



Grass Roots for Conservation



Vol. 46

No. 12

December 2021

www.elkcoswcd.org

Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Building Water Quality

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Day at a Time

Well, last month I mentioned the 2022-2023 Stormwater Calendars were coming out and guess what they are here, and we have locations listed on where you can pick them up.

The Countywide Stormwater calendars began in 2008 and you have been requesting them ever since. 15 years of information about Elkhart County and the importance of conservation practices. One of the neat things about our office is we can do just that. Get the information out into the community and help educate about different resources that happen right here in our area. Many of the structures, waterways, filter strips, and practices are right here in Elkhart County or in the St. Joe River basin. As you drive down our roads, walk the sidewalks, play in the parks, and fish in our streams, you might see these important stewardship efforts. Sometimes we are caught up in the negative and only see what is wrong, that is ok because it reminds us there is still work to be done. Just remember, conservation is never done and it needs to continue and evolve in time. These Calendars help remind us that the practices we put in now help us and more importantly help our future generations.

I want to thank all the partners that helped put this calendar together. It takes all of you in our Stormwater partnership to get this accomplished. Let me tell you, you do not want me deciding the design and layout of the calendar, because I would rearrange the days of the months. I have always thought we could get by with 2 weeks in November, a week in December and just combine January and February into a couple days. They might even have a Case tractor or a broke down Skid loader as pictures. As you can see, there is a reason I am not in charge of pictures, dates, and times.

So pick up a calendar and enjoy looking at the different conservation practices and pictures that many local photographers took for us. I hope you will all be reminded of how much we have to be thankful for in our community. We can all be good stewards of this land, it is our choice. As you move through the Stormwater Calendar day by day, think of how you can do your part in building water quality no matter where you live.

**From all of us here at the Elkhart County SWCD,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

BLOGGING BMP'S

A monthly Blog discussing the Best Management Practices (BMP's) that must be used to aid in erosion and sediment control.

Welcome back to another edition of Blogging BMP's. It is my hope that everyone was able to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends this year and can only speculate that what many were thankful for this year was just that, being with family and friends. I have appreciated my new perspective on how important it is to hold on to those moments as they are not guaranteed, rather a gift when we are able to get together with one another.

As we transition into the new year, I want to take this positive momentum that we have on getting together and start providing some opportunities to learn about stormwater, water quality and the critical role that landowners, contractors, and developers play in our watershed. In the coming months, the SWCD will be looking to provide learning opportunities for anyone interested in improving water quality through management of construction sites, farming operations, and just plain old home ownership. These experiences will be highly interactive, engaging, and informative so all who attend can get as much as they want or as little as they want from them. The main topics covered will be as follows.

1. Why doesn't anyone know that the #1 pollutant in our waterways is SEDIMENT?
2. How do I efficiently and effectively monitor sediment in my neighborhood, at my place of business, or on my Farm?
3. What is a StormWater Pollution Prevention Plan and when am I required to create one?
4. IDEM is introducing a new stormwater general permit, how will that affect me?

These are not the only topics that we look to cover, but will be a good lift off point for assisting farmers, contractors, engineers, educators, and landowners be better stewards of the land.

We will keep you posted on dates, times and topics as the events are scheduled. Keep your eyes on this publication, the SWCD Facebook page, and our website www.elkcoswcd.org for more information. I look forward to seeing you all in the near future and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



2022 Tree Sale Species Information List

DECIDUOUS TREES



American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)

The American Beech is truly a majestic tree, reaching 75-100 ft., with a spreading canopy. Its smooth silvery-gray bark and large shade-producing canopy, which turns a russet gold in the autumn, make this tree a year round standout. As well, the American beech supports over 100 species of butterflies and moths and its seeds are relished by many birds including turkeys.



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.



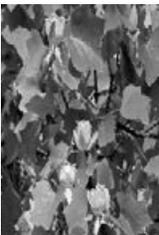
Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

Are you looking for a tree to replace your dying ash trees? The Hackberry might be just what you're looking for. Growing to 75-100 ft., this tree is tolerant of many soil types and pollution. It is the main host of the Hackberry butterfly and its small fruit is eaten by many of our native birds. After the yellow leaves drop in the autumn, the richly textured bark provides great winter interest. This is a really nice all-round tree.



Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

The northern red oak has been called "one of the handsomest, cleanest, and stately trees in North America" by naturalist Joseph S. Illick, and it is widely considered a national treasure. It is especially valued for its adaptability and usefulness, including its hardiness in urban settings. This medium to large tree is also known for its brilliant fall color, great value to wildlife and status as the state tree of New Jersey. Whether you're selecting a tree to plant in your front yard or out on the farm, it's a fast-growing species worth keeping in mind.



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 leaves out.



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.

THEY ARE HERE!!!



The Elkhart County Waters calendars are here and ready for you to pick up at a location convenient for you. They will be available at many local businesses and the following locations:

- **Goshen Annex Building**
(204 E Jefferson St., Goshen)
- **Elkhart County Public Services**
(4230 Elkhart Rd., Goshen)
- **City of Elkhart Public Works**
(1201 S Nappanee St., Elkhart)
- **SWCD office**
(59358 CR 7, Elkhart)

Get Yours Today!

- **Elkhart Env. Center**
(1717 E Lusher Ave, Elkhart)
- **Rieth Interpretive Center**
(410 W Plymouth Ave, Goshen)
- **Elkhart Co. Parks office**
(211 W Lincoln Ave, Goshen)

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 24 Christmas Holiday: The SWCD Office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday

2022

January 3 New Year's Holiday: The SWCD Office will be closed for the New Year's Holiday.

January 10 SWCD Board Meeting: 5:30 PM, SWCD Office, 59358 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN

January 17 Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday: The SWCD Office will be closed for the Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday

February 4-5 LaGrange County Northern Indiana Grazing Conference: It will be at the Michiana Event Center (MEC) in Shipshewana, \$35 for one day or \$55 for both days, if you register before January 28th. Contact the LaGrange County SWCD at 910 S. Detroit St., LaGrange, IN.

SWCD - NRCS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY

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