



Grass Roots for Conservation



www.stormwaterelkco.org

Vol. 42

No. 12

December 2017

www.elkcoswcd.org

Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation District

17746-B County Rd. 34 ~ Goshen, IN 46528 ~ Phone: 574-533-4383 ext. 3 james.hess@in.nacdn.net

Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District 2018 Roller Coaster Conservation Series

BANK ON YOUR ROOTS

**A meeting and tradeshow on
options in cover crop management**

Sponsored By: Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District,
Purdue Extension Elkhart County, and USDA-NRCS

Friday, March 9, 2018 • 8:00 AM—3:30 PM

Elkhart County Community Center, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds • Goshen, IN

Featured Sessions:

“Preparing Your Farm for Cover Crops”

Know what resources and resource concerns you have on your farm and decide what your main objectives are (yield, lower inputs, conservation, etc) for your operation. What is your “why” for doing cover crops? Make sure to do your homework, research, and talk to others so that you have multiple backup plans.

“Measuring Cover Crop Success”

Have long-term practical and measurable goals for your cover crop operation. Soil health tests (organic matter, nutrient retention, water capacity) and productivity (\$, yield, input reduction) can help measure your goals. Observe your fields, so you can get to the “root” of any problems.

“Creative Management Options: Forage and Manure”

What are crop rotation options to manage manure applications? How can I use cover crops for feed and forage?

Creative Management Options: Order of Operations”

What steps do I take to successfully integrate cover crops into an existing crop rotation? What equipment, herbicide, and nutrients should I consider?

—THIS IS A FREE EVENT—

CEU Credits for CCA’s, CCH’s, and PARP credits will be available. Lunch will be provided.

To register contact the SWCD office at 574-533-4383 ext. 3 or online at www.elkcoswcd.org

Winterizing Construction Sites

This fall has not been bad temperature-wise, but there has been plenty of rain. Unfortunately, here in northern Indiana, we know the white stuff is on the way. That means it's time to prepare your construction site for winter. The Rule 5 Erosion Control permit agreement requires all disturbed areas not scheduled to be worked for 15 days or more need to be stabilized. Doing these activities before the frost is in the ground is much easier than trying to install practices after it's frozen.

At this time of year, many sites have had time to install their building pad and get started on the building, helping construction workers by having an enclosed space to work in during the winter. Usually, that prep work leaves some disturbed ground around the site. Those bare ground areas need help to overwinter the best way possible so to minimize potential erosion.

The most important thing is to stabilize the surface so soil does not wash away during warm spells during the winter and the heavy rains that come in early spring. Some kind of cover, either green living plants or something structural, is a good way to stop sediment moving off the site and protect the perimeter of the property.

Optimum seeding dates for dormant seeding, best applied with fertilizer and mulch, are from December 1 through February 28. Frost seeding can be used from February 28 through March 28. This will help set the stage for a fast start for new vegetation when things warm up in the spring. Frost and dormant seeding use the same varieties of seeds, just at different rates.

If vegetation hasn't been established, other practices such as anchored mulch or erosion control blankets are possible. Areas receiving channelized or concentrated flow, like swales, need these structures installed to protect those



spots more prone to erosion. Also, during the fall and winter months, mulch and erosion control blankets help maintain an even soil temperature and protect shallow-rooted plants from ground heaving from the freeze/thaw cycle.

These measures are just part of the overall system that includes many sediment control practices. Silt fence, blanketed slopes and storm water inlet and outlet protection are also important measures. Details for these practices can be found in Chapter 7 of the Indiana Stormwater Quality Manual. Here's a link to that information: http://www.in.gov/idem/stormwater/files/stormwater_manual_chap_07.pdf.

Please consider that stabilizing and protecting your construction site now will save time, money, and frustration when the snows melt and the rains are hitting hard just when you want to restart your construction activities. Feel free to contact the friendly folks at the Elkhart County SWCD for technical assistance or information on the best erosion and sediment control practices.

Wakarusa
SAW MILL
5 Generations

BUYERS OF STANDING TIMBER

574-862-2430

908 E. Waterford St. • Wakarusa, IN 46573
Steve Brown 574-596-6182

Y O D E R
A I N L A Y
U L M E R
&
BUCKINGHAM
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Celebrating 60 Years of
Service to the Community**

Business Law	Governmental Law
Commercial Law	Litigation
Employment Law	Nonprofits
Environmental Law	Personal Injury
Estate Planning	

(574) 533-1171  www.yaub.com

130 N. Main Street, Goshen, IN 46526

2018 Tree Sale Showcase

Deciduous Trees



Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*)

Kousa dogwood is an excellent small specimen tree. Two of this plant's outstanding characteristics are four-petaled, white to pink flowers that appear above the foliage in June and reddish-purple fall color. This tree benefits from a layer of mulch to maintain a cool root environment. It prefers acid, moist but well-drained soils. The mature height is 20 to 30 feet, with a similar width. It does not tolerate wet soils. The bark is a unique gray to brown, and slightly exfoliating, giving it year round interest.



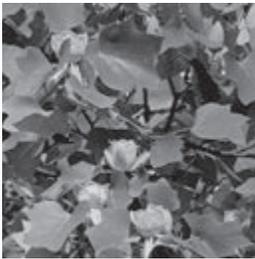
Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

Maples are North America's favorite shade tree and the darling of the fall foliage displays. The Sugar Maple will not disappoint! Sugar Maples support a wide range of butterfly and moth larvae which, in turn, attract many of our songbirds. And let's not forget to mention that it is the source of delicious maple syrup! Even if you don't intend to "tap" your trees, the sugar maple makes a classic shade tree in a yard.



Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

The sweetgum is a large native shade tree with outstanding autumn color. Fall foliage ranges from yellow to flaming red to purple – sometimes on the same tree. Though not as large as the previously described tulip tree, the sweetgum often reaches 60 to 75'. The bark on the twigs has interesting corky wings when mature. The sweetgum tree produce a round, spiny, "gum ball" shaped fruit that many people use in crafts. This is a tree that prefers full sun and moist soils but easily tolerates partial shade and drier than ideal soil moisture.



Tulip Poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Every 4th grader in Indiana learns that the tulip tree is our state tree. What generally isn't known is that the tulip poplar is not a true poplar but is, in fact, a member of the magnolia family. It also is one of the tallest and most beautiful trees in the eastern hardwood forest. This is a large tree, capable of reaching heights well in excess of 100'. It usually has a straight trunk and a rounded to spreading crown. The tulip tree blooms in May, producing many tulip-shaped flowers which can be difficult to see since it blooms after the tree leafs out. In the autumn, the leaves (which also have a tulip silhouette) turn a bright yellow. Younger trees have a thin gray trunk that can add some nice winter interest to the landscape.



White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

If there is a more adaptable tree in Indiana, I don't know what it is! The white oak is naturally found in every county of the Hoosier state and in conditions ranging from dry uplands to moist lowlands. It can reach 100 ft and live for hundreds of years. Ancient specimens are often wider than they are tall! We may not be around long enough to see that kind of growth but give this tree some room. Perhaps you can share a packet of these with a friend.

Small Trees and Shrubs



Allegheny Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)

Allegheny serviceberry is a small native understory tree with four-season interest. The early white spring flowers, outstanding orange-red fall color, and striking gray bark make it a lovely specimen for any landscape. The edible purplish-black fruit in late summer is attractive to many birds. This species is native to the Chicago region. It prefers moist, well drained soils. It does not tolerate drought well. The mature height is 15-25 feet, with a spread of the same. This plant prefers acid soils and partial sun/shade.

(Additional Small Trees and Shrubs on Back Page)

2018 Tree Sale Showcase

Small Trees and Shrubs



Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)

Some people say that no landscape is complete without a viburnum. If that's true, then the highbush is a must-have shrub. A nice break from the ever-present evergreens, this deciduous shrub has so much going for it, it's hard to know where to start! It blooms in late May or early June, bearing flat clusters of white flowers. Its summer leaves are reminiscent of maple leaves which turn a scarlet red or purple in the fall that rival any red maple out there. This shrub is a magnet for our native songbirds who relish the crimson fruit. This one is worthy of a place in your yard.



Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*)

Pussy Willow is a fast growing, native tree or large shrubby shrub with a rounded crown. A children's favorite, in early spring, the silky furry catkins open before the leaves appear to signal spring is on the way. It prefers full sun, moist, well-drained, rich soils. They can vary widely in size, from 8-25 feet in height and width. They are a favorite food for several species of wildlife, including deer. They can be messy in well-groomed landscapes.



Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)

Spicebush, named for its spicy, fragrant leaves and stems, is native to moist woodlands in the Midwest. It is most often used in landscapes in shrub borders and naturalized areas. Bright red fruits ripen from July through October on female plants, but are only showy once the foliage falls off. High in fat content in the berries are quickly eaten by various species of birds. They prefer acid, moist, well-drained to wet soils, with a mature height of 6 to 12 feet.



Sweet Shrub, aka Carolina Allspice (*Calycanthus floridus*)

Carolina-Allspice is a dense, rounded shrub reaching 6 to 9 feet high. It has unusual, maroon to reddish-brown flowers with a sweet banana-strawberry fragrance. Fruit is a persistent, urn-shape brown seedpod. A 6 to 10 feet high and wide shrub, it typically is rounded but can be open and loose. Grows in sun to part shade, but thrives best in rich, moist soil in part shade. Protect in windy sites. Shallow rooted and benefits with a layer of mulch to conserve moisture. Prune after flowering, may need renewal pruning if it becomes leggy. Hardy in zones 4 to 9, including Indiana.

Upcoming Events!

December 18 SWCD Board Meeting: 5:30 PM, SWCD Office, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen.

December 25-26 Christmas Holiday: The SWCD & NRCS Offices will be closed for the Christmas Holiday.

2018

January 1 New Year's Holiday: The SWCD & NRCS Offices will be closed for the New Year's Holiday.

January 15 Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday: The SWCD & NRCS Offices will be closed for the Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday.

January 22 SWCD Board Meeting: 5:30 PM, SWCD Office, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen.

February 19 SWCD Board Meeting: 5:30 PM, SWCD Office, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen.

February 27 2017 SWCD Annual Meeting: *Save the Date* ~ 6:30 PM in the ECCC Building/ Martin Room at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds, Goshen.

SWCD - NRCS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY

17746-B County Road 34, Goshen, IN 46528-9261

Ph. (574) 533-4383, ext. 3 • Fax: (855) 408-4690

www.elkcoswcd.org www.stormwaterelkco.org

Printed on paper produced using conservation practices consistent with the Forest Stewardship Council.

Board of Supervisors:

Tom Kercher, Chairman Alex Wait, Vice Chairman
Dale Leer Dean Rink Darrell Shover

Associate Supervisors:

David Bontrager Joe Brown Brian Campbell
Gary Kauffman Keith E. Miller

SWCD Staff:

James Hess, Program Manager Jordan Beehler, Conservationist
Lora Callahan, Secretary/Treasurer Deb Jimison, Conservationist

NRCS Staff:

Amanda Kautz, District Conservationist

All programs and services of the Conservation Partnership and the Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.