



# Muskingum Soil & Water Conservation District

"Your Soil and Water Conservation Specialists"

225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville OH 43701

Phone (740)454-2027

Newsletter Issue 2

[muskingumswcd.org](http://muskingumswcd.org)

Spring 2024, Published Quarterly



## Announcing

### NEW Ag Career Pathway Programs in Muskingum County!

The MSWCD, in partnership with a grant from the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation, is helping two local schools establish their very first Agriculture Education/Career Pathways programs and another to expand their existing program! We are excited to be able to make such a difference in the future of both agriculture and conservation in our county.

The two schools that will begin their ag programs are Foxfire Community School and Maysville High School. Franklin Local Schools will expand their program into their middle school. Each schools' program will look a little different than the others, because each will be designed to meet their students' needs. The three Muskingum County schools are being mentored by New Lexington's FFA advisors and students. New Lexington has the largest FFA program in the State of Ohio, with over 600 students and six (6) advisors involved.

The \$75,000 Youth Pathways Grant from the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation will fund four basic production greenhouses and their installation (one for each school involved), in addition to curriculum and teacher training and professional program evaluation. Students will have the opportunity to grow fresh produce in their greenhouses that can then be used in their schools, sold, donated, and/or processed into a shelf stable product for sale. Integrated into the ag curriculum will be lessons from other career pathways, including product development, health, business, and marketing.

New Lexington students and teachers will begin the process of creating and establishing a formal Cooperative between the four schools' agriculture classes for the purpose of working together in their programs. New Lexington students will serve as program leaders and mentors to the Muskingum County schools' students.

To kick off the school programs and create excitement, a fun, educational camp will be held this summer. Students will be able to see and do some of the things that the class curriculum will include. If you have or know of a student in any of the above schools, watch for more details about camp to come out in mid-May.

We would like to thank our partners for their support and involvement in this project. In addition to the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation, partners include the Muskingum and Perry County Farm Bureaus, Foxfire Community School, Franklin Local Schools, Maysville Local Schools, New Lexington Schools, FoodWorks Alliance, Muskingum Valley Health Center, and The Ohio State University CFAES Center for Cooperatives.

# WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS



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Zanesville, Ohio 43701



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**We believe in growing  
more than crops.**

Produce a new legacy with us.  
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The Muskingum County Community Foundation  
The Straker Building  
534 Putnam Avenue  
Zanesville, OH 43701  
740-453-5192  
www.mccflegacy.org



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Interested in sponsoring our quarterly newsletter?  
Please call 740-454-2027 or email  
doreen.maurer@muskingumswcd.org  
for more information.

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## 2024 EVENTS

<p><b>April 16th</b> <b>6:00 PM—8:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Central State University-Beginning Farmer: Spring Growing Series</b> (Bring a lawn chair to: Brighton Grows Community Garden, corner of Cliffwood Ave. and Baker St.) <b>Topic: Crop Planning</b> Cost: No charge, but please consider registering via the link provided below.</p>
<p><b>April 19th—20th</b></p>	<p><b>Small Farms, Small Tractors Demo Days at Marshall Greens</b> (Follow MSWCD and Urban Greens social media for more details).</p>
<p><b>April 23rd</b> <b>6:00 PM—8:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Central State University-Beginning Farmer: Spring Growing Series</b> (Bring a lawn chair to: Brighton Grows Community Garden, corner of Cliffwood Ave. and Baker St.) <b>Topic: Seed Starting and Seedling Care</b> Cost: No charge, but please consider registering via the link provided below.</p>
<p><b>April 29th</b> <b>5:30 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Garden to Table: Dinner at Restoration Park</b> Spaghetti (and spaghetti squash) + Marinara (252 Muskingum Avenue)</p>
<p><b>April 30th</b> <b>6:00 PM—8:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Central State University-Beginning Farmer: Spring Growing Series</b> (Bring a lawn chair to: Brighton Grows Community Garden, corner of Cliffwood Avenue. and Baker St.) <b>Topic: Site and Bed Preparation</b> Cost: No charge, but please consider registering via the link provided below.</p>
<p><b>May 14th</b> <b>6:00 PM—8:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Central State University-Beginning Farmer: Spring Growing Series</b> (Bring a lawn chair to: Brighton Grows Community Garden, corner of Cliffwood Ave. and Baker St.) <b>Topic: Irrigation Design and Installation</b> Cost: No charge, but please consider registering via the link provided below.</p>
<p><b>May 21st</b> <b>6:00 PM—8:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Central State University-Beginning Farmer: Spring Growing Series</b> (Bring a lawn chair to: Brighton Grows Community Garden, corner of Cliffwood Ave. and Baker St.) <b>Topic: Transplanting and Trellising</b> Cost: No charge, but please consider registering via the link provided below.</p>
<p><b>May 25th</b> <b>9:00 AM—12:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Garden to Table:</b> Salad + Vinaigrette at the Zanesville Farmers Market Garden Tour at Maple-Harding following the market</p>
<p><b>May 28th</b> <b>6:00 PM—8:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Central State University-Beginning Farmer: Spring Growing Series</b> (Bring a lawn chair to: Brighton Grows Community Garden, corner of Cliffwood Ave. and Baker St.) <b>Topic: Introduction to Beekeeping</b> Cost: No charge, but please consider registering via the link provided below.</p>
<p><b>June 11th—July 23rd</b> <b>6:00 PM—8:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Save the dates for Central State University—Summer Growing Series</b></p>

Central State University—Beginning Farmer: Spring Growing Series Registration Link is on our website at <https://www.muskingumswcd.org/Events/Urban-Greens/>

# GARDEN OLYMPICS 2024

MAY 1- OCTOBER 26

**LOOKING FOR A WAY TO  
GIVE BACK THIS YEAR?**



**MUSKINGUM SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
CONTACT: ABRIANA NEWSOM

EMAIL: [ABRIANA.NEWSOM@MUSKINGUMSWCD.ORG](mailto:ABRIANA.NEWSOM@MUSKINGUMSWCD.ORG)

PHONE: 740-454-2027

QR CODE TO REGISTER:



URBAN GREENS. GROWING FOOD. GROWING COMMUNITY. GROWING WITH PURPOSE. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

**JOIN US IN CREATING A HEALTHIER  
UNIFIED COMMUNITY BY  
PARTICIPATING IN THE 2024  
GARDEN OLYMPICS!**

## VOLUNTEER

Groups of at least 4 people will be participating in community garden clean-up, planting, and harvesting! We will operate on a point system based on hours volunteered, and competitions completed and won. There will be 3 winning categories and your team will be recognized throughout the entire season!

## WHO'S INVITED

- Corporate Groups
- Nonprofits
- Community Groups
- Church Youth Groups
- Homeschool Groups
- 4H Groups
- School Organizations

## GOALS

- Maximize food donated to food pantries
- Spread the message of Urban Greens
- Inspire all ages to give back to the community
- Teach community to grow food
- Inspire community to eat more local fruits and vegetables
- Promote community engagement

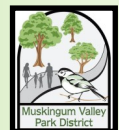
**FREE**

## “ADVENTURE BEGINS HERE” COME JOIN US AT EARTH CAMP



July 11th  
9 AM–3 PM  
Collegial Woods  
CUZ/ZSC Campus  
Newark Road, Zanesville

SPONSORED BY



Registration Required - Ages 8-12  
Registration Deadline June 20th

Register online at [www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org) or call us (740) 454-2027

Learn about sun safety, yoga, mindfulness, geocaching, hydration, and forage on a hike!

Lunch and Snacks Provided



# 2024 FISH SALE



TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

PICK-UP HOURS: 12:00 PM–1:00 PM

IN THE MSWCD PARKING LOT (ELBERON STREET SIDE)

PLEASE BRING WITH YOU WHEN YOU PICK UP YOUR FISH:



1. CONTAINER: (5-GALLON BUCKET OR 10-20 GALLON TRASH CAN)
2. PLASTIC LINER IN CONTAINER (NO LIDS, BAG TO BE CLOSED WITH TWIST TIE OR TWINE)
3. LINER HALF FULL OF POND WATER.

THE CONTAINER MUST BE LINED IN ORDER TO KEEP THE OXYGEN IN THE WATER.

(GENERAL RULE OF THUMB: ONE CONTAINER PER 100 SMALL FISH, ONE CONTAINER PER 1,000 MINNOWS, ONE CONTAINER PER 4-5 AMURS AND KOI.)

## MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



### 2024 FISH SALE ORDER FORM

ORDER DEADLINE: **FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

FISH SPECIES	QTY.	COST EACH	TOTAL
LARGEMOUTH BASS		\$1.40	\$
BLUEGILL		\$1.12	\$
CHANNEL CATFISH		\$ 1.03	\$
HYBRID BLUEGILL		\$1.12	\$
YELLOW PERCH		\$1.21	\$
RED EAR SHELLCRACKER		\$1.12	\$
FATHEAD MINNOWS		\$8.39/ 100	\$
JAPANESE KOI		\$13.05	\$
WHITE AMUR		\$15.85	\$
POND CONDITIONER 1 GAL		\$88.58	\$

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

CELL # \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

225 UNDERWOOD ST., STE. 100

ZANESVILLE, OHIO 43701

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE AT THE TIME OF FISH ORDER.

TO ORDER, CLIP THE ORDER FORM IN THIS FLYER AND

MAIL IT ALONG WITH PAYMENT TO MSWCD OFFICE.

ADDITIONAL ORDER FORMS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.MUSKINGUMSWCD.ORG](http://WWW.MUSKINGUMSWCD.ORG).

FISH CAN ALSO BE ORDERED ONLINE AT OUR

WEBSITE AND PURCHASED WITH CREDIT CARD.

THERE IS A 4.0% SERVICE CHARGE FOR CREDIT CARD PURCHASES.

ORDER TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

7.25% TAX \$ \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE DO NOT CALL FENDER'S FISH HATCHERY DIRECTLY. ORDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER DEADLINE DATE. ALL FISH MUST BE PRE-ORDERED!**

<p><b>BLUEGILL 2-4"</b></p> <p>THEY ARE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE STATE IN NEARLY EVERY STREAM AND BODY OF WATER. BLUEGILL REACH 7 TO 10 INCHES, BUT IF THEY BECOME OVERCROWDED, WILL REMAIN LESS THEN 5 INCHES IN LENGTH. BEST FISH FOR FORAGE BECAUSE OF THEIR HIGH REPRODUCTION NUMBERS.</p>	<p>\$1.12 EACH</p>	<p><b>JAPANESE KOI 6-8"</b></p> <p>JAPANESE KOI LOVE TO EAT DUCKWEED SO IF YOU REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF FOOD YOU GIVE THEM IT WILL ENCOURAGE THEM TO EAT THE DUCKWEED.</p>	<p>\$13.05 EACH</p>
<p><b>CHANNEL CATFISH 4-5"</b></p> <p>FOUND IN MOST LARGE STREAMS, LAKES AND MANY FARM PONDS, THIS OHIO NATIVE CAN TOLERATE A WIDE RANGE OF CONDITIONS, BUT PREFERS AREAS OF DEEP WATER, AND A LOW TO MODERATE CURRENT. THE AVERAGE SIZE CATFISH IS 12 TO 14 INCHES IN LENGTH.</p>	<p>\$1.03 EACH</p>	<p><b>LARGEMOUTH BASS 2-3"</b></p> <p>NATIVE TO OHIO, LARGEMOUTH BASS PREFER PONDS, LAKES AND SLOW, SLUGGISH STREAMS. ADULT BASS EAT CRAYFISH, FROGS, LARGE INSECTS AND OTHER FISH. AVERAGE SIZE WEIGHS FROM 1 TO 2 POUNDS.</p>	<p>\$1.40 EACH</p>
<p><b>FATHEAD MINNOWS 1-2"</b></p> <p>MINNOWS ARE A FEEDER FISH THAT TOLERATE A WIDE RANGE OF WATER CONDITIONS, MAKING THEM SUITABLE FOR FARM PONDS. RECOMMENDED IN NEW PONDS TO HELP BOOST GROWTH OF GAME FISH UNTIL BLUEGILL BEGIN TO SPAWN.</p>	<p>\$8.39/ 100</p>	<p><b>RED EAR SHELLCRACKER 2-4"</b></p> <p>RED EAR ARE NOT NATIVE TO OHIO, BUT HAVE BEEN STOCKED IN STATE WATERS FOR MANY YEARS. THEY PREFER A DIET OF SNAILS AND CAN REACH 9 TO 11 INCHES IN LENGTH.</p>	<p>\$1.12 EACH</p>
<p><b>HYBRID BLUEGILL 2-4"</b></p> <p>A CROSS OF A MALE BLUEGILL AND FEMALE GREEN SUNFISH, GIVING IT THE LENGTH OF BLUEGILL AND THICKNESS AND AGGRESSIVENESS OF SUNFISH. IF THE FOOD IS THERE, THEY REACH THE SIZE OF 10 TO 11 INCHES AND CAN WEIGH UP TO 1 TO 1.5 POUNDS.</p>	<p>\$1.12 EACH</p>	<p><b>PERCH 2"-3"</b></p> <p>NATIVE TO OHIO, PERCH ARE FOUND IN LAKES, PONDS AND SLOW MOVING RIVERS. YELLOW PERCH NORMALLY RANGE FROM 6 TO 12 INCHES</p>	<p>\$1.21 EACH</p>
<p><b>STOCKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A NEW ONE ACRE POND</b></p> <p>THESE TWO MAKE YOUR BALANCE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 LARGEMOUTH BASS</li> <li>200 BLUEGILL</li> </ul> <p>THESE ADD VARIETY TO THE MENU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 CHANNEL CATFISH</li> <li>100 RED EAR SHELLCRACKER</li> <li>100 HYBRID BLUEGILL</li> <li>1000 FLATHEAD MINNOWS</li> <li>*10 WHITE AMUR</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: IF THE POND YOU ARE STOCKING IS SMALLER THAN ONE ACRE, MULTIPLY THE SURFACE AREA OF THE POND BY THE RATE IN THE CHART ABOVE.</p> <p>FOR EXAMPLE: 0.65 ACRE POND</p> <p>0.65 X 1000 (MINNOWS) = 650 MINNOWS</p> <p>*SUGGESTED RATE FOR ONE ACRE POND WITH MODERATE POND WEED PROBLEM. NEW PONDS SHOULD NOT BE STOCKED UNLESS POND WEEDS EXIST (MODERATE = 50% INFESTATION).</p>		<p><b>WHITE AMUR 8-10"</b></p> <p>ALSO KNOWN AS GRASS CARP, THEY EAT WEEDS AND PLANTS AND GROW VERY RAPIDLY. WHITE AMUR OFTEN ATTAIN 4 FEET IN LENGTH AND WEIGH 70-90 POUNDS AS ADULTS. AMUR USED FOR WEED CONTROL ARE STERILE, TRIPLOID FISH THAT EAT UP TO THREE TIMES THEIR OWN BODY WEIGHT.</p>	<p>\$15.85 EACH</p>
		<p><b>NATURE'S POND CONDITIONER</b></p> <p>NATURE'S POND CONDITIONER BY KOENDERS IS A TWO IN ONE BOTTLE PRODUCT. YOU CAN PREVENT THE BLACK MUCK FROM CAUSING HIGH FERTILITY RATES AND GROWING VEGETATION, AND PREVENT FISH KILLS WHILE KEEPING YOUR POND HEALTHY. MORE INFORMATION AT <a href="http://">HTTP://</a></p>	<p>\$88.58 GAL</p>

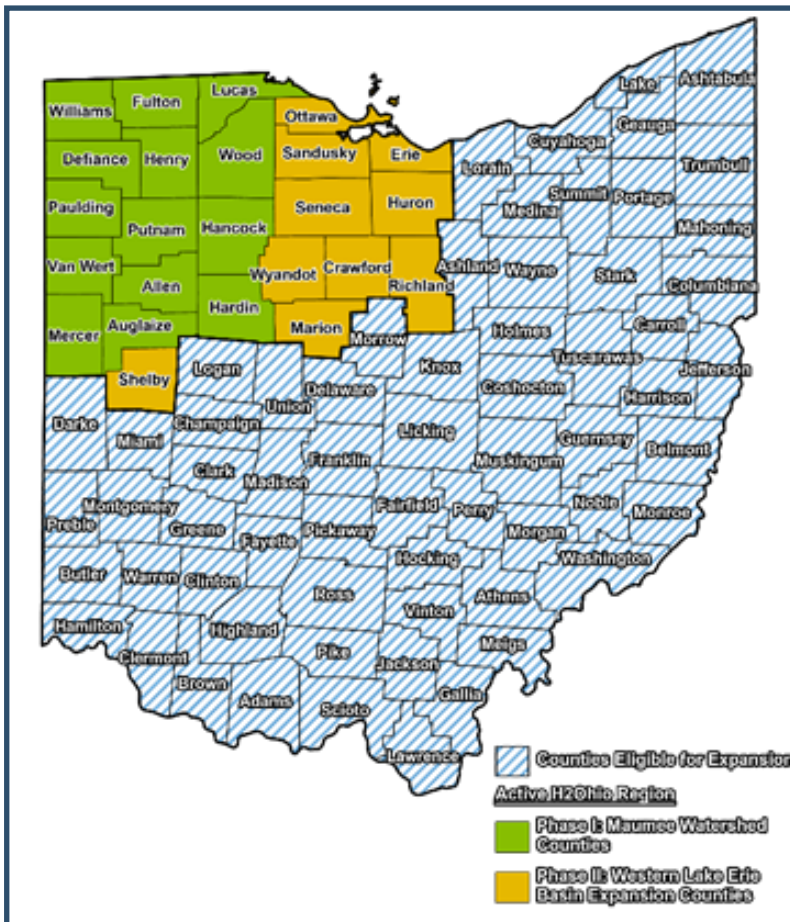


# H2Ohio IS COMING OUR WAY.

In late 2023, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) Director Brian Baldrige announced the statewide expansion of H2Ohio’s incentive program for agriculture producers. The program, led by ODA, provides funding to producers to help offset the financial risk associated with implementing H2Ohio’s proven agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) that work to improve Ohio’s water quality. Currently available only to farmers in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB), producers in the 64 counties outside the WLEB will be eligible to participate in H2Ohio beginning in early 2024.

Incentives for new H2Ohio participants will be offered for the development and implementation of Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans (VNMPs), H2Ohio’s cornerstone practice that reduces the risk of the over-application of nutrients while also encouraging producers to use practices that best fit their farming operations. Funding for producers in the statewide expansion area allows for enrollment of 500,000 new acres statewide. With a limited number of initial acres available, it is important to provide the remaining 64 counties outside the WLEB the opportunity to enroll producers in H2Ohio with a statewide goal of having an H2Ohio presence in all 88 counties. This statewide effort also allows SWCDs to build capacity and gain experience in nutrient management, contract management, agronomics, and fertility.

H2Ohio is a comprehensive, data-driven approach to improving water quality over the long term. H2Ohio focuses on encouraging agricultural best management practices, restoring wetlands, and replacing home septic systems to reduce nutrients that contribute to harmful algal blooms. For more information on the H2Ohio initiative, please visit <https://h2.ohio.gov/>.



Muskingum county is one of the 64 counties that the program has been extended to. The program details are being worked out. A sign-up period is anticipated sometime in April of 2024. If you produce corn, soybeans, or wheat in your operation, you may be eligible to participate. If you would like to be notified when the program becomes available, please reach out to the office 740-454-2027 with your contact information and we can place you on a list.

Watch for information on Facebook, Instagram or our website [www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org).



# 2024 BIG TREE NOMINATION CONTEST

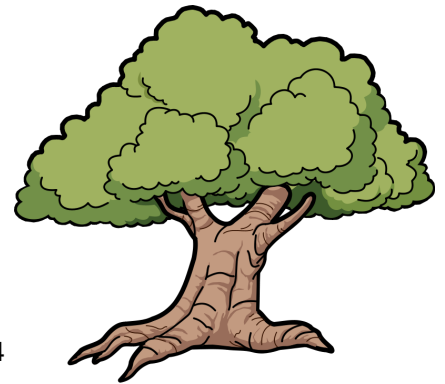
For a number of years now, the MSWCD has sponsored a Big Tree Contest in Muskingum County. The purpose of the contest, in addition to locating, measuring, and documenting our county's big trees, is to provide an opportunity to remind us of the importance of trees and their role in our quality of life. Trees nominated for this contest may be on your own property, or on other privately owned or public land in Muskingum County. Trees are scored using a format utilized by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Forestry in determining Ohio's big trees, many of which remain National Big Tree Champions. The tree's height, average crown spread, and Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) are factored in this measurement, earning specific points or values.

When you nominate a tree, we ask that you approximate these dimensions. SWCD staff will measure each nominated tree for points. Also, it is very important to be specific as to the location of the nominated tree. It is equally important that the nominator or owner be available for the measurement by the staff during the field visit.

An award will be presented to the owner of the largest tree in Muskingum County, regardless of species. A custom made plaque and recognition in the District Newsletter will be awarded to the owners of the "Big Tree 2024".

Last year, a Silver Maple, owned by John and Ann Janusz, scored 281.75 points. This points total was calculated by adding the circumference in inches (174 inches or 4.61 feet in diameter), the height (90 feet) and the crown spread average times .25 (71 ft x .25).

Each tree entered is in the contest for two years. Previous big tree winners can enter again, but a different tree must be submitted for consideration. If you would like to submit a tree for consideration, complete the form below and return it by May 31, 2024.



## 2024 MUSKINGUM COUNTY "BIG TREE" CONTEST OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Species: \_\_\_\_\_  
Circumference at 4 1/2' (in inches): \_\_\_\_\_  
Approx. Vertical Height (in feet): \_\_\_\_\_  
Average Diameter/Spread of Crown (in feet): \_\_\_\_\_  
Exact Location of Tree: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Draw a brief sketch of the property showing the approximate location of the tree in the space provided below, or stop into the office and show us an aerial map.

Complete and return by May 31, 2024 to:  
Muskingum SWCD "Big Tree" Contest  
225 Underwood Street, Suite 100  
Zanesville, OH 43701



# Benefits of Rain Gardens

Do you have water ponding in your yard? Rain gardens are one way to solve water problems in your yard. A rain garden is a landscaped, shallow depression that is designed to intercept, treat, and infiltrate stormwater at the source before it becomes runoff. Rain gardens can absorb 30% more water than the same size area of turfgrass if planted with native plants. Native plants can help clean and filter stormwater runoff before it reaches the wastewater treatment plant or river. The garden can also provide habitat for wildlife like birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects.

Rain gardens protect water quality and reduce stormwater run-off. Some of the water run off comes from developed areas that have increased pollutants like streets, parking lots, and building roofs. The rainwater gathers in the rain garden and the plants slowly absorb the water and intake the pollutants.

To have a successful rain garden, choosing the right plants for the right place is important. The plants in the center of the rain garden should be able to tolerate more water than the plants on the outside edge of the garden.

It is important to remember that rain gardens are low maintenance gardens and not no maintenance gardens. Most of the maintenance will take place in the first couple of years after being planted and then once established the plants should be able to take care of themselves.

Rain gardens are easy to design, install, and maintain. They help improve water quality by filtering pollutants and storing and infiltrating stormwater. The gardens provide habitat for wildlife while looking nice in your yard.

If you have questions about installing a rain garden in your yard, please contact Melissa Devore at [melissa.devore@muskingumswcd.org](mailto:melissa.devore@muskingumswcd.org) or (740)454-2027.



**Watch for our annual native pollinator plant sale, which will include rain garden plants.**

## Forestry and Wildlife Roundtable

MAY 9TH—6PM

Join us as we explore some of the changes made at the Powelson Wildlife Area over the last few years. We will discuss the current condition of the forest, the timber harvesting being done, and the reclamation work that is in progress and that has been completed.



Register online at  
[www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org)  
or call 740-454-2027.

Registration not required but requested.

**Be sure to check out our website and follow our social media for information regarding the next Grazing/Pasture Walk.**



# 2024 Berry Plant Sale



## Order Form

In an on-going effort to promote the establishment of pollinator habitat, the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD) is again offering various berry plants for sale. Proceeds from the sale benefit the college internship scholarship program.

The plants for sale have been selected for their attraction to pollinators, so please be advised that bees will be attracted to these same plants. All of the plants are deer resistant, meaning that they are not the first plants the deer will clean off your property. The berries are all hardy, easy to grow canes that come from nurseries in Michigan and Massachusetts, so they will be winter-hardy to our area. Berries bloom very early, offering pollinators food sources before many other plants bloom.

**Orders are being taken for a limited number of plants on a first come-first serve basis.** Orders will be taken until April 26th or until the plants are sold out. Orders may be placed at the MSWCD office or mailed to 225 Underwood Street, Suite 100, Zanesville, Ohio 43701. Payment must be submitted with the order. Orders can also be placed on-line at [www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org). There is a 4% service fee for credit card orders placed on-line or in the office.

Projected delivery to our office is mid-May. We will notify you by postcard or email when the plants can be picked up. You must pick up your plants on the specified date because we do not have a place to keep the plants. The plants are small (2-4" pots). There are no refunds or exchanges, and we reserve the right to make substitutions. All sales are final. Berries are sold in bundles of three of one type of plant.

### Blackberries, Triple Crown ( \$20.51 for 3 plants)

This berry plant is semi-erect and thornless and bears large, flavorful fruit. It would be a good choice to help extend the blackberry season for home gardeners.

### Red Raspberries, Caroline (\$13.99 for 3 plants)

Large size fruit that are firm and said to be the tastiest of the Raspberry cultivars. Fruit matures in August. Do not plant near black raspberries.

### Blueberries, Hannah's Choice (\$16.78 for 3 plants)

This plant will grow upright to a mature height of 5-feet. Fruit is medium size and bears very early in the season. The fruit can be stored for longer periods of time compared to other early cultivars.

### Blueberries, Draper (\$16.78 for 3 plants)

This plant will grow 5 feet tall. Fruit ripens mid-late in season. Fruit size is medium. Bears fruit in two to three years.

### Elderberries - (\$13.05 for 3 plants/1-Bob Gordon, 1-Ranch, and 1-Adams)

Research shows cross-pollination is required, so having more than one cultivator will result in better pollination.

- **Bob Gordon** These plants are productive with a sweeter and larger berry than other varieties. They appear to have some resistance to the Japanese beetle.
- **Ranch-** These plants are shorter and easily harvested. They grow in most soil types.
- **Adams-** The Adams elderberry is very large and ripens late in the season.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phones: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Order deadline is April 26, 2024.

<b>Blackberry, Triple Crown (3 plants)</b>	x \$20.51 =	_____
<b>Red Raspberry, Caroline (3 plants)</b>	x \$13.99 =	_____
<b>Blueberries, Hannah's Choice (3 plants)</b>	x \$16.78 =	_____
<b>Blueberries, Draper (3 plants)</b>	x \$16.78 =	_____
<b>Elderberry, Bob Gordon, Ranch, Adams (3 plants, one of each variety)</b>	x \$13.05 =	_____



Make checks payable to:

Muskingum SWCD  
225 Underwood Street, Suite 100  
Zanesville, Ohio 43701



7.25% Sales Tax \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**"Don't Throw that Away"**

# Conservation Craft Night

Tuesday, April 23  
6 PM - 7 PM

Muskingum SWCD  
Rural Service Building Meeting Room  
225 Underwood Street, Zanesville

Registration Required. Register online at [www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org) or call 740-454-2027.



**2024**

Join the MSWCD each month from the comfort of your home for "Farming After Dark... Finding a Better Way". These virtual ZOOM events are held on the third Wednesday of each month, with topics ranging from planning for wildlife to soil balancing to pollinators. Each month is a different topic and speaker.

During Daylight Savings Time, the event will be held at 8:30 p.m. and during Eastern Standard Time the events are held 7:30 p.m. So heat up your dinner, pull up "Farming After Dark" on a device, and join us for a presentation and some conversation. Events last approximately one hour.

You will need to register for the event and a confirmation email will be sent to you with the log-in information for the upcoming event. For more information contact: [van.slack@muskingumswcd.org](mailto:van.slack@muskingumswcd.org) or call (740) 454-2027.

Register online at [www.muskingumswcd.org](http://www.muskingumswcd.org)

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Mark Your Calendar	➔	April 17th	September 18th
		May 15th	October 16th
		June 19th	November 20th
		July 17th	

**Conservation Stewardship Program Funds Remain Available to Ohio Landowners, Producers**  
**Apply By April 5, 2024 for Round One**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Ohio Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) continues to accept applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) to help producers build on existing conservation efforts to increase operational efficiencies and environmental benefits as well as reduce overall input costs. This year, Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding provides additional financial opportunities for select conservation practices and enhancements to increase direct climate mitigation benefits. The deadline to receive fiscal year 2024 funding for Round One for both CSP-Classic and CSP-IRA is April 5, 2024. Ohio NRCS has increased the minimum annual payment for CSP participants from \$1,500 to \$4,000 starting in 2024. The increase addresses challenges faced by small scale, under-served, and urban producers and improves equity in the program by making participation more financially beneficial for smaller operations. The new minimum payment is available for new and renewed CSP contracts. Producers and landowners can take advantage of the ACT NOW process, which immediately selects applications for funding when the application meets or exceeds a state-determined minimum ranking score. Applicants will experience a targeted, rapid streamlined application and contract approval process. Newly added are opportunities to compete for funding in ranking pools that follow a more traditional timeline. Funding decisions in these pools are made after an established ranking deadline so that selections can be made in order of ranking score. For more information contact Lori Ryan-Griffin at the NRCS office at 740-454-2767, Extension 3.



MUSKINGUM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
 225 UNDERWOOD STREET, SUITE 100  
 ZANESVILLE, OH 43701

Return Service Requested

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

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 ABRIANA NEWSOM  
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 VAN SLACK

**NRCS PERSONNEL:**

LORI RYAN-GRIFFIN  
 DEE WISEMAN



Notice of time change: The monthly Board meeting will start at 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

*Save the Date*

Ag Breakfast	April 2
MSWCD Board Meeting	April 9
Mid Day News	April 9
WHIZ AM 1240 Radio	April 16
Farming After Dark	April 17
Live at Noon	April 23
Conservation Crafts	April 23
Fish Sale/Berry Sale End	April 26
Mid Day News	April 29
Ag Breakfast	May 7
Fish Sale Pick Up	May 7
Forestry/Wildlife Roundtable	May 9

MSWCD Board Meeting	May 14
Mid Day News	May 14
Farming After Dark	May 15
WHIZ AM 1240 Radio	May 21
Office Closed, Memorial Day	May 27
Mid Day News	May 28
Ag Breakfast	June 4
MSWCD Board Meeting	June 11
Mid Day News	June 11
WHIZ AM 1240 Radio	June 18
Office Closed, Juneteenth	June 19
Farming After Dark	June 19
Mid Day News	June 25



Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation Dis-

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