

Focus Newsletter

5 Ways to Practice Conservation this Summer

As the summer season heats up, it's important to remember that conservation doesn't take a vacation. Here are five ways individuals can practice conservation during the summer this year:

- 1. Use Water Wisely:** With temperatures soaring, water usage tends to increase. To conserve water, take shorter showers, fix leaky faucets, and avoid watering lawns during the hottest parts of the day. In addition, consider installing low-flow showerheads and toilets to save even more water.
- 2. Reduce Energy Usage:** Summer often means turning up the air conditioning, but this can lead to high energy bills and increased carbon emissions. To conserve energy, consider using a programmable thermostat to adjust the temperature when you're not home, closing curtains to block out the sun, and using fans to circulate cool air.
- 3. Reduce Waste:** Summer is often associated with picnics, barbecues, and outdoor gatherings, which can generate a lot of waste. To reduce waste, bring reusable plates and utensils to events, compost food scraps, and

recycle as much as possible. Additionally, consider using reusable water bottles and shopping bags to cut down on plastic waste.

4. Support Local Farmers: Summer is the perfect time to visit farmers markets and support local agriculture. By purchasing produce from local farmers, you can reduce the carbon emissions associated with long-distance transportation and support sustainable farming practices.

5. Get Involved: Finally, consider getting involved in conservation efforts in your community. Volunteer with local organizations, attend city council meetings, and advocate for policies that support sustainability and conservation.

By taking these steps, individuals can make a big difference in conserving resources and protecting the environment during the summer season. Remember, conservation doesn't have to be complicated or time-consuming – small changes can have a big impact.



DANGEROUS PLANTS OF DELAWARE COUNTY



POISON IVY

Very common vine or groundcover. Causes an itchy rash that can be from direct or indirect contact. Although not very contagious, it can take weeks to go away. The plant can still cause a rash in the winter when it has no leaves.



CAROLINA HORSENETTLE

Found in fields and along roads, usually a concern for livestock owners. Produces a yellow berry-fruit that is deadly for humans, especially children. Avoid all parts of the plant, handle with gloves.



WILD PARSNIP

Commonly found growing near poison hemlock. The sap causes severe skin blistering and burns that can take up to 24 hours to appear. Hand-pulling is not recommended.



POISON SUMAC

Although considered to be very toxic, it is less common. Contains the same poisonous chemical as poison ivy and causes a similar reaction, however; more severe. Never burn this plant; inhalation is dangerous.



POISON HEMLOCK

All parts of the plant are poisonous. Does not cause skin rash or blistering but medical treatment should be sought if ingested or comes into contact with eyes or nose.

Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District

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Employee Highlight

Rebecca started with the District in 2016 and works as a Resource Conservationist and GIS Technician. Some of her main duties include managing the agricultural easement program, helping residents with drainage concerns, and keeping the District's mapping programs up-to-date. Rebecca also serves as an Area Director for the Ohio Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Employees. In her free time, Rebecca enjoys outdoor adventures with her husband and two dogs, as well as working in her vegetable garden and kitchen.

Another Successful Tree Sale Event

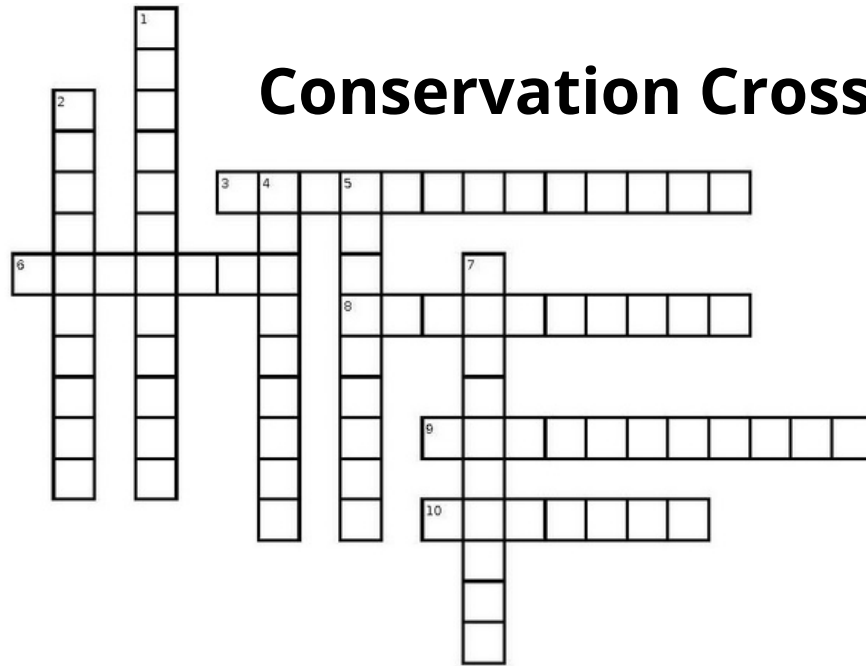
Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District closed out the annual Tree and Shrub Sale event at the end of April. This year over 7,750 trees were sold, 1,915 were donated to local not-for-profit organizations across Delaware County, and 436 trees were donated to local schools through the Free Trees for Education program.

This year the most popular tree sold was the Eastern White Pine. The Eastern White Pine is identifiable by its soft bundles of five needles. They prefer moist, rich and well-drained acidic soils. They grow to 80 feet tall and 40 feet wide. These trees are hardy and valuable wind breaks.



Storm Drain Labeling

Storm drains and road ditches are not trash cans. Our staff at Delaware SWCD has removed a large stash of beer cans, firewood, flip flops, dog manure, plastic bags, and a whole lot more from local storm drains. The Delaware SWCD hosts a storm drain labeling program designed to help develop sensitivity to and stewardship for our soil and water resources. Storm drain labeling may be done by any individual or small group (family, school, social, civic). After training, volunteers may use materials provided by the SWCD to apply labels to storm drains, and/or hang information encouraging watershed stewardship on doorknobs. Currently, the Delaware SWCD is labeling storm drains in the cities of Powell and Sunbury.



Conservation Crossword

Down:

1. the process by which water vapor in the air turns into liquid water, forming clouds.
2. the continuous movement of water between the Earth's surface and the atmosphere.
4. a resource that can be replenished naturally over time, such as wind, solar, or water power.
5. a crop planted specifically to improve soil health, usually by adding organic matter or nitrogen to the soil.
7. the gaseous form of water that is present in the atmosphere.

Across:

3. the process by which water falls to the ground, including rain, snow, sleet, and hail.
6. the process by which soil is carried away by water or wind, often caused by deforestation or overgrazing.
8. a species that is at risk of becoming extinct due to declining population levels and threats from human activity.
9. water that is stored underground in soil and rock.
10. the natural environment where a particular species lives and thrives.

Pond Pointer



Except for fishless ponds and those pond owners capable of executing precision applications, the window of opportunity to treat aquatic vegetation with prescribed herbicides has **closed** for another year!

It has become too risky to treat warm pond water. **Summer applications may result in fish kills.** If you are still looking to control algae and floating weeds, use a rake and manually remove the offending aquatic vegetation. Ponds can be treated for vegetation again in the fall once daytime temperatures have cooled, but before the first frost.

Our annual Fish Sale will kickoff August 1, 2023. Visit our website for details and order forms.

A few highlights...



City of Powell's Touch-A-Truck Event



Girl Scouts of Smith Elementary planting a tree through the Free Trees for Education Program



Brownie Group learning about Seed Starting in hopes of growing food to donate to a local food bank

Upcoming Events

July 4 - Office Closed, Holiday

July 18 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

July 20 - Climate Smart: Farming with Weather Extremes, Plain City, 8:30am-3:30pm

August 8-9 - Franklin SWCD Educators Workshop

August 15 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

August 19 - Benefit in the Barn, Lee Farms, Hosted by Delaware & Union County Farm Bureau

September 16-20 - Delaware County Fair, Conservation Park Events

Come see Delaware SWCD

September 26 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30p.m.

Applications Open for Scioto CREP

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) provides funding to install conservation practices on agricultural land and participants receive "enhanced" annual rental payments for 15 years to maintain conservation practices. CREP provides state funded conservation incentives to encourage farmers and landowners to enroll in the program. Landowners located within the Lake Erie and Scioto River CREP project areas can sign up for the CREP program by visiting their local Farm Service Agency office. [Fact sheet Here](#)

Delaware
Soil and Water
Conservation District

