



**Niagara Nature News**  
 An Environmental Publication by Niagara County  
 Soil & Water Conservation District  
**WINTER 2011 - E-NEWS**

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**USDA NRCS FEDERAL PROGRAMS OFFERING  
 CONSERVATION FUNDING**

New York landowners, farmers, and forestland owners have until January 14, 2011 to apply for 2011 conservation program funding. The programs falling within this deadline include the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA), and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

EQIP offers funding assistance in the form of engineered structures, such as manure handling facilities, and conservation practices such as grassed waterways. Focus areas within the EQIP program include livestock waste, cropland, and grazing. Private forestland owners have opportunities to improve forest health and productivity under the woodland program focus area.

AMA focuses on improving irrigation efficiency. A primary goal of the program is to assist agricultural producers in mitigating risk through production diversification or installation of conservation practices.

WHIP focuses on improving habitat for at-risk shrub-dwelling birds. Additional funding for this program was received as part of the New England/New York Forestry Initiative. Another focus within the program is establishing and enhancing grassland habitat for declining bird species, pollinators, and other wildlife.

Applications for EQIP, AMA, and WHIP are competitive and ranked based on national, state, and locally identified resource priorities, and their overall benefit to the environment. Interested landowners can apply for all programs at their local USDA-NRCS office. For sign-up details or additional conservation program information contact your local USDA NRCS office or visit the New York NRCS Web site. ([www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov))

*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 aid 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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## ADOPT A PLATOON

This holiday season employees of the Lockport, NY USDA Service Center chose to ADOPT A PLATOON! Holidays can be a very difficult time of year for soldiers who are deployed in a war-zone. To remind them of home and to share a little holiday cheer, the offices of the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Soil & Water Conservation District are sending them "Stockings from SANTA!"

Via the nonprofit 501c(3) organization AdoptaPlatoon,

(www.adoptaplatoon.org) the office has been assigned a platoon of 30 soldiers who are currently deployed to the war effort in Afghanistan. The office plans to send to them holiday stockings with surprises of holiday candy, socks, hot chocolate/cider packets, games, dried fruit, magazines, and other necessities and holiday cheer!

A big THANK YOU goes out to all of the employees of the Lockport USDA Service Center for their generous donations and time

spent on this venture. A big THANK YOU also goes out Jim Bittner and Singer Farms, Luann Tessmann and Shoreline Foods, and the dental offices of Drs. Micoli, Keller & Mechtler, for their generous donations and making this gift to our troops possible.

AdoptaPlatoon Soldier Support Effort® is a volunteer based program dedicated to serving deployed United States Service Men and Women ensuring that they are not forgotten by a grateful Nation.

### FYI...

The District has a new fax number. (716) 433-1070

For those more observant readers, yes, this is the same fax # for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Lockport, NY office.

All faxes for NRCS, SWCD and FSA should be sent to the same number.



## ANNUAL AREA OF CONCERN (AOC) CLEAN SWEEP

In coordination with the Littoral Society and Boy Scouts of America, an Area of Concern "Clean Sweep" was completed this fall along the banks of Eighteenmile Creek in Burt, NY. Volunteer cub scouts and their parents from pack 4 in Lockport, NY participated in the project by collecting approximately 150 pounds of trash, which included car parts, one tire, circular saw blades, general debris, etc.

The goal of the Littoral

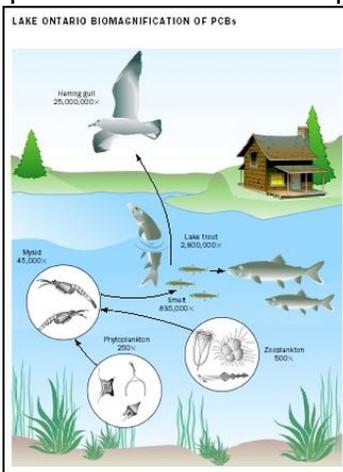
Society and this program is to raise the consciousness of the public regarding trash



and how it impacts our local waterways. The message is to help people understand

that they play a major role in controlling shoreline pollution and that their responsibility is to educate others regarding "human trash." Thoughtful and appropriate disposal is the answer.

A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers for their hard work, dedication, and valuable time spent with this important cause! We appreciate your commitment and passion for waterway conservation issues.



## IDENTIFYING PCB LOAD LEVELS IN LAKE ONTARIO

The USEPA and New York State have developed a PCB loading model for Lake Ontario that has been very useful in identifying necessary load reductions to achieve a safe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for PCBs in Lake Ontario. A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive

and still meet water quality standards. Currently PCB levels in Lake Ontario exceed the water quality standard of one picogram/liter. By establishing a PCB TMDL for Lake Ontario, USEPA and New York State can further enhance their collaborative and regulatory activities to identify and reduce point and non-

point PCB loadings as well as help inform Canada and Ontario's ongoing efforts to track down and eliminate remaining Canadian sources.

This is great news for Lake Ontario and builds on the successes of PCB trackdown activities that have drastically reduced PCB loadings.

**Bioaccumulation is the accumulation of contaminants by species in concentrations that are orders of magnitude higher than in the surrounding environment.**

# NIAGARA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2011 SEEDLING ORDER FORM

EVERGREENS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	25 For	50 For	100 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Cedar, Red (1) NEW!	6-9"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		
Cedar, White (2)	9-12"	\$15.00	\$28.00	\$48.00		
Fir, Balsam (2)	9-12"	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$52.00		
Fir, Concolor (2)	9-12"	\$13.00	\$24.00	\$42.00		
Fir, Douglas(2)	10-18"	\$13.00	\$24.00	\$42.00		
Fir, Fraser (3)	12-18"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$54.00		
Hemlock, Canadian (2)	4-7"	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$52.00		
Pine, Austrian (2)	8-14"	\$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"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		
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)	10-18"	\$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)	6-12"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Beech, American (1)	18-24"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Birch, Native (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Birch, River (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Cherry, Black (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Filbert, American (2)	24-30"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Maple, Red (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Maple, Sugar (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Mulberry, Red (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$23.00	\$43.00		
Oak, Pin (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Oak, Red (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Oak, White (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Poplar, Hybrid (1)	18-24"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Sassafras (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Sycamore (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Tuliptree (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Walnut, Black (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		

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**THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY REMINDER UNLESS AN EMAIL IS PROVIDED W/ YOUR ORDER!!**

### PICK-UP INFORMATION

Tree Seedling Distribution : Friday, April 22, 2011 9:00am to 4:00pm

Saturday, April 23, 2011 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
Arrowwood (2) NEW!	10-16"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Butterfly Bush (1)	12-18" RC	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Buttonbush (1) NEW!	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Cranberry, American (2) NEW!	18-24"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Dogwood, Redosier (1) NEW!	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Elderberry (1)	12-18" RC	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Lilac (1)	12-24"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Rose of Sharon (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Spicebush (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Strawberry Bush (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Witchhazel (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		

GROUNDCOVERS			Price**	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Wildflower Pac	NEW!	10 Plants (2 each of 5 types)	\$14.58		
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)		\$13.77		
- Small 3/4oz bag (covers 450 sq ft)		\$7.56		
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		\$15.39		
Bluebird House		\$15.39		
Wood Duck Box		\$30.51		

\*\*NYS Sales Tax of 8% already included\*\*

**Total Order \$**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\*\*\*LAST DAY TO ORDER IS MARCH 18, 2011\*\*\*

If ordering after March 1, please call for availability first as stock may be sold out.

\*\*\*Clip & Save\*\*\*

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\*\*\*Clip & Save\*\*\*

\*\*\*Clip & Save\*\*\*

**MARK YOU CALENDARS NOW!**

**NO OTHER NOTICE WILL BE SENT, UNLESS AN EMAIL IS PROVIDED W/ YOUR ORDER.  
AN EMAIL REMINDER WILL BE SENT ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE PICK UP DATES.**

*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, Red (*Juniperus virginiana*) \*\*NEW\*\***

Also known as Red Juniper, this medium-slow growing native can reach 50 ft tall. Grows well under adverse conditions on any soil type. Its blue, waxy berry-type seed cones are important winter food for wildlife: bluebirds, cedar waxwings, quail, pheasant, turkey, deer, rabbit, fox and others. Durable, rot-resistant wood used for fence posts, utility poles, pencils, archery bows. Green needles turn rusty brown in winter.

### **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 x-mas 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 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 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*)**

A native that grows 50-70' tall with a 120' wide crown. 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 and can reach 80'. Oval green leaves turn bright yellow in fall and are a food source for butterflies. This native tree is also known as *Paper Birch* because its stunning snow-white bark peels off in paper-thin layers and *Canoe Birch* since it was used by Native Americans to make canoes.

### **Birch, River (*Betula nigra*)**

Tolerant of many soil conditions, this native prefers moist areas and grows to 40-70'. Medium-green leaves turn yellow in fall and its beautiful cinnamon-colored exfoliating bark is spectacular in winter. Medium to fast growth and resistant to bronze birch borer.

### **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. Elliptical shiny, blue-black berries devoured by birds. Roots, bark and leaves have a spicy scent whose oils are used in soaps and for flavoring drinks (sassafras tea and root beer). Good native planting choice to restore depleted soils in old fields. Wood used for barrels, buckets and furniture.

**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 resemble yellow-green tulips with a reddish orange center. Likes full sun but is intolerant of dry sites. Prefers moist, slightly acidic soils.

**Walnut, Black (*Juglans nigra*)**

Grows well in deep, moist soils to 100'-fast at first and then slows down. Has a broad oval crown and compound leaves of 15-25 dark green leaflets. Produces large flavorful nuts. Its lumber is valuable for furniture and cabinets.

**\*\*DECIDUOUS SHRUBS\*\*****Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*) \*\*NEW\*\***

Good wetland plant that grows well in various soil types and is shade tolerant. Fast growth to 15' with arching branches. Covered with attractive white, flat-topped flowers in Spring and red leaves in fall. Blue-black berries in summer attract wildlife.

**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.

**Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) \*\*NEW\*\***

Small native bush that grows 8-10' in moist and watery areas, such as marshes, wet woods and along streams and ponds. Creamy white flower "spheres" of pingpong ball size appear in June, revealing a brown ball-like fruit filled with seeds thru October. Seeds enjoyed by ducks, geese and shorebirds. Twigs and leaves by deer. Bees and butterflies love the nectar. Serves as shelter for songbirds, frogs and salamanders.

**Cranberry, American (*Viburnum trilobum*) \*\*NEW\*\***

Fast growing to 8-12' this native prefers well-drained to moist soils. White flower clusters in May. Yellow to red fall color. Edible red fruits that resemble cranberries, present summer thru winter, are sour, rich in vitamin C and can be enjoyed by both humans and wildlife.

**Dogwood, Redosier (*Cornus stolonifera*) \*\*NEW\*\***

Multi-stemmed and fast growing to 9' and thrives in wetter soils. White flowers and white berries in June. Dark green foliage changes purplish in fall. Dark red bark provides stunning winter color. Great native for wetland plantings and wildlife habitat.

**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.

**Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)**

Round, native shrub with slow growth to 8-12'. Does best in well-drained moist soils and full sun. Showy early spring, fragrant, yellow flowers give way to scarlet fruits in September. Finely chopped, ripe "spiceberries" taste like allspice and make a superb seasoning for main dishes. Twigs, leaves and berries also used for teas, to tenderize game, and as compresses for mild skin irritations. Crush the leaves to release its lemony-spicy fragrance!

**Strawberry Bush (*Euonymus americana*)**

Grows 2-6' high in sun to partial shade in moist well-drained soils. Egg-shaped bright-green leaves turn an excellent dark red in autumn. Tiny 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. This native's leaves and seeds 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\*\*****Wildflower Pac \*\*NEW\*\***

Assortment of 5 native perennial plants, all of which are on the "vulnerable to endangered" list in the State of New York. You get two of each for a total of 10 plants: Black-eyed Susan, Blazing Star, Bluebells (for sunny areas), Solomon's Seal False and Red Trillium (for shady areas)

**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.



## 2011 EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL WORKSHOPS

Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District and the WNY Stormwater Coalition will host two DEC-endorsed 4-hour Erosion and Sediment Control Workshops for Construction Site Contractors and Operators in Winter 2011 at the Erie County Emergency Services Training Facility in Cheektowaga, New York. The workshops will be Thursday January 20 and Thursday February 17, 2011.

All contractors and subcontractors working under the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Permit GP-0-10-001 (SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity), must identify at least one Trained Contractor from their company that will be responsible for implementation of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and have at least one Trained Contractor perform a daily site inspection when soil disturbance activi-

ties are being performed. Also, developers must have a Qualified Inspector conduct regular site inspections in accordance with GP-0-10-001.

All Qualified Inspectors and Trained Contractors must complete 4 hours of training in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment control through a program endorsed by NYDEC, SWCD or CPESC, Inc., every three years. Upon completion, each participant will receive a NYS DEC registration number that is valid for 3 years. Certified Professionals in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC), LA's and PE's are exempt from these training requirements. These events are not a workshop series; they are the same class being provided on two different days.

Registration fee is \$85.00 per attendee and includes refreshments and all training materials. Attendees must pre-register. Please contact Don Stribick at (716) 652-8480 to register for either of the work-

shops.

Also check the NYSDEC website for more trainings and additional information at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8699.html>.



**Silt fence with erosion control blanket**



**Hydroseeding practices reduce erosion & sedimentation**

## NIAGARA RIVER RIPARIAN RESTORATION

Attention waterfront landowners! Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER has a new Landowner Habitat Restoration Program. Developed to assist landowners in maintaining, enhancing and restoring habitat via implementation of small-scale restoration projects, the program targets landowners in the established "GREENWAY" throughout Erie AND Niagara County.

Ideal candidate sites are those where: small scale erosion control problems exist; a rain garden may alleviate drainage issues; and establishment of wildlife habitat in the form of meadows, grasslands, forested buffers or shrub land complexes are desired.

Maintaining a forest buffer (Riparian) along rivers, streams and creeks recon-

nects the lost forest corridor, improves water quality, and is a main goal of this program. Eligible Greenway Towns include: (C) Niagara Falls, (C) North Tonawanda, (T) Porter, (T) Lewiston, (T) Wheatfield, (T) Niagara, (V) Youngstown, and (V) Lewiston. To see if you qualify for a project or to learn more, contact: Keri Bentkowski @ (716) 852-7483 ext. 15.

### Species Profile



**Longear Sunfish (Lepomis megalotis)**

#### Description:

The longear sunfish is a small, thin, deep-bodied fish that averages 4-4.5 inches in length. Often mistaken for a pumpkinseed, the longear can be distinguished from its cousin by looking at the pectoral fins and the gill covers. The longear has short, round pectoral fins that do not extend above the lateral line; a long flexible ear flap on the upper part of both gill covers; and gill covers with flexible, filled margins. On the pumpkinseed, the pectoral fins are long, pointed, and extend above the lateral line, and the gill-cover margins are stiff and smooth. The longear sunfish is very colorful, with an olive to rusty-brown back, bright orange belly and blue-green bars on the sides of the head.

Longear sunfish spawn in August. Males construct saucer-shaped nests in shallow water areas with sand or gravel bottoms. Although solitary nests are occasionally found, nests are generally built close together in colonies. Male longear sunfish remain with the nest to care for and protect the eggs and young. Snails, leeches, and aquatic insects make up the bulk of this sunfish's diet.

The longear sunfish is restricted in range to certain large streams in east-central North America. Its range includes southern Quebec, through the eastern United States and west to Oklahoma, Texas and north eastern Mexico. In New York State, the longear sunfish is repeatedly found in Tonawanda Creek, while the other few locations have not been documented a second time. It prefers densely weeded areas with a gravel/sand bottoms. It avoids strong currents and silt.

Although no accurate population statistics are available about New York's longear sunfish population, it has apparently declined in the State. Biologists attribute the decline in this sunfish's numbers to several causes including siltation and water quality deterioration.

The Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) goal is to protect several self-sustaining populations of the longear sunfish, and it will continue to monitor the status of the Tonawanda population at Millersport.

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