



Fulton County Soil & Water Conservation District

Annual Highlights Future Plans Current Reminders

113 Hales Mills Road Ext. - Johnstown, NY 12095

Telephone: (518) 762-0077 Website: www.fultoncountyswcd.org

DIRECTORS

Richard Hart – Chairman
Earl Hare – Grange – Vice Chairman
Jerry Moore – Farm Bureau
John Blackmon – County Legislator
Warren Greene – County Legislator

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SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

John Persch – District Manager
Jacob Hart – Resource Conservationist
David Mosher – Seasonal Technician
Tami Allen – Secretary to the Board

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Tom Bielli – District Conservationist

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Hydroseeding 2017

Road Ditch
Town of Mayfield - Tyrrell Rd.



Mined Land Reclamation
Town of Ephratah Sand and Gravel Mine



Hydroseeding is the process of mixing and applying a slurry of water, seed, mulch, fertilizer along with a tackifier. In general hydroseeding is completed on sites that are prone to erosion (road ditches, steep slopes, stream banks) that are relatively hard to reach or too steep for traditional techniques. In 2017 we hydroseeded 8 acres of critical area seeding and 4 miles of road ditches that were recently graded. The machine is perfect for applying seed to a road ditch quickly. Seed will begin germination 1.5 – 2 weeks after being set and will not move because the tackifier acts as a glue holding the seed in place. Another setting where hydroseeding works well is dressing up slopes for mined land reclamation. **The SWCD is available to county municipalities for critical area seeding at little or no cost.**



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2018 Conservation Tree & Shrub Program

Tree purchases may be completed via check, cash, or credit card. If paying by check please fill in the section below with your name, address, and phone number and make your check payable to Fulton Co. SWCD. If paying by credit card, you can either call or visit our office. All orders with payment must be received by **April 2, 2018**.

Mark your calendar for distribution!! Pick up will be at the Fulton County Soil & Water office during the following times:

- 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Friday, April 27, 2018
- 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Saturday, April 28, 2018

Name

Email:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Please provide phone # (required):

	Name & Approximate Size	Pricing Per Pack	Qty.	# of 10 packs	# of 50 packs	# of 100 packs	Total \$
EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS	American Arborvitae 2-2 Transplant	10 pk./\$18; 50 pk./\$75.; 100 pk./\$135					
	Balsam Fir 3-2 Transplant 10 -18"	10 pk./\$18; 50 pk./\$75.; 100 pk./\$135					
	Colorado Blue Spruce 2-2 Transplant	10 pk./\$18; 50 pk./\$75.; 100 pk./\$135					
	Fraser Fir 3-2 Transplant 10 -18"	10 pk./\$18; 50 pk./\$75.; 100 pk./\$135					
HARDWOODS, FRUIT TREES & SHRUBS	Chinese Chestnut 12-	10 pack/\$20; 50 pack/\$80					
	Hazel Nut 24-	10 pack/\$20; 50 pack/\$80					
	Common Lilac 24-	10 pack/\$20; 50 pack/\$80					
	Highbush Cranberry 24-	10 pack/\$20; 50 pack/\$80					
	Highbush Blueberry, 24"	10 pk./\$52; 50 pk./\$240.; 100 pk./\$470					
	Darrow Blackberries 12"-	10 pack/\$25					
	Seascape Strawberries	25 pack/\$12; 50 pack/\$18					
	Red Mulberry 24"-	5 pack/\$30					
	Northern Spy Apple 3/8"-	2 trees / \$30					
	Jonamac Apple 3/8"-	2 trees / \$30					
	Honey Crisp Apple 3/8" -	2 trees / \$30					
	Contender Peach 1/2"-	2 trees/ \$30					
	Mulch	\$4.00 / bag					
MISC. ITEMS	Compost	\$4.00 / 40 lb. bag					
	Fertilizer Tablets 10 grams 20-10-5.	10/\$4.00; 50/\$8.00; 100/\$14.00					
	Flags: 3 ft. wire w/colored flag.	10/\$4.00; 50/\$8.00; 100/\$14.00					

Orders are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Fulton County SWCD reserves the right to refund payment on items if they become unavailable. The District will not be responsible for the success or failure of plantings. Nursery stock is bare root and sizes may vary due to seasonal growth constraints.

Total Page \$.00

2-2 Transplant means 2 years in a seedling bed and 2 years in a transplant bed, making the plant 4 years old
3/8" - 7/8" fruit tree reflects stem size or caliper

Plant Descriptions

American Arborvitae - trees have a broad pyramidal shape with erect branches that are dense and crowded together. This evergreen tree prefers a deep, well drained site. American Arborvitae or White Cedar is one of the most popular of all trees for windbreaks and year round privacy screening. It may be sheared and shaped to fit into most every landscaping need.

Balsam Fir - Native to NY & Canada. Needles are 3/4 to 1-1/2" long, dark and shiny green. It prefers well-drained soil and north and east slopes. Balsam Fir is widely used as Christmas trees and an ornamental.

Colorado Blue Spruce - is a pyramidal shaped evergreen with steel blue foliage. It prefers heavier soils with full sun. Colorado Blue Spruce trees will reach a height of six feet in eight years. This evergreen conifer is widely used in windbreaks when spaced 6 feet apart or as an ornamental yard tree.

Fraser Fir- Needles are 1/2 to 1" long, dark green above and silvery white beneath. An excellent Christmas tree. Likes well drained cool, moist soil. Prefers north and east slopes.

Chinese Chestnut- can be used as a nut tree and a shade tree, or planted in rows as a windbreak. The nuts are sweet-flavored and produce in winter. The outer shell of the nut is prickly and must be removed. This hardy tree will bear fruit in 7-8 years when placed on a good site. The dark green leaves are 5" to 8" that turn yellow and gold in the fall. This variety of chestnut is resistant to chestnut blight (but not immune). This tree tolerates heat, drought, transplanting, and dry and acidic soils.

Hazel Nut - American Hazel Nut prefers full sun for best growth and development. It is a medium to fast-growing species, which suckers, eventually producing a multi-stemmed, and clump appearance. American Hazelnut grows to a height of 8-12 feet and with a crown spread of 10 to 15 feet. The species adapts well to a range of soil pH and types, but does best on well-drained loams. The nuts produced by American hazelnut are consumed by squirrels, deer, turkey, woodpeckers, pheasants and other animals. The male catkins are a food staple of ruffed grouse throughout the winter.

Common Lilac - Common Lilac is a perennial shrub. Common lilac has dark, heart shaped leaves and will bloom clusters of purple flowers in the spring. Provided ample sunlight the Lilac will thrive in most any soil. Lilac will grow quickly to a height of 8-10 feet making it a stunning choice as a hedge or privacy screen, but can also serve as an accent plant.

Highbush Cranberry - Considered a large and hardy deciduous shrub with a moderate growth rate of up to 3 ft. per year, the plant is typically 8 to 15 feet tall by 8 to 10 feet wide. The fruits/drupes can be eaten raw (though not very tasty that way) or cooked, and like cranberries, they are rich in vitamin C and so have a tart, acid taste (the taste is best after a frost and when picked slightly under-ripe).

Highbush blueberry - Blue Ray is an all-purpose blueberry bush good for preserves, baking, freezing, and fresh eating. Produces big clusters of large berries that are firm and somewhat tart. Ripens every July producing 10 to 20 lbs of fruit. A Northern highbush variety that requires strongly acidic soil. Grows 4'-6' feet. **Jersey** A hardy, healthy blueberry. Enjoy abundant crops of large, crack-resistant, light blue berries. Cold-hardy. Ripens in August. Self-pollinating.

Darrow Blackberries - With a long and large harvest, you will get a good supply of large berries from the Darrow Blackberry bush. The sugar, sweet, true blackberry flavor, makes these berries great fresh, in pie and in sauce. Ripe in early June, this winter hardy plant is very vigorous. This bush makes growing blackberries easy.

Seascape Strawberries - Your family can enjoy these large, delicious bright red strawberries in spring, summer and fall--three seasons of sweetness. This new day-neutral strawberry starts fruiting about 3 months from planting, regardless of when you plant it. The hard-working plants produce a plentitude of sweet, juicy berries. The 12-18" plants are easy-growing; whether in matted rows, high density or containers.

Red Mulberry - Native to Eastern North America, Red mulberry grows on a variety of moist soils. Self pollinating. Ripe fruit is dark red to purple-black. The fruit is similar in appearance to a blackberry, edible and very sweet with a good flavor. Not all the berries on a tree ripen at once, which means the berries can be harvested over a month's time in early summer. The fruit is used in pies, tarts, cobblers and raw in a similar way to blackberries.

Northern Spy Apple - The Northern Spy apple is juicy, crisp, and mildly sweet, while being rich and aromatic. The tartness makes this apple great for eating, sauce, baking, pies and freezing. This red apple tree has large, red and green fruit ripens in October, after a number of the other common apple varieties.

Jonamac Apple - The Jonamac is a cross between the Jonathan and McIntosh apples trees. This 90% red apple is a great dessert apple that is aromatic, sweet, with a honey flavor. Perfect for eating right off the tree, you will be able to harvest this apple in early September.

Honey Crisp Apple - The Honeycrisp apple is a high quality apple which keeps well for 5-6 months in common storage. The tree is one of the most vigorous and hardy of apple trees, showing little damage at -40 degrees. Honeycrisp fruit is characterized by an exceptionally crisp and juicy texture.

Contender Peach - Developed to be the latest blooming, most cold hardy variety of peach tree. Has survived winter temperatures of -40°F in Minnesota and Wisconsin. A freestone peach with bright yellow flesh. Sweet, extra-juicy fruit is an absolute delight for fresh eating, canning, baking, and freezing. Self-pollinating. 'Contender' ripens mid-to late August.



American Arborvitae



Balsam Fir



Colorado Blue Spruce



Frasier Fir



Chinese Chestnut



American Hazelnut



Common Lilac



Highbush Blueberry



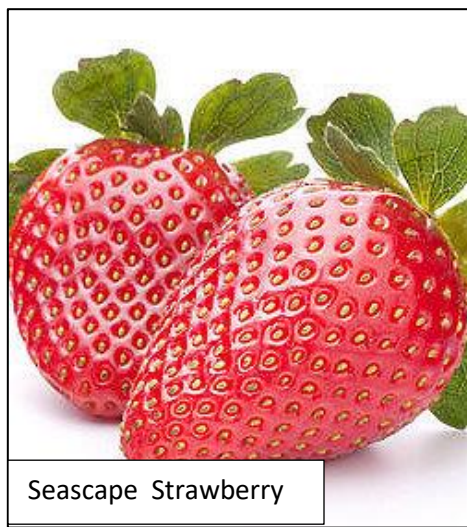
Highbush Cranberry



Red Mulberry



Darrow Blackberry



Seascape Strawberry



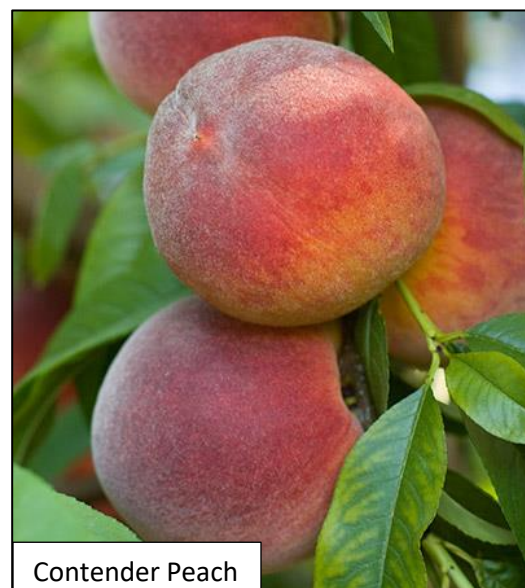
Northern Spy Apple



Jonamac Apple



Honeycrisp Apple



Contender Peach

Extend your Growing Season with a High Tunnel

Within Fulton County's Upper Hudson watershed, (**runs into Great Sacandaga Lake**), special funds have been allocated to construct High Tunnels. High Tunnels or hoop houses are simple, plastic covered tube structures, which are utilized to extend the growing season and intensify production. By protecting crops from potentially damaging weather conditions (frost, temperature fluctuations, precipitation, wind, or excess moisture that delays planting or cultivation), high tunnels also reduce risk and enhance the quality of the harvest. These structures come in many different shapes and sizes along with a variety of ventilation/heating options such as mechanical fans, heaters, or gable/side vents. Whatever the case, whether you're a large scale grower or growing for your family or yourself, a high tunnel can fit your needs.

Thus far our high tunnel program has been very successful, with a total of 5 planned for installation in the spring. This program is unique in the eligibility requirements. The applicants do **NOT** need to be making income off of the crops produced meaning the **small scale gardeners are eligible** for possible funding along with the major agricultural community.



On-Farm Climate Resiliency

As many of you all have observed in the past decade, weather events have seemingly become worse and happen much more often. This is not just your imagination, it is true that even in central New York, as temperate as our climate may be, have been subject to a slew of fierce, damaging weather events that are far from regular. Don't expect this trend to change anytime soon, projections for the next century show much of the same. According to many major northeast universities, annual precipitation will remain relatively constant but will be delivered on a less consistent basis. This means intense precipitation events are likely to increase and short-duration warm season droughts will become more common. In response to these concerns, New York State has rolled out a program called Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) with the goal to make NYS farms more climate resilient.

Here in Fulton County we believe this program has a lot of potential, mostly in regards to water management and soil health practices. Some practices included within the water management track include water source development (Ponds, springs, or wells) or expansion, micro-irrigation for truck crops, erosion and sediment controls, and riparian or stream corridor buffers. Key goals for water management are to 1.) conserve or store water, 2.) increase water use efficiency, and 3.) reduce erosion and trap sediments. The soil health track primarily includes practices such as conservation tillage or cover crops which improve the soil's strength to resist erosion and ability to hold water.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) like many government grants provides cost sharing assistance for practices up to 75% of the total project cost. You must be an agricultural producer to be eligible for this program. If you have any questions concerning the CRF program please call us here at the Fulton County Soil and Water Conservation District.

A Word from Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is an agency within the US Department of Agriculture that works in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for the protection of our natural resources.

Technical and financial assistance may be available to Fulton County landowners to address a variety of natural resource issues. Agricultural producers, maple product producers and forest landowners may be eligible for assistance to solve issues related to soil health and soil erosion issues, surface water and ground water quality impairments, inadequate forest structure and composition, degraded plant condition, inadequate wildlife habitat and inefficient energy use. All interested landowners will need to meet eligibility criteria.

Please contact Tom Bielli, NRCS District Conservationist, at 518-853-7003 for additional information.

Failing Culverts

This project was partially funded by the Soil and Water Conservation District Special Project Funds

Many of our cities, villages, and towns infrastructure is outdated and in disrepair. A culvert failure was identified on the North Road in the town of Oppenheim. A culvert crossing was failing causing the road to collapse. The road base was being eroded away and eventually made the road too dangerous to travel. We assisted the Town of Oppenheim in the proper sizing and replacement of a new culvert. The Town of Oppenheim did an excellent job installing a new 7 foot squash pipe culvert with wing wall protection. A coffer dam was installed to divert water around the work area; this not only made the installation of the pipe easier but also kept the stream clear of work area sediment infiltration. We would like to urge our local highway departments to contact the SWCD with a list of their failing infrastructure for possible repair or replacement assistance through a state grant funding opportunity.



Water was flowing around and in-between previously installed culverts.



During installation a coffer dam was constructed to divert flowing water around the work area.



A 7 foot squash culvert pipe was installed. This size pipe can easily handle the stream flows for up to a 100 year storm event. Rock head and wing walls will create a surface that will resist erosion and keep water in the existing channel.

Agricultural Non-point Source Abatement and Control

Nonpoint pollution by definition is any source of pollution not being confined to a single point (a pipe for example) of discharge, for this reason nonpoint source pollution can be very hard to trace. Often the contaminants will run overland or become absorbed into the soil before reaching any significant water body. Although many times slightly diluted, depending on the contaminant, quantity, and course of travel, it may pose a threat to water quality. This is not to say that nonpoint pollution is less of a threat than its point source counterpart, the main reasons for this are because there are way more sources along with less regulation. Within the agricultural industry there are many potential sources of nonpoint pollution including fertilizers, nutrients, sediments, pathogens, oil, grease, toxic chemicals, and pesticides.

Here at the SWCD we work with local farmers to identify, address, and mitigate nonpoint pollution most often with financial assistance from NYS Environmental Protection Fund. In the past 3 years we have helped local farmers secure over \$600,000 in NYS funds for nonpoint pollution mitigation. With these funds a multitude of practices have been installed including manure storage, manure transfer, fence, access road, stream crossing, riparian stream buffer, critical area seeding and roof water control. The way we see it, farmers are avid stewards of the land and by working together some otherwise unattainable goals can be achieved. This partnership not only can help the farmer but also the community by improving and protecting our natural resources.



Roof water can be a main culprit to the transfer of pollutants such as sediments and nutrients into nearby watercourses. Roof water control can be critical depending on the proximity to barnyards, access roads, cattle lanes, or any heavy use area. Controlling this water and conveying it to a suitable outlet will not only dry up these areas but also lessen the effects of surface runoff.

Fencing along drip trenches need to be protected when installed where animals are held or travelling to ensure animals are not loitering on or too closely. Fencing and surface shaping makes certain that the roof water stays clean.

The “Professors Perspective”

The Fulton County Soil & Water Conservation District took an active role in education in 2017. Protecting the natural resources of Fulton County is the Conservation Districts #1 priority and efforts were made to educate municipal officials and contractors on programs and practices that work to accomplish that feat. The district sponsored and provided training in two areas of concern. They included Stormwater Pollution Prevention and Post Flood Emergency Stream Intervention.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Training provides education and certification to individuals directly responsible for erosion & sediment control on active and open construction sites operating under a Construction Permit issued by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The training addresses conservation practices identified in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, or SWPPP, how those practices are supposed to function and how to determine if there are deficiencies in the practice. Individuals that participate in this required training are responsible for the daily inspection of the site and all of the erosion & sediment control components of the project. All in an effort to keep “clean water clean”.

The Post Flood Emergency Stream Intervention Training was provided to educate municipal leaders and DPW Supervisors on how to address post flood activities carried out by municipal crews in the aftermath of a severe storm event. This training addresses these activities with a different perspective and in an eye opening approach that puts more emphasis on what **not to do** rather than how much can we do in the shortest amount of time. Topics such as stream sizing and dynamics, watershed assessments, undisturbed reaches and more were discussed in an effort to enlighten attendees with knowledge that would help them to understand this new approach to dealing with storm damage. This approach can help to reduce cost, through reduced man hours and equipment rentals by simply evaluating the stream and attempt to put it back to its natural design with as little additional disturbance as possible. Sometimes doing less accomplishes so much more!

Contact the Conservation District if you are interested in receiving either or both of these trainings.

Ag. Value Assessments

Don't Forget agricultural land value assessments are due **March 1st** to your local assessor. If you own a farm and have land that is not in the agricultural land value assessment program or you have acquired new land that needs to be included in your already existing assessment make sure to contact our office or your assessor to get the process started. If you are unsure if you qualify for the program; feel free to give us a call, we can discuss the eligibility requirements.

For all the rest of you folks out there already in the program make sure to fill out your annual renewal form (mailed) if nothing has changed.

Fish Program

The Fulton County SWCD stocks a variety of recreational fish including Bass, Minnows, Catfish, and Trout. We also stock grass carp which are used to control weed growth in a pond. If you are interested in stocking any type of fish and are not on our fish program mailing list please give the office a call so we can get the appropriate paperwork to you. If you have received fish from us in the past we will be sending a fish order form out in the spring.