via his email or at (716) 434-4949.

We will continue to mail our hard copy of the Winter and Summer editions to those who are unable to access e-mail. The long-term goal, however, is to convert completely to the electronic version of the newsletter.

As we move forward and technologies improve, we also plan to improve the look and feel of our electronic newsletter. We hope you enjoy the usual content and we welcome your feedback on the conversion.

Please join us in our mission of being Stewards of the Environment by subscribing to electronic versions of our



The average American uses more than 748 pounds of paper per year.

Source: American Forest and Paper Association

newsletter and announcements. You will be able to subscribe at any time.

IT'S TREE TIME

A new decade has begun, so we have updated our tree selections to reflect the changing times. Gone are the invasive species and some of the least popular types, and in their places we have added 8 new kinds for you to add to your landscape – three deciduous trees,

three shrubs and two groundcovers. Out of 42 trees, shrubs and groundcovers, 30 are natives and the remaining 12 are naturalized to the area. They are marked on the order form as "NEW" so you won't miss them. Give them a try and let us know what you think!



**Return the order form enclosed by
 March 19, 2010**

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 aids 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.

District Directors

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EIGHTEENMILE CREEK LEGACY ACT PROJECT UNDERWAY



Ben Cole of Ecology & Environment, Inc. collecting a sediment core sample from Eighteenmile Creek.

In a move that highlights the success of inter-agency partnerships, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District (NCSWCD) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) have joined together in partnership to address contaminated sediments in Eighteenmile Creek.

102 sediment core samples were collected from the creek in late November 2009. Scientists have taken

the samples to determine the extent of the contamination in the main branch of Eighteenmile Creek. Samples will be analyzed for PCBs, mercury, heavy metals, dioxins, and pesticides. The results will be used by stakeholders to assess the best ways to clean up the contaminated sediments and eventually submit a sediment cleanup proposal to USEPA in the near future.

Core samples are scheduled to be collected from the deeper waters behind Burt and Newfane Dams in early Spring of 2010. Any

comments, questions, or concerns related to the work scheduled for this summer should be forwarded to Victor DiGiacomo @ (716) 434-4949, or 4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094.

The Great Lakes Legacy Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President in 2002. Beginning in 2004, the Act authorized \$270 million over five years to help with remediation of contaminated sediments in designated AOCs within the Great Lakes Basin.

FYI...

The District is now selling reusable shopping totes. They are a generous size: 13”h x 12”w x 8”d and are made from 100% recycled material...and washable! Only \$1.85 plus tax.



AG ASSESSMENT DEADLINE FEBRUARY 26

For the District to complete your soil group worksheet for the Ag Assessments we will need some information that you can obtain from your Town Assessor. FIRST, speak with your Assessor to be sure you are eligible. We charge \$15 per parcel and do not want to charge you for something you do not

need. Then bring the following information from your Assessor to our office:

1. Copy of your most current tax map showing your property boundaries and acreage total;
2. Your SBL/tax number;
3. Know if your is in an agricultural district

or if you are an individual commitment.

Remember that your Town Assessor needs this by March 1st, so please bring in your paperwork at least one week in advance to be sure it can be completed by the deadline. Thank you for your help in making this process easier for all.

NIAGARA COUNTY AEM FARMERS RECOGNIZED



(L-R): Ben Atwater (Atwater Dairy Farm), Roger White (Gasport View Dairy), Mark Seider (NCSWCD), and Dave McCollum (McCollum Farms).

This year 3 farms were acknowledged for their stewardship of the land in Niagara County and for their participation with the NYS Agricultural Environmental Program (AEM). Atwater Dairy Farm, Gasport View Dairy, and McCollum Farms have recently completed the installation of several best management practices (BMPs) on their farmsteads.

These farms have imple-

mented barnyard runoff and silage leachate management systems at their farms to help protect our streams. The practices installed reduce sedimentation and nutrients getting to the creeks by containing and storing contaminated runoff from storm events. The runoff is stored until it can be spread at more opportune times of the year or is treated through vegetated treatment areas.

These BMPs were cost shared with public funds, but there is a substantial commitment –both financially and with their time and effort, to oversee the construction, and also operate and maintain the BMPs.

To recognize their participation with AEM and efforts to protect and conserve our natural resources, AEM signs were presented to the three farms at the 2009 Farm-City Breakfast.

**NIAGARA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2010 SEEDLING ORDER FORM**

EVERGREENS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	25 For	50 For	100 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Cedar, White (3)	9-12"	\$15.00	\$28.00	\$48.00		
Fir, Balsam (2)	9-12"	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$52.00		
Fir, Concolor (2)	10-15"	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$52.00		
Fir, Douglas(2)	10-18"	\$13.00	\$24.00	\$42.00		
Fir, Fraser (3)	9-12"	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$52.00		
Hemlock, Canadian (2)	9-12"	\$15.00	\$28.00	\$48.00		
Pine, Austrian (2)	8-12"	\$13.00	\$24.00	\$42.00		
Pine, Red (2)	8-12"	\$13.00	\$24.00	\$42.00		
Pine, Scotch (2)	10-18"	\$13.00	\$24.00	\$42.00		
Pine, White (2)	8-12"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		
Spruce, Blue (2)	9-15"	\$13.00	\$24.00	\$42.00		
Spruce, Norway (2)	10-18"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		
Spruce, White (2)	10-18"	\$13.00	\$24.00	\$42.00		

EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Fir, Fraser (3+2=5 yrs)	15-24"	\$17.00	These four items are transplants- order in tens only	
Pine, White (2+2=4 yrs)	18-24"	\$16.00		
Spruce, Blue (2+2=4 yrs)	14-20"	\$17.00		
Spruce, Norway (2+2=4 yrs)	10-16"	\$15.00		

DECIDUOUS TREES Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	25 For	50 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Alder, Black (1)	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Beech, American(2) <i>NEW</i>	18-24"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Birch, Native (1)	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Cherry, Black (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Filbert, American (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Maple, Red (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Maple, Sugar (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Mulberry, Red (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Oak, Pin (1) <i>NEW</i>	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Oak, Red (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Oak, White (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Poplar, Hybrid (2)	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Sassafras (1) <i>NEW</i>	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Sycamore (2)	18-24"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Tuliptree (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		

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THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY REMINDER!!

PICKUP INFORMATION

Tree Seedling Distribution : Friday, April 23, 2010 9:00am to 4:00pm

Saturday, April 24, 2010 9:00am to 12:00pm

Location: Merchant Building - Niagara County Fairgrounds - 4487 Lake Ave (Rt 78), Lockport

For Information Call #434-4949

Extra Trees: Unsold seedlings will be available 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)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Dogwood, White Flowering (1)	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Elderberry (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Lilac (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Rose of Sharon (1)	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Serviceberry (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Spicebush (1) NEW	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Strawberry Bush (1) NEW	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Witchhazel (1) NEW	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		

GROUNDCOVERS		Price**	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Christmas Fern NEW	5 Clumps	9.72		
Fountain Grass NEW	5 Clumps	6.48		
Myrtle	50 Rooted Cuttings	\$23.76		
Pachysandra	50 Rooted Cuttings	\$20.52		

OTHER ITEMS	Price**	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Countryside Wildflower Seed - Large 4oz bag (covers 2500 sq ft)	\$12.96		
- Small 3/4oz bag (covers 450 sq ft)	\$7.02		
Conservation Grasses - Deer Plot Mix Large 25lbs bag (covers 3/4 ac)	\$86.40		
- Deer Plot Mix Small 10lbs bag (covers 1/3 ac)	\$49.68		
- Tall Mix Large 25lbs bag (covers 1 ac)	\$42.12		
Fertilizer Tablets - 25 Count (20-10-5 pellets)	\$3.51		
Marking Flags - 100 Count (30" wire staff)	\$10.80		
Bat Roost	\$14.58		
Bluebird House	\$14.58		
Wood Duck Box	\$28.08		

NYS Sales Tax of 8% already included

Total Order \$

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Full payment must accompany your order - Payable to:
Niagara County SWCD, 4487 Lake Ave, Lockport NY 14094
For additional information call#434-4949.

<u>Order# (Office Use Only)</u>

LAST DAY TO ORDER IS MARCH 19, 2010

If ordering after March 8, please call for availability first as stock may be sold out.

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PICKUP INFORMATION ON OTHER SIDE

Mark Your Calendars Now - No Other Notice Will Be Sent!

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, White (*Thuja occidentalis*)

Pyramidal. 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.

Hemlock, Canadian (*Tsuga canadensis*)

Has small, soft green needles and cinnamon bark. Grows 70' in well-drained, acidic soil. Native that tolerates shade and moisture. Makes a beautiful hedge with graceful, slender, spray-like appearance. Salt-sensitive.

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, Red (*Pinus resinosa*)

Long, soft, dark green needles. Grows to 75'. Very tolerant to sandy, dry, exposed sites. Native tree valued for timber and windbreaks. Excellent for reforestation. Very hardy.

Pine, Scotch (*Pinus sylvestris*)

Grows to 60' in wide range of soils, except poorly drained. Short blue-green needles grow in pairs. Bark becomes orange-brown with age. Well shaped, hardy pine with good needle retention. Great Christmas tree.

Pine, White (*Pinus strobes*)

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 Christmas trees. Sensitive to salt and windburn.

Spruce, 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 starter, 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 gleuca*)

Very hardy native, does well on a 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****

Alder, Black (*Alnus glutinosa*)

With a total growth rate of up to 6' per year, this fast-growing cousin of the Birch family is a great shade or windbreak choice. It prefers moist to wet soils and full sun to reach its potential of 60' high and 20' wide. Its dark, glossy green leaves remain late into the fall. Cone-like fruits appear in late spring. This nitrogen-fixing tree is good for rural and urban areas, wet sites where it provides erosion control, and is adaptable to harsh environmental conditions.

Beech, American (*Fagus grandifolia*)

This native to eastern U.S. grows 50-70' tall and 60' wide. The trunk is short and the branches generally cascade to touch the ground. Glossy two-tone green leaves in spring become very attractive bronze fall color. Flowers in April/May with edible nuts through winter. Prefers full sun in well-drained acidic soil. Shallow, wide root system needs a large open space to spread out.

Birch, Native (*Betula papyrifera*)

Does well in cool, moist locations. Can reach 80'. Oval leaves turn bright yellow in fall. Native tree also known as "Paper Birch" because its snow white bark peels off in paper-thin layers and "Canoe Birch" since it was used by Native Americans to make canoes.

Cherry, Black (*Prunus serotina*)

Fast growth to 60' in various soil types. White flower clusters in May produce edible black fruits. Green leaves turn yellow-red in fall. Native tree used for furniture, firewood, jam, wine, wildlife food source.

Filbert, American (*Corylus americana*)

Also known as "Hazelnut" this large, multi-stemmed native prefers rich, well-drained soils 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.

Mulberry, Red (*Morus rubra*)

Medium-sized native tree that reaches 60-70' tall. Tiny green flower clusters in early spring change to cylindrical red-purple fruits that are sweet, juicy and ready to eat in summer by both wildlife and humans. Dark green leaves turn yellow in fall. Prefers full sun and moist soils. Wood is used for fenceposts, agricultural implements, furniture and interior finish.

Oak, Pin (*Quercus palustris*)

Excellent tree for both wetland and urban settings. Slender native with fast growth rate to 50-60' in various soils. Will tolerate wetter conditions. Textured, glossy green leaves turn scarlet in the fall. Acorns are enjoyed by wildlife.

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.

Oak, White (*Quercus alba*)

A popular native shade tree that grows to 60-80' tall and is about the same in width as it is tall. It has irregular branching and attractive flaky, light gray bark. Rounded, grayish-green 4-8" long leaves become purple-red in the fall. Prefers full sun and acidic soil. Its small 1" acorns are popular with wildlife.

Poplar, Hybrid (*P. deltoides x nigra*)

Extremely hardy. Grows rapidly to 80' on various soils, even in poor conditions. Has wide crown of silvery green leaves. Is used frequently in wetlands and environmental improvement areas.

Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)

Aromatic 30-60' tree known for its 4 patterns of unique-shaped leaves. Leaf color ranges from green-yellow in summer to deep orange, scarlet and purple in fall. Grows in moist sandy soils and light shaded areas. Fruits are elliptical shiny, blue-black berries that are devoured by birds. The roots, bark and leaves have a spicy scent, whose oils are used in soaps and for flavoring drinks (sassafras tea and root beer). Its wood is beneficial for barrels, buckets and furniture. Good native planting choice to restore depleted soils in old fields.

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

This native tree is fast growing to 75+ feet and has a massive trunk with coarse, mottled bark. It prefers moist soils and full sun. Deep red flowers in late March are followed by tan fuzzy-looking rounded fruit and yellow-brown autumn foliage. Good urban tree. Can be used on difficult sites.

Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

A native shade tree that grows to 70-90'. Its massive trunk boasts attractive gray bark with fine light gray furrows. Has unique tulip-shaped 5-8" long leaves that turn a showy golden yellow in fall. Blooms beautiful flowers May thru June that also resemble yellow-green tulips with a reddish orange center. Likes full sun but is intolerant of dry sites. Prefers moist, slightly acidic soils.

****DECIDUOUS SHRUBS****

Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)

Multistemmed with fragrant 4-10" flowers summer thru fall. Grows very quickly in all types of soil to 8'. Needs heavy pruning each spring to keep under control. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

Dogwood, White Flowering (*Cornus florida*)

One of the best native northeastern, ornamental shrubs. Grows well in rich, moist soils to 40'. Beautiful white flower clusters produce bright red berries in fall. Green leaves turn scarlet.

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

Vigorous grower to 12' in any type soil. Multistemmed, with clusters of purple-black fruits in late summer, used for jams and wine. A good native wetland plant. Great food source for wildlife.

Lilac (*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'.

Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)

Also known as "Althea". Grows in various soils to 12'. Small green leaves with rose-type flowers July to September. Ph adaptable. Upright growth allows for hedging along buildings or as stand-alone ornamental.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

A native to North America, this 6-20' suckering multi-stemmed shrub thrives on moist, well-drained acidic soil and tolerates a wide pH range. White flowers in April produce dark purplish fruits in June. That is how it got its other recognized name of "Juneberry". This shrub is enjoyed by many types of birds. Prune regularly for best fruit production.

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)

A round, native shrub with a slow growth rate to 8-12', it does best in well-drained moist soils in full sun. Its showy early spring, fragrant, yellow flowers appear before leaves and give way to scarlet fruits in September. Finely chopped, the ripe "spiceberries" taste like allspice and make a superb seasoning for compotes and main dishes. Twigs, leaves and berries are also used for teas, to tenderize game, and as compresses for mild skin irritations. Scratch the twigs or crush the leaves to release its lemony-spicy fragrance!

Strawberry Bush (*Euonymus americana*)

This shrub grows 2-6' high in sun to partial shade in moist well-drained soils. Its egg-shaped bright-green leaves turn an excellent dark red in autumn. Tiny 5-petaled, yellow-green-purplish flowers appear in March. Unique fruits are round bumpy capsules, which after maturing, split open to expose bright red seeds taking on the appearance of a strawberry, ripening in September. Also known as "hearts-a-burstin", this native's leaves and seeds are loved by birds and other wildlife. Not to be confused with an edible strawberry plant!

Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

Small native shrub that has yellow fragrant blooms late into October. Attractive yellow-orange foliage in fall. Great to plant as understory or a border in large yards. Prefers moist soil but will tolerate a variety of conditions. Grows 15-30' in full or partial shade.

****GROUNDCOVERS****

Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)

This easy to grow dark green evergreen prefers neutral to acid soils. Plant in shade to partial shade. Grows 18" in height and width. Good native to plant for soil erosion on steep slopes.

Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum*)

An upright, mound forming plant 1-3' tall. Prefers full sun to light shade in fertile, moist to well-drained soil. Flowers July through fall, with color changing from whitish purple to coppery purple. Great for erosion control.

Myrtle (*Vinca minor*)

Also known as "Periwinkle". Has shiny green leaves and lilac-blue flowers in spring. This 3-6" high, ground hugging plant grows well in areas where grass won't. Likes well-drained soil. Does best in full to partial shade.

Pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*)

A carpeting plant that has an interesting leaf pattern and inconspicuous white spike flowers. Grows 6-12" high in well-drained soil. Excellent for heavy shade.

****OTHER ITEMS****

Countryside Wildflowers

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 to handle, convenient. Planting instructions included.



RECYCLING FACTS

- Plastic bags are easier to recycle and require less energy to produce than paper bags.
- To produce each week's Sunday newspapers, 500,000 trees must be cut down.
- Approximately 1 billion trees worth of paper are thrown away every year in the U.S.
- Rainforests are being cut down at the rate of 100 acres per minute!
- Americans use 85,000,000 tons of paper a year; about 680 pounds per person.



CLIMATE CHANGE SOS

Weather refers to the conditions of the air and atmosphere at a specific time: how warm or cold, wet or dry, clear or stormy it is. *Climate* refers to long term trends in temperature and precipitation. It describes the average weather of a place over many years. *Climate change* refers to changes in the climate over a period of 30 or more years. The *greenhouse effect* is what keeps our planet warm enough to support life. Greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere, including carbon dioxide, act like an insulating blanket, holding heat in and warming the atmosphere. *Global warming* means an increase in the average temperature of the planet.

Earth's climate changes naturally. Some scientists believe our climate is changing faster than ever, and that the speed of the global warming will be detrimental to our environment. They want to make the public aware of how our everyday activities affect that change and how we can help to minimize it. Your *carbon footprint* is a measure of the greenhouse gas from your daily energy use. If we can reduce our energy use we can shrink the

amount of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. Less greenhouse gas will slow the heating of the Earth, thereby helping to slow down global warming.

All parts of the Earth have their own natural attributes which are necessary to sustain that particular region's existence. The degree of warm and cold temperatures has everything to do with what prospers in certain places. If the world was either all warm or all cold, there would be no seasonal changes, no frost and thaw, no balance of nature.

Our environment will continue to evolve, change is inevitable. So the best we can do is to assist that change, not damage it needlessly. We should always strive for progress, but in a respectful way. So here are some things we can do to limit our carbon footprint, but still have a fun, productive, energy-efficient life:

1. Turn off lights whenever you leave a room and use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)
2. Ride your bike or walk instead of driving for short trips, for longer trips take the bus or subway
3. Turn of the TV and computer games and play outside OR play games that don't require power
4. Use power strips or unplugged devices when not in use
5. Take a shower rather than bath and keep it short and lukewarm
6. Set the thermostat no higher than 68 degrees F in the winter and no lower than 78 degrees F in the summer
7. Skip the clothes dryer and hang laundry to dry
8. Pack a bag lunch in reusable containers rather than single serving packages
9. PLANT TREES as they absorb the carbon dioxide emitted from cars, factories, etc and convert it to oxygen (check out the enclosed tree seedling order form for our nominally priced tree seedlings!)

Together we can limit changes to our climate. It's time to get in the habit of thinking about the energy we use and making an effort to use it more wisely.

Excerpts from NYS DEC Conservationist for Kids



NEW OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS



Presently, open burning is regulated by New York State statutory and regulatory authority -- Environmental Conservation Law. Effective October 14, 2009, new regulations

on open burning were adopted by New York which prohibit all open burning with several exceptions including the following: Campfires less than 3 feet high and 4 feet

long; small cooking fires and; ceremonial/celebratory bonfires. For more information about the new open burning law, go to www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html.

Species Profile



Species of Concern-Endangered in NYS

Piping Plover
(*Charadrius melodus*)

Description:

The Piping Plover is a pale colored 6-7" bird with sandy gray upper parts and white throat and belly. Its bill is small, stubby, and orange with a black tip. It has slender orange legs and feet. Both male and female are similar in size and color. In spring and summer, adults sport a narrow black collar band and a black stripe between the eyes. In winter, they lack the black collar and striped head. Juveniles resemble the winter adult plumage.

Habitat:

Piping Plovers are generally found on bare, sandy dry areas, both inland and on the coast. Most often they are found running along the water's edge; running and calling, stopping quickly to seize food, and then running on. Their coloring makes them difficult to observe when crouched against the sandy background.

Nesting Activity:

Breeding on dry sandy beaches or near dunes with little to no beach grass, their buff-white eggs, marked with small dark spots, can be found in a depression in the sand well above the high tide mark, lined with pebbles and bits of shells. During May and June, one egg is laid each day until the average clutch of 4 eggs is complete. They often nest with a colony of least terns, and data shows they usually return with the same mate to the same spot annually.

Diet:

They forage along the beaches and dunes in search of marine worms, insect larvae, beetles, crustaceans and other small marine animals and their eggs.

Call:

Their call is a clear, whistled *peep* or *peep-lo*.

Range:

Piping Plovers live along the Atlantic Coast from Newfoundland south to North Carolina, and from central Canada to the Great Lakes region. They winter on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts from North Carolina to Texas, and sometimes as far south as the Bahamas.

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