

WASHINGTON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION CORNER



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 [washingtonsoil&waterconservation](https://www.facebook.com/washingtonsoil&waterconservation)
www.washingtoncountyswcd.com

STAFF

Sandy Lahmers - Administrator/Floodplain

Kendrick Schwendeman - Ag Specialist

Kathy Davis - Stormwater Coordinator

Hannah Swope - Wildlife/Forestry Specialist

Allison Huck - Summer Intern

SIGN-UP NOW FOR THE COVER CROP PROGRAM!!!

Applications can be accepted through July 10 for the 2024 cover crop program. Important reminders:

- Cover crop of your choice may be planted following NRCS standards and specifications in regard to planting dates and seeding rates
- Only certified seed may be used (you may have bin run seed tested)
- No restrictions on destroying cover crop (may be harvested, grazed or destroyed)
- Notify SWCD office within 5 days of planting
- Submit seed invoices for payment
- Payment rates remain at \$12/ac

Local producers are beginning to notice the benefits of planting cover crops to decrease weed pressure in the spring, reduce erosion of topsoil, as well as improve organic matter numbers on soil tests, all of which are increasingly important, given the current small profit margins in grain cropping. So why not add \$12/acre into your rotation and reap all the other benefits as well? Stop by the office and get signed up!

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2024 Fish Sale

October 3rd Pick-up Hours: 8:30-9:30 A.M.

In SWCD Parking Lot (21330 SR 676 Marietta)

PLEASE BRING WITH YOU WHEN YOU PICK UP YOUR FISH:

1. CONTAINER: 5 GAL BUCKET OR 10-20 GAL TRASH CAN.
2. UNSCENTED PLASTIC LINER IN CONTAINER TO HOLD OXYGEN.
3. LINER HALF FULL OF POND WATER.



Species	Price	Quantity	Subtotal
Largemouth Bass 2" to 3"	\$1.35		
Bluegill 2" to 4"	\$1.05		
Channel Catfish 4" to 5"	\$0.90		
Hybrid Bluegill 2" to 4"	\$1.05		
Red Ear Shellcracker 2" to 4"	\$1.05		
Fat Head Minnows 1" to 3"	\$9.00/ 100		
Koi 5" to 7" (will eat duck weed)	\$14.00		
White Amur 8" to 10" (recommend 10-12 per acre)	\$16.00		
Perch 2" to 3"	\$1.10		
NPC Bacteria (good preventative care for your pond)	\$90.00/ 1 gal.		
NPC Bacteria	\$375.00/ 5 gal.		
Optimal Fish Food 40# bag (40% protein) small pellet	\$48/ bag		
Pond book by Steve Fender	\$20.00		
TOTAL:		Sales Tax @ 7.25%	
		Grand Total	

2024 Fish Sale Order Form

Order deadline: September 25, 2024

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Cell #: _____

Make Checks Payable to:

Washington SWCD

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE AT TIME OF ORDERING THE FISH. TO ORDER, CLIP THE ORDER FORM FROM THIS FLYER AND MAIL IT ALONG WITH PAYMENT TO:

WASHINGTON SWCD
21330 SR 676 Suite E
Marietta, OH 45750

Additional order forms available at:
washingtoncountyswcd.com

Tips for Stocking Your Pond

Stocking your pond will not only bring you lots of fishing fun, but you will be helping to keep the algae, weeds, insects, leeches and worms under control.

CREATING A BALANCE

Your fish stocking strategy for your pond should ensure that your predator fish will have a bountiful selection of prey, while still giving the prey fish a sporting chance to mature and reproduce. Keep in mind that catfish will have little effect on the prey to predator ratio as they will pretty much stick to themselves at the bottom of the pond.

When you have properly stocked your pond, your fish population tends to keep itself in check. When you first stock your pond it is recommended to add some fathead minnows to feed the predator fish while the prey fish get established. In proper conditions, minnows can be a snack for your fish that will replenish themselves.

FISH TYPES

When stocking your pond, selecting fish of similar size will also help the population grow together. The number of fish you add to your population will ultimately depend on the surface area of your lake or pond.

NUMBER OF FISH TO STOCK PER ACRE

<u>STOCKING COMBINATION</u>	<u>BASS</u>	<u>BLUEGILL</u>	<u>REDEAR</u>	<u>CATFISH</u>
Bass - Bluegill	100	500	0	0
Bass - Bluegill - Catfish	100	500	0	100
Bass - Redear	100	0	500	0
Bass - Bluegill - Redear	100	350	150	0
Bass - Bluegill - Redear - Catfish	100	350	150	100

When stocking your pond with fish, make sure you take stock of any fish you may already have in the pond.

BEST TIME TO STOCK

Spring or fall is the ideal time for stocking fish in your pond. Temperatures are mild and oxygen levels are high, so the stress factors affecting your fish will be at their lowest. Once acclimated to your pond, they will be primed to flourish.

ACCLIMATING FISH

Acclimating fish is simple just place the transportation bag in a shaded area of the pond and let float for 15-20 minutes. This allows your fish to slowly adjust to water temperatures in your pond. Next open the bag and let the fish swim out on their own. If you are adding fish to a pond where fish are already present, release minnows at one end of the pond to attract larger fish and release the smaller fish at the opposite end so they have a chance to find shelter.

HABITAT

Keep in mind when stocking fish in your pond, adding habitat will increase the area for the smaller prey fish and minnows to hide and safely reproduce. Weeds and other structures already in your pond will provide some cover. Habitat structures can be constructed from many different natural and man-made materials. Easily obtained materials such as discarded Christmas trees can be banded together, weighted and sunk, although trees such as oak, hickory, and cedar work best due to their resistance to decay. Man-made materials such as PVC pipe, field tile, concrete block, and wooden pallets can also be fashioned into fish attracting devices.

MAINTENANCE

To keep the population of both predator and prey fish healthy, make sure your water is well oxygenated when you are stocking fish in your pond. An aeration system and use of beneficial bacteria, will increase the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water, and prevent harmful stratification from occurring.

Try to catch some of the fish in your pond each season and record how many of each type you are pulling out of the pond while inspecting them for healthy color, weight, and size. Occasionally checking up on your fish will decrease the frequency and severity of population issues, while making your pond an enjoyable addition to your home with fun activities for the entire family.

SEEKING SUPERVISOR CANDIDATES

The Soil & Water District is governed by a board of 5 supervisors. Each member is elected at the annual meeting in the fall to a three-year term. Terms are staggered so that not all supervisors are elected at the same time. This year there are two positions up for election and the District is required to have three candidates on the ballot. In order to have a ballot ready for the election, the process starts now.

Duties of a supervisor include, but are not limited to:

- Attending 12 monthly meetings
- Attending special/emergency meetings
- Attending field days, events, etc. sponsored by the district, if available
- Attending state meetings/trainings, if available
- Governing the technical, educational and financial operations of the District
- Hiring/overseeing the employees of the District

If you are interested in finding out more information and/or becoming a candidate for supervisor, please contact Sandy at the office at 740-885-3313.

INVASIVE SPECIES: WHAT ARE THEY AND WHY ARE THEY BAD

by Hannah Swope

Most of us have heard the term invasive species, but what exactly does it mean? An invasive species is any kind of plant, animal, fungi, insect, or pathogen found in an area where it does not naturally occur. Now that covers a rather wide range of living things, so we are going to focus on one primary group, plants. Invasive plants are typically from other countries or states that have adapted to thrive in our environment. They generally grow at a more rapid rate than our native plant species, competing for water, nutrients, sunlight, and space.

Unfortunately, invasive plants can quickly alter our natural ecosystems and habitats as well as completely change soil properties and nutrient dynamics, making it more difficult for native vegetation to get re-established and thrive. Invasive shrubs such as Autumn/Russian Olive, Privet, Bush Honeysuckle, and Multiflora Rose shade out the understory, reducing the diversity of plants and wildlife. The invasive Tree of Heaven or Ailanthus, also known as stink tree, spreads and grows rapidly, outcompeting native vegetation. It is also considered to be allelopathic, producing a chemical that does not allow other native trees and plants to grow around it.

The importance of removing invasive plant species from our landscape cannot be stressed enough. Not only do they pose a threat to our native plant communities, but they also have harmful effects on our wildlife populations and well as ourselves. Treatment and removal of invasive plants vary from mechanical, chemical, manual, cultural, and biological control methods, depending on the species. There are many great resources available online including the Ohio Invasive Plants Council, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, OSU Extension, and Penn State Extension. These can provide information from identification to treatment methods and everything in between.

If you are interested in managing invasive species on your property or would like more information on what you can do to help stop the spread, please contact Hannah Swope, Wildlife & Forestry Specialist, at 740-885-3318.

Don't
forget to
test your
soil!!!

