

WASHINGTON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION CORNER

January 2026

21330 St Rt 676, Suite E
Marietta, Ohio 45750
740-885-3325

SWCD STAFF

Sandy Lahmers -
Administrator/Floodplain

Kathy Davis - Stormwater
Coordinator

Hannah Swope - Wildlife/Forestry
Specialist

Alexis Coffman - Education
Specialist

SWCD BOARD

Chuck Hicks

Michelle Schwendeman

Randy Fisher

John Hartline

Jeff Jones



In This Issue...

- Annual Meeting - Recap
- 4-H Awards Night
- CAUV Forestry Reminder
- Here's something you Otter know
- Farm City Day - Recap
- Upcoming County Events
- Tree Sale

Dates To Remember...

- January
 - 19th - Office Closed
- February
 - 11th - Monthly Board Meeting
 - 13th - Tree Sale Orders Due
 - 16th - Office Closed
 - 16th - Applicators Recertification
 - 19th - Ag Night
- March
 - 3rd - Future Farm Workshop - Session 1
 - 11th - Monthly Board Meeting
 - 17th - Future Farm Workshop - Session 2



Annual Meeting Recap

The District held its annual meeting on October 15, 2025 at the K of C Hall in Marietta. The night started off with voting for our District's Supervisor Candidates, then a delicious meal was served with the night ending with the presentation of the awards. The District presented awards to the Waterford FFA Chapter for the Rural/Urban County Soils Contest, recognized Chad Amos our Program Area Specialist and named Gregg Lane as the Cooperator of the Year. The election results were announced with Chuck Hicks and Michelle Schwendeman returning for another 3 years. Thank you to all who attended!



The District's Supervisor President presenting Gregg Lane with the Cooperator of the Year award.

The District's Supervisor Board; Randy Fisher, Jeff Jones, Chuck Hicks, Michelle Schwendeman & John Hartline.



4-H Awards Night

The District was recognized as the 2025 Business Friend of 4-H. We are honored to receive the award and hope to continue to build our relationship with Extension & the 4-H Youth Program in the coming years.



CAUV Forestry Program

Be prepared for your next CAUV check!

- Review your forest management plan, double checking it is not expired.
- Invasive species can be treated in the winter months!
- Need to add trees? Check out our tree sale happening now!
- Questions about forest management? Call Hannah at 740-885-3318

HERE'S SOMETHING YOU OTTER KNOW!

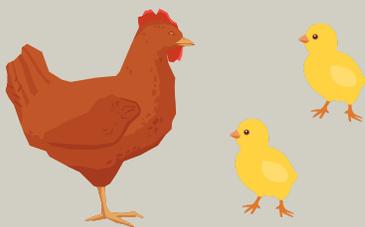


Each year the Washington SWCD assists the Division of Wildlife with multiple production and population surveys, including River Otters. Once extirpated due to habitat loss, water pollution, and unregulated harvest, River Otters have made a full recovery back into our county's streams and rivers thanks to the successful seven-year reintroduction program that began in 1986 where 123 wild caught otters from Arkansas and Louisiana were released into 4 suitable watersheds, including the Little Muskingum River watershed. Today, our annual River Otter Bridge Surveys help the Division by collecting data to determine the presence or absence of otters and give an estimated population overview. Occasionally, we get to physically see these amazing creatures, however, because they are more nocturnal and crepuscular along with being extremely shy, we look more for signs of inhabitants and presences, like scat, tracks, tail drags, fish kill remains, and latrines. This year was an exceptional year to see some of these signs along our larger stream sample sites, finding prints, scat with scales, and even a secretion pile! For more information on River Otters, visit the Ohio Division of Wildlife's species overview web page. Having problems with otters getting into your pond? Call Hannah Swope at 740-885-3318 for mitigation and nuisance trapper options.



FARM CITY DAY 2025

October 9 & 10, 2025 Hartline Valley Farm allowed us to visit for Farm City Days! There were almost 400 kids in attendance from schools within the County. The event wouldn't be possible without our gracious sponsors, our presenters volunteering their time and the Hartline Family.





Upcoming Events in the County



Hunter Education

The District will be holding a hunter education course April 10th - 12th, 2026. The course is free and open to anyone. Check our Facebook page or website for more information closer to the event. Questions? Hannah 740-885-3318.

Ag Night

The Agribusiness will be hosting an Ag Night February 19th, 2026, 6 pm- 9pm at the Washington County Career Center. Come and learn about local grid fertilizing services, weed concerns, financial analysis and more. The night is free and open to anyone. Contact Amber Peck 740-373-6283 for questions.



Planning for the Future of your Farm Workshop



Do you have a crystal ball to predict the future or your plan? If no, join OSU Extension in their Workshop on March 3rd & 17th, 2026 to start thinking about it. Sessions on setting goals, transition management, planning for the unexpected, selecting an attorney and so much more. Contact TJ Wells at 740-376-7431 to reserve your family's spot.

Pesticide & Fertilizer Recertification for Private Applicators

Need recertified in Pesticide or Fertilizer applications? OSU Extension is hosting 2 sessions on February 16, 2026. Register for the event by calling TJ Wells at 740-376-7431.





Washington Soil and Water Conservation District

2026 Tree and Wildlife Packet Sale

How to Order

Orders will be taken until **Friday, February 13, 2026**. Tentative distribution date is planned for April 3, 2026. You will receive a phone call from the Washington SWCD to confirm exact pick up date, location, and times. Be sure to include the number of packets you wish to order, your correct address, phone number, and email address on the enclosed order form and mail it with payment to:

Washington SWCD 21330 St. Rt. 676 Ste. E Marietta, Ohio 45750

You may also place orders by stopping in our office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Orders can be paid with cash or check only. If you have any questions, please call 740-885-3318. For additional details or order forms visit washingtoncountyswcd.com. *The Washington Soil and Water Conservation District reserves the right to substitute species in the Specialty Tree Packets, Erosion Control Seed Mix and Wildlife Food Plot Seed Mix based upon availability.*

Seedling Descriptions

SEEDLING SIZE: Tree and shrub seedlings are typically between 6 and 18 inches tall, depending on the species.

Deciduous Trees

Black Cherry - (*Prunus serotina*) Growing to 60+ft tall at maturity, the Black Cherry is a valuable wildlife and timber tree commonly used for specialty lumber and veneer. Produces white flowers May – June and small fruit June – October. Tolerates a wide variety of growing conditions.

Black Walnut - (*Juglans nigra*) Growing to 70+ ft tall at maturity, The Black Walnut is one of the most valuable native trees providing beautifully dark colored wood that is utilized extensively including for veneer. Green catkins will form April – June and large nuts will form and fall from September – November. Grows well in most locations but prefers deep soils and partial to full sun.

Northern Red Oak - (*Quercus rubra*) Growing to 80+ ft tall at maturity, the Northern Red Oak not only has good commercial value but is a major food source for all forest wildlife yielding acorns from September – November typically $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 inches in length. Prefers full sun and acidic soils, will have shiny green leaves during growing season and rusty-red leaves in the fall.

Sugar Maple - (*Acre saccharum*) Growing up to 100 ft, the Sugar Maple has various uses from the maple syrup production to a front yard shade tree. Capable of growing on most sites the Sugar Maple will often bare orangish - golden foliage in the fall.

White Oak - (*Quercus alba*) Growing to 100+ ft tall at maturity, the White Oak is the bread and butter of the forest, not only one of the greatest food sources for nearly all forest wildlife, the White Oak is also the heart of Appalachian timber products. Prefers deep sandy loam soil on South-Southwest facing slopes and is semi-shade tolerant. Green leaves with deep lobes that will turn rusty-red in the fall.

Coniferous Trees

Bald Cypress - (*Taxodium distichum*) Growing to 100+ ft tall at maturity, the Bald Cypress is a slow growing, long lived, deciduous conifer that greatly prefers extremely wet soils. The needles are flat with a light green color during the growing season which will turn a golden brown before shedding in the fall.

Eastern White Pine - (*Pinus strobus*) Growing to 80+ ft at maturity, the Eastern White pine is fast growing and one of the top timber pines of the Northeast. Although preferring most sandy, well drained soils, the White Pine is fairly adapted to a variety of growing conditions. Commonly used for wind breaks but is extremely salt intolerant. Needles are in clumps of 5 and are long, dark-light green with cones that can be 3-6 inches.

Northern White Cedar (Arbor Vitae) - (*Thuja occidentalis*) Growing to a maximum height of only 50ft, the Northern White Cedar has many uses but is most commonly used as a “natural privacy fence” and for wind breaks. Commonly called Arbor Vitae or “Tree of Life”, it is known to have many healing properties. Known for its flat, scale-like needles and green yellow cones, it often prefers to grow in wet, swamp-like areas.

Loblolly Pine - (*Pinus taeda*) Growing to 80+ ft in its native range of the South Eastern US, the Loblolly Pine belongs to the yellow pine group and is highly utilized for its lumber and pulp. Loblolly pine are known for tolerating a wide range of soil types along with their extremely fast growth rate of up to 2 ft in height per year.

Virginia Pine - (*Pinus virginiana*) Growing to a maximum height of 70ft. The Virginia Pine is commonly used in forest reclamation areas for its determination to persist, the seeds provide a great food source for many birds. It grows best in well drained loams but can tolerate extremely poor sandy soils where it will grow slower and have a stunted growth. The needles grow in pairs and the small cones will often remain on the tree for many years.

SEEDLING SIZE: Tree and shrub seedlings are typically between 6 and 18 inches tall, depending on the species.

Specialty Tree and Shrub Packets

Wildlife Packet

(4 each of the following species - 20 seedlings total - No Substitutions)

American Elderberry - (*Sambucus canadensis*) The American Elderberry has countless uses for both human consumption and wildlife, bearing its characteristic white flowers from June – July and its purple-black berries August – September. It tolerates a wide range of conditions but prefers medium wet, well drained soils. Often spreading by root suckers to form larger colonies. The berries can be used to make jam, jellies, syrup, wine and more.

American Plum - (*Prunus americana*) The American Plum is a small tree only reaching a mature height of about 25 ft that requires full sunlight and is adapted to medium wet but well drained soils. Its white, sweet-smelling flowers will emerge in early April before leaf out and can show until June with fruit yielding from August – October.

Eastern Redbud - (*Cercis canadensis*) The Eastern Redbud is a small tree, reaching about 25ft tall and is an excellent species for forest edges. Flowers pink in April-May before developing its characteristic heart shaped leaves. Many species of birds and mammals also utilize the seeds pods as they develop in late summer and finish falling into early winter.

Persimmon - (*diospyros virginiana*) The American Persimmon reaches a mature height of 30-50 ft. It has characteristically dark blocky bark and is known to be a dioecious species, having male and female flowers on separate trees. This requires multiples to be within proximity to cross pollinate. It prefers well drained soils but easily adapts to poor rocky soils. It will not tolerate wet sites and requires partial to full sun. Showing yellow-white flowers from May - June then producing edible fruit August – October that are greatly sought after by wildlife and can be made into jams and baked goods.

Shell Bark Hickory (Kingnut) - (*Carya laciniosa*) Shell bark Hickories are slow growing and long lived trees, reaching to heights of over 100ft. The Shell Bark Hickory grows well in deep rich soils especially in bottoms and can tolerate high moisture. At maturity it develops shaggy bark very similar to the Shagbark Hickory which is excellent for bat roosts and it is known for having the largest nuts in the hickory family.

Wet Feet Packet

(4 each of the following species - 20 seedlings total - No Substitutions)

Bald Cypress - (*Taxodium distichum*) See Page 1 for description.

Button Bush - (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) The buttonbush is a deciduous shrub that grows to about 10 ft. tall on average. It thrives in swampy wetlands and it develops clusters of yellow flowers that are great for pollinators and creates excellent food source and cover for water fowl.

Wet Feet Packet cont.

Swamp White Oak - (*Quercus bicolor*) Medium size, moderate growth rate, and long lived. Often maturing between 50-75 ft. in height, living up to 300 years or more. Prefers full sun, moist to wet acidic soils with high mineral content. Is tolerant of drought conditions and compacted soils. Well adapted to low-lying areas with poor drainage. Yields oblong acorns in pairs, approximately 1" in length that attract a variety of wildlife.

Swamp Chestnut Oak - (*Quercus michauxii*) averaging a height of around 65 ft. The swamp chestnut oak is a Lowland oak that prefers rich wet soils with full sun. this tree is known for its highly palatable acorns preferred by a variety of wildlife.

Gray Dogwood - (*Cornus racemosa*) The gray Dogwood is a shrub that typically grows between 5-10 ft and is known to spread by rhizomes which can sometime form thickets. Prefers wet soils with moderate to full sun. This plant will form white flower clusters between May and July which will later form white berries which are excellent for many species of birds. (not edible to humans)

Fruit Trees

(1 each of the following species - 2 seedlings total - No Substitutions)

Dwarf Mutsu Apple - (*Malus domestica*) The Mutsu apple, also called Crispin, is a cultivar between Golden Delicious and Indo, introduced from Japan. This medium to large-sized fruit is aromatic, juicy, sweet, spicy and a little tart. Great for eating fresh and it can also be kept for up to 3 months if stored well. Mutsu apple can be cooked because it holds its shape well during cooking. Ripens in early October. Dwarf Mutsu apple trees are not self pollinating - Pollinates with Jonathon apple trees. These dwarf varieties will ultimately have a height and spread of about 15 ft. They grow best in well-drained, loamy, slightly acid soils and full sun. Soil pH is 5.0 to 6.8 range.

Dwarf Jonathon Apple - (*Malus domestica* 'Jonathon') This medium size fruit is aromatic, lightly acidic, sweet and crisp. Great for eating fresh, baking, canning, and cooking. Can be kept up to 6 months if stored well. Ripens in September. These dwarf varieties will ultimately have a height and spread of about 10 ft. Prefers well drained, loamy soils and full sun. Soil pH range is 6.0 to 7.0.

Mushrooms

Shiitake Mushroom - (1 kit) Delicious mushrooms that have brown, slightly convex caps that range from about 2-4 inches in diameter. Kit contains 200 inoculated shiitake dowel plugs, 1/4 lb. bees wax, wax dauber, 5 metal tags for labeling, and an easy to follow growers guide. Each kit will plug approximately 10 logs 3 inches in diameter and 40 inches long. Logs not included.

Seed Mixes

Create Food Plots for Wildlife with Whitetail 365! (25 lb. bag) This "throw & go" mix can be planted anytime from early spring through late fall. The combination of oats, rye, and 2 varieties of peas ensures that something is always growing and providing forage for deer year-round. Covers ½ acre.

The Washington SWCD reserves the right to substitute species in the Specialty Tree Packets, Erosion Control Seed Mix and Wildlife Food Plot Seed Mix based upon availability.

Seed Mixes cont.

Erosion Control Seed Mix (2 lb. bag) - A blend of Birdsfoot Trefoil, Timothy, Tall Fescue, Annual Ryegrass, Alsike Clover, and Red Top. Excellent substitute for crownvetch. For severe erosion control measures. Covers 2,000 sq. ft.

Showy Northeast Native Wildflower & Grass Seed Mix (1 oz. packet) - A mix of native wildflowers and prairie grasses that will provide a wonderful display of color from spring through summer. This full sun/part shade mixture contains drought resistant species that attain an average height of 2-3 ft. Excellent for native meadows and wildflower patches. Covers 200 sq. ft. For specific details of species included in this seed mix visit our website washingtoncountyswcd.com.

Pollinator Seed Mixes

Created by Pheasants Forever, these seed mixes have been designed by wildlife professionals to provide diverse high-quality long-lasting wildlife habitat, meet Ohio Department of Agriculture standards and exceed NRCS conservation standards. Both of these seed mixes meet criteria set forth by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). In addition they also meet criteria set forth by Farm Service Agency (FSA) for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice CP42 - Pollinator Habitat. If you are purchasing seed for either of these programs, be sure to follow all standards and specifications as directed from NRCS and/or FSA. Please note that steeper slopes may require a grass component, please refer to your District Conservationist to ensure the desired mix meets any slope requirements. **Seed sold in 1/2 acre increments.** Quantity listed is pure live seed (PLS).

Ohio Pollinator Seed Mix - Species details are posted on our website washingtoncountyswcd.com.

Ohio Pollinator (NO GRASSES) Seed Mix - Species details are posted on our website washingtoncountyswcd.com.

Native Groundcover

Wild Ginger - (*Asarum canadensis*) This native spring wildflower is usually grown in woodland gardens, native plant gardens, or used as edging in landscapes. Easily grown in a variety of soil types in part shade to full shade. Spreads slowly by rhizomes. Height is 4-8 inches at maturity. Plant 8-12 inches apart. 25 starts per packet.

Partridge Berry - (*Mitchella reptans*) A mat-forming, evergreen groundcover that displays interesting foliage, flowers, and fruit. Tolerates heavy shade and dry conditions. Height is 2 inches at maturity. Plant 8-12 inches apart. 25 starts per packet.

Wild Geranium - (*Geranium maculatum*) This species is recognized by pollination ecologists as attracting large numbers of native bees! Noted as a semi-evergreen, the plant grows 1-2 ft. high and produces flowers 1-1.5 inches across. This plant does well under a variety of growing conditions and prefers part to full shade. Plant 8-12 inches apart. 25 starts per packet.

Wildlife Boxes

Bat House - Bats play an essential role in keeping populations of night-flying insects in balance; one bat can catch hundreds of insects per hour! They are the primary predators of beetles, moths, leafhoppers, mosquitoes, and other insects. Installing this cedar bat house on your property will provide roosting locations for these nocturnal mammals.

Eastern Bluebird Box - Landlords wanted! Attract bluebirds to your property! Bluebirds readily accept nesting boxes to raise their young. Ideal bluebird habitat is a mix of scattered trees and open grasslands including short, mowed, or grazed grass. These cedar nest boxes should be placed at least 300 ft. apart. Contact the District for more information on bluebirds.

Tree Supplies

Plantskydd - 100% organic, safe for use in protecting flowers, ornamentals, seedlings, shrubs, and trees, as well as fruit, vegetables, and other food crops against browse damage from deer and rabbits. Won't harm the environment or pets. It is non-toxic, biodegradable, and also acts as a fertilizer. Available in 1 quart ready to spray bottle, 2.2 lb. soluble powder concentrate (makes 10 quarts of liquid for spraying) or 2 lb. granular shaker container.



Tree Marking Flags - 30 inch high metal stake with a 4 x 5 inch purple flag. Perfect for marking those newly planted trees, shrubs, and groundcover.

Weed Wand Magic - The perfect accessory for fighting invasive species - no spray, no drift, no waste! Ideal for quick, easy and targeted spot application of herbicide directly on weeds or stumps! Its lightweight design prevents the need to bend over - simply push down on the tube to precisely apply the desired amount of herbicide. Each wand also comes with a three pack of replacement tips.

Don't Guess...Soil Test!

Plants need proper nutrients to reach their full genetic potential. Soil sampling allows us to determine if plant needs can be met or if we need to make amendments to our soil so plants can grow their best. It's inexpensive and it's easy!

- Sample in spring or fall when grass is no longer actively growing.
- Soil properties vary from place to place. The sample should be representative of the area to be sampled as a whole. Do not take samples from an unrelated area.
- Remove plant debris or turf from soil surface at sample site.
- Sample lawns, gardens, and fields to a depth of 6-8 inches.
- Using a clean plastic bucket and a soil probe or spade, combine cores or slices of soil from at least ten locations per acre scattered throughout the area to be tested.
- Break up clumps, mix soil thoroughly, and air dry at room temperature.
- Place one pint of sampled soil in bag.
- Take sample to a testing location. Some local options are: Washington County Extension Office, Beverly Feed, or Heritage Coop.

2026 ORDER FORM

Tree	Trees per Packet	# Packets	\$/Packet	Total \$
Black Cherry	25		\$20.00	
Black Walnut	25		\$20.00	
Northern Red Oak	25		\$20.00	
Sugar Maple	25		\$30.00	
White Oak	25		\$20.00	
Bald Cypress	25		\$20.00	
Eastern White Pine	25		\$20.00	
Northern White Cedar	25		\$20.00	
Loblolly Pine	25		\$25.00	
Virginia Pine	25		\$20.00	
Wildlife Packet	20		\$22.00	
Wet Feet Packet	20		\$22.00	
Dwarf Mutsu / Dwarf Jonathon Apple (1 of each)	2		\$37.00	
Shiitake Mushrooms	1 kit		\$29.00	
Whitetail 365 Food Plot Seed Mix	25 lbs		\$57.50	
Erosion Control Seed Mix	2 lbs		\$17.00	
Wildflower and Grass Seed Mix	1 oz		\$6.00	
Ohio Pollinator Seed Mix	1/2 acre		\$130.00	
Ohio Pollinator (NO GRASSES) Seed Mix	1/2 acre		\$112.00	
Wild Ginger	25 per packet		\$25.00	
Partridge Berry	25 per packet		\$25.00	
Wild Geranium	25 per packet		\$25.00	
Bat House	Each		\$30.00	
Eastern Bluebird Box	Each		\$30.00	
Tree Marking Flags	25 per packet		\$3.75	
Plantskydd-ready to use spray	1 quart		\$22.00	
Plantskydd-soluble powder	2.2 lbs.		\$49.00	
Plantskydd-granular	2 lbs.		\$20.00	
Weed Wand Magic with 3 replacement tips	Each		\$35.00	

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Sub Total
7.25% Tax =
Total

**Order deadline is
February 13, 2026.**

~Cash or Check Only~

Make checks payable to:
Washington SWCD

Seedlings should be planted within 5 days after pick-up and then watered regularly.

Customers will be notified about pick-up date via phone call once the date is confirmed.