



CONVERSATION

Putnam Soil and Water Conservation District

1206 E. Second St., Suite 2 Ottawa, OH 45875

Phone: 419-523-5159

Soil and Water Supervisors

- Jeff Duling
- Kyle Haselman
- Aaron Siebeneck
- Mike Weller
- Terry Schroeder

SWCD Staff

- Jeff Giesige
- District Technician
- Curt Tobe
- Ag Nutrient Technician
- Sarah Rieman
- Office Assistant
- Jeff Nordhaus
- District Technician
- Spencer Dray
- Nutrient Management Specialist
- Mandy Verhoff
- Program Assistant

Winter Salt Watch

One of the biggest environmental challenges we face is the question of how to reduce the rainwater runoff that enters our surface and groundwaters due to increased development and impervious surfaces. Not only does this runoff cause flooding but it also carries pollutants which wreak havoc with our streams and the aquatic life in them. Road salt, applied mostly in the winter, becomes a formidable pollutant because salt does not “disappear” after a storm event.

The search for alternative types of road salt has been going on for years. There are some substitutes available that use calcium, magnesium, or potassium, (instead of sodium), but they all cost more up-front. The relatively inexpensive price of traditional road salt makes it the most popular choice. Water Quality impacts from road salt in the winter have long been problematic but there are some ways we can work toward the solution. Besides reducing the amount of runoff with green infrastructure, rain gardens, rain barrels, and streamside plantings, we can help to reduce the amount of salt in the runoff.

Here are some homeowner and business Best Management Practices:

- Shovel early and often: When you remove snow manually you will need less salt and the de-icing material will be more effective. Begin as early as you can and keep up with the snowfall, (unless freezing rain is forecast to follow the snow) so the sun can get at the pavement or sidewalk and melt it away. You may not even need salt.
- Reposition snow piles: Shovel away from paved surfaces if possible. Dump your shoveled snow onto nearby grassy or vegetated areas so that the snow melt will absorb into the ground, preventing runoff containing dissolved salt and other pollutants from entering the storm drains.
- Apply only what's needed: Remember-One cup of road salt will de-ice 250 square feet or ten sidewalk squares. Sprinkle de-icing material on icy areas only and follow manufacturer's instructions for working temperatures and application rates. Winter salt is most effective between 32 degrees F and 10 degrees F.
- Apply protectively: Keep salt application away from any storm drain, or where melted runoff can mix with salt and then flow into a storm drain. Storm drains lead directly to streams, rivers and lakes.

Safe roads are very important to all of us, and we can achieve safety and still be more efficient and careful with our road salt. If we practice the best management practices, we can make a difference and improve conditions for ourselves and future generations.

The Nature Conservancy is looking for farmers who are currently utilizing cover crops on their farms in the Maumee River Watershed of the Western Lake Erie Basin. We are looking for a diverse group of farmers; large acreage, small acreage, corn and soy, small grains, livestock, new and experienced, willing to reach out and share their knowledge and experiences with other farmers in their area. Selected farmers will be compensated for their time.

If you are interested in being part of this exciting farmer led outreach project and would like to apply as a Farmer Advocate for Conservation please reach out to us, TNC or Farm Bureau.

The Dirt on Soil Health: Investing Below the Surface

Join OSU Extension online this winter on a Thursday morning series about soil health. Starting in January, they will dig below the surface to investigate new developments in soil health and soil management. All sessions are 8:00-8:30 a.m. and feature a variety of speakers from Ohio and beyond. The series is free, but participants must register online.

CCA and CEU credits available for all sessions.



Putnam SWCD Scholarship

Putnam SWCD is offering a Scholarship to High School Seniors in Putnam County. Applications can be picked up at the Soil and Water Office during business hours or through your high school guidance counselor.

Applicants must have a 2.5 high school grade point average, be enrolled for the 2021 fall semester at a 2 or 4 year college institution, and also major in agriculture, natural resources, environmental science, or a closely related field.

Applications are due **April 15, 2021**

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TREE VARIETIES	NO.	PRICE	TOTAL
Evergreen Seedlings – Pack of 10 2 years old: 8”-12”			
10 Norway Spruce	_____	\$ 10.00	_____
10 Colorado Blue Spruce	_____	\$ 10.00	_____
Evergreen Transplants – Sold Individually 3-4 years old: 12”-24”			
1 Norway Spruce	_____	\$ 3.00	_____
1 White Pine	_____	\$ 3.00	_____
1 American Arborvitae	_____	\$ 3.00	_____
Hardwood Seedlings – Sold Individually 1-2 years: 10”-30”			
1 Red Pine	_____	\$ 3.00	_____
1 Red Oak	_____	\$ 3.00	_____
1 White Oak	_____	\$ 3.00	_____
1 Black Walnut	_____	\$ 3.00	_____
1 American Redbud	_____	\$ 3.00	_____
1 Hazelnut	_____	\$ 3.00	_____
1 Riverbirch	_____	\$ 3.00	_____
1 Pin Oak	_____	\$ 3.00	_____
Semi-Dwarf Fruit Trees – Sold Individually-Bare Root Size: 4-6 Feet			
1 Bartlett Pear	_____	\$ 30.00	_____
1 Lapins Cherry (Sweet)	_____	\$ 30.00	_____
1 Red Haven Peach	_____	\$ 30.00	_____
1 Honeycrisp Apple	_____	\$ 30.00	_____
1 Red Fuji Apple	_____	\$ 30.00	_____
1 Granny Smith Apple	_____	\$ 30.00	_____

TOTAL ORDER \$ _____

All Prices Include Sales Tax

***Drive-Thru Pick-Up
April 29th next to the office***

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

All orders and checks due **March 15, 2021** payable to:

Putnam SWCD
1206 E. Second St. Suite 2
Ottawa, OH 45875
(419) 523-5159
sarah.rieman@putnamcountyohio.gov

Our office is still closed to the public. Please use the drop slot outside our office door, mail or email for orders.

PUTNAM SOIL AND WATER
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1206 E Second Street-Suite 2
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Phone: 419-523-5159

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