

Focus Newsletter

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Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District

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1610 State Route 521
Delaware, Ohio 43015
740-368-1921



BE A GOOD LAWN STEWARD

MAINTAIN A HEALTHY LAWN WHILE PROTECTING SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES ON YOUR PROPERTY.

COVER AND STABILIZE

Plant native plants, cover crops, or grass, and be sure to mulch, to stabilize soil and prevent erosion.

PLANT NATIVES

Improve pollinator habitat by reducing the amount of grass you have and planting native wildflowers. They absorb excess stormwater too!

ADD ORGANIC MATTER

Leave grass clippings on your lawn to provide nutrients naturally. Top dress with compost to break up compaction and add organic matter.

MOW HIGH

Cutting your grass too short can cause it to 'stress', so mow to 3-4" for a lush, drought-resistant lawn.

WATER WISELY

Water about 1" per week, or let your lawn go dormant. Most healthy lawns can recover from dormancy. Collect rainwater with a rain barrel to have on hand during drought periods.

SWEEP

Sweep excess dirt, fertilizer, and yard waste back onto your lawn (not into the street or storm drain).

soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us

Upcoming Events

July 21 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30pm

August 15 - Olentangy River Clean-Up, 9am-12pm

August 18 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30pm

August 29 - Worm Compost Bin Workshop at Seminary Hill Farm

September 7 - Labor Day Holiday, Office Closed

September 15 - Monthly Board of Supervisor's Meeting, 6:30pm

September 19 - 23 - Delaware County Fair, Conservation Park Events

Come see Delaware SWCD!

September 24 - Little Brown Jug Day, Office Closed ½ Day

September 28 - Deadline for Fish Sale Orders

October 3 - Sunbury Litter Clean-up, 10am - 12pm

October 3 - Shawnee Hills Fall Fest

October 8 - Fish Sale, 3pm pick-up

FISH SALE

FISH SALE OPENS SOON

The Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District will soon be accepting orders for our Annual Fingerling Fish Sale, until Monday, September 28, 2026. **Pick-up is scheduled for Thursday October 8, 2026 at 3pm** at our office, 1610 State Route 521, Delaware, OH 43015 in the front parking lot.

Every year we provide fingerling fish for sale to restock your pond. As of last year, **we have a new vendor!** Our fingerling fish will now come from Remlinger Fish Farm in Kalida, Ohio. You will see fixed quantities and different prices on our order form from two years ago due to the change in vendors. Orders are taken on a per-unit basis and will arrive pre-boxed ready for pick-up. Don't hesitate to call or email us with any questions regarding these changes.

Species include largemouth bass, bluegill, hybrid bluegill, channel catfish, redear shellcrackers, black crappie, black fathead minnows, white amur, and yellow perch.

[2026 Fish Sale Order Form](#) (coming soon!)

[Sign up by clicking here](#) to receive an update when the order form is ready, or follow us on social media for updates.

If you are a new pond owner (or need a pond management refresher), please visit our [Resource Guides](#) for more information and document downloads (including the Ohio Pond Management Handbook, fish species selection for pond stocking, and white amur management).



CONSERVATION LAWN CARE

BE A GOOD LAWN STEWARD

There's no doubt that your lawn is top of mind this summer, whether it's getting too much rain or drying out in the hot heat, you can maintain a healthy lawn while being a good soil steward at the same time.

Bare soil from your yard, farm fields, garden beds, and construction sites, gets picked up by rain and washes into our waterways, where it becomes a pollutant. Not to mention, soil erosion means you are losing a valuable resource on your property. Soil belongs in the ground, not in our streams. You can do your part to protect soil and your lawn with the following practices:

Cover and Stabilize

- Cover dirt by planting natives, grass, or cover crops.
- Mulch once every year or every other year.
- Cover dirt piles with a tarp and secure the corners.

- Don't till the soil – if you have a large area to plant, contact us to rent our no-till drill.

Plant Native Plants

- Bring butterflies and other pollinators to your yard by planting native plants and trees, thereby giving them food and shelter.
- Native plants evolved with our soils and climate, and therefore survive longer and are more drought tolerant than non-natives.

Mow High

- Let grass grow to six inches high, and cut back to three or four inches.
- Taller grass shades out weeds and is more drought resistant.
- Taller grass has deeper roots that absorb more water and reduce compaction.

Add Organic Materials

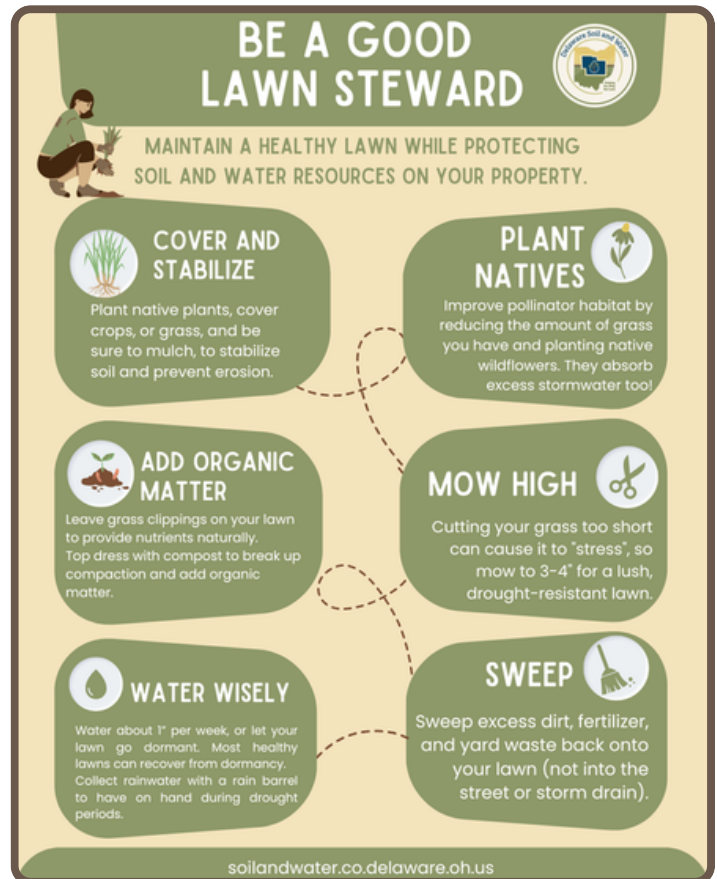
- Reduce the amount of lawn you maintain by adding a native plant garden, which will improve your soils and absorb more rainwater.

Sweep

- Sweep excess dirt, fertilizer, and yard waste off your driveway and place back on your lawn.
- Never hose down your driveway, as sediment or fertilizer will get carried to the nearest storm drain and stream.

Water Wisely

- Water about 1" per week, or let your lawn go dormant. Most healthy lawns can recover from dormancy.
- Collect rainwater with a rain barrel to have on hand during drought periods.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

CASSIE RICE IS AWARDED COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Cassie Rice is a 2026 Buckeye Valley High School graduate and the winner of our annual \$500 College Scholarship. Her heavy involvement in 4-H Club and Future Farmers of America (FFA), as well as her future goals of making livestock systems more sustainable, made her our top candidate for this award. Cassie will pursue her goal of protecting natural resources for future generations of farmers by studying Agricultural Engineering at The Ohio State University in the Fall.

Cassie's decision to pursue agricultural engineering was influenced by her early experiences in the agricultural community.

From the age of six, Cassie was deeply involved in 4-H and FFA, from raising chickens, turkeys, ducks, rabbits, goats, and dairy cows, to joining the Junior Fair Board, to becoming a 4-H Camp Counselor. Her involvement led to passion and honors, having won many awards for the work and dedication she has put into agricultural projects and studies. Cassie is now on her way to receiving her American FFA Degree, which is the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization, and shows the FFA member's dedication to their chapter.

Farmers rely on natural resources, such as healthy soils and clean water, to grow healthy crops, and therefore, feed our country. Cassie's goals of using these resources sustainably hits on the very mission of our office, which is to help others help the land. Without protecting these finite resources, farmers would not be able to grow our food, and the fabric of the country we know and love simply would not exist.

We may be biased, but we think that Cassie's goals of making farming more sustainable for future generations is a very worthy endeavor. We look forward to seeing what she accomplishes at Ohio State. We wish her a prosperous college experience and a bright future.

If you know a student who is interested in pursuing a career in agriculture, natural resources, or related field, we encourage them to apply for our scholarship next Spring.



MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE

DELAWARE COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER
2026 ANNUAL

PLANT SALE

JULY 18

9:00 - 4:00

JULY 19

9:00 - 2:00

TOP QUALITY PLANTS FROM LOCAL NURSERIES

ANNUALS, PERENNIALS,
NATIVES, VEGETABLES,
HANGING BASKETS,
HERBS, SHRUBS & TREES

GARDEN TREASURES

Gently pre-owned garden
supplies & decorations

GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

Beautifully arranged pre-planted
arrangements. Grab-N-Gro!

DELAWARE CTY. FAIRGROUNDS

Sheep & Swine Barn
236 Pennsylvania Ave.
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Web: delcomga.org

Facebook: Delaware County
Ohio Master Gardener Association

Email: delcomga@gmail.com

Payment: CASH, CHECK, CHARGE



OLENTANGY RIVER CLEAN-UP



AUG 15 | 9AM-12PM

Mingo Park Canoe Access
500 E. Lincoln Ave.
Delaware, OH 43015

Equipment will be provided.

Volunteers must wear shoes.

No bare feet or flip flops.

Eventbrite



REGISTER AT

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-olentangy-watershed-river-clean-up-tickets-1993554338692>



GROUNDHOG CONTROL

HOW TO KEEP GROUNDHOGS AT BAY

If you own land, even a small piece of property, you are likely familiar with the frustrating damage that groundhogs can cause. They can dig holes 8-12" in size, connected to large tunnel systems. This is generally frowned upon by farmers and homeowners, due to the damage caused to foundations, crop yields, and plants themselves.

There are a few humane options you can try when trying to exclude groundhogs from your property.



- **Fence them out** with a thick, wire fence, such as hardware cloth.
 - Bury the lower portion into the ground at least one foot.
 - Make sure the fence is at least three feet tall.
- **Protect young trees** with metal flashing or tree guards.
- **Trap and release** groundhogs already living on your property. You can live-trap and relocate them to a different property with permission from the landowner.
 - Traps must be labeled with your name and address.
 - Traps must be checked every 24 hours, and animals removed within 24 hours of being trapped.
 - Check your local ordinances if you live in a city to see if this is allowed.
- **Work with a wildlife specialist or trapper.** When in doubt, leave it to a professional to assist you.
 - Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)
 - Wildlife Management Consultant
 - Nuisance Trappers
 - 1-800-WILDLIFE
 - Wildlife.info@dnr.ohio.gov
 - TLC Wildlife Management offers humane eviction services.
 - 740-803-9515
 - tlcwildlifemanagement.com

Groundhogs are an important part of our ecosystem. They manage insect populations, help transport plant matter, nutrients, and water to the soil, and provide aeration as they burrow. We can live in harmony with them and retain the ecological benefits they provide for our soils, by using these humane exclusionary methods of removal.

POISON HEMLOCK

BE AWARE OF POISON HEMLOCK



Poison Hemlock is thriving across the state due to the wet Spring we had. Learn how to identify it – and how to avoid it!

This plant is extremely toxic to humans and animals if ingested or inhaled (touching it is not a good idea either). A tall plant with purple-speckled stems and fern-like leaves, poison hemlock is one of the most toxic plants in North America.

DO NOT touch, mow, or burn it – even contact with skin can cause a reaction, and inhaling fumes while burning can be dangerous.

It's often mistaken for wild carrot or Queen Anne's Lace. Protect yourself when removing it, and dispose of it properly. Do not burn or compost poison hemlock to get rid of it! Instead place in a sealed trash bag and put in the garbage.

Check out the full article from Joe Boggs at Brown County OSU Extension by [clicking here](#), as well as [info from ODNR](#).

