

**THE LATITUDE / LONGITUDE**  
**41 ° 21 ' 09 " N . - 82 ° 08 " 55 " W .**

WINTER / SPRING 2012

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve the natural resources and environment in Lorain County.

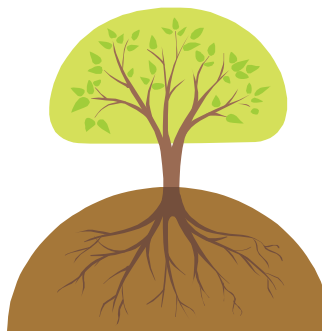


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**LORAIN SWCD'S 2012 SEEDLING SALE**

The 2012 Annual Conservation Seedling Sale is now underway at the Lorain Soil and Water Conservation District office. Windbreak stock can now be ordered. Reserve the items that you would like now. They will be ready for pick-up in time for spring planting. Orders are accepted on a first come, first serve basis since there are a limited number of each packet available.



Please check and inspect your order **before** you leave the pick-up point. Every effort is made to provide sound and healthy stock at pick-up. For best results and survival rates, seedlings should be planted as soon as possible after pick-up. No refunds will be made on orders not picked up. Do not call Grobe Fruit Farm. Visit our website @ [lorainswcd.com](http://lorainswcd.com) to print an order form.

*Order pick-up date is:*

**One day only**

**Friday, April 13, 2012**

**11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Pick-up is at Grobe Fruit Farm**

**43875 Telegraph Road (SR 113)**

**Elyria**

The District reserves the right to make minor substitutions should an item not be available. Extra seedlings or packets will be for sale during pick-up times. All stock is inspected and offered without warranty.

**Payment must accompany order.**

**Orders will be taken until stock sells out — so order early!**

Reminder post cards will be sent out one week prior to pick-up.

**Some potted larger stock in assorted sizes will be available to purchase the day of pick up.**

## Soil Conservationist's Column—Ryan Kemper

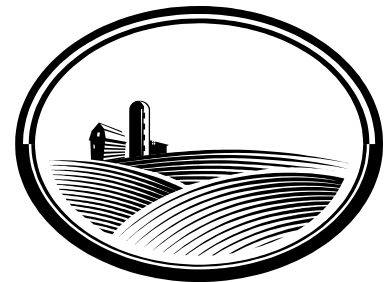


### SOIL CONSERVATIONIST'S COLUMN

USDA announces four initiatives for 2012. They are: Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative, Air Quality Initiative, On-Farm-Energy Initiative, and the Organic Initiative.

Seasonal High Tunnels are used to extend the growing season for vegetables and other produce. This is the third year of the USDA pilot project for high tunnels. In order to be eligible for a high tunnel the participant must currently be engaged in growing produce. Other practices that can be associated with a high tunnel include: cover crops, nutrient management, pest management, and micro-irrigation, among others.

Lorain County is one of roughly two dozen counties in Ohio selected for the Air Quality Initiative. This initiative is aimed at reduced particulate matter and greenhouse gases for better air quality around agricultural operations. Practices included in the air quality initiative include: Ag Energy Management Plans, agri-chemical storage, roofed waste storage structures, and cover crops.

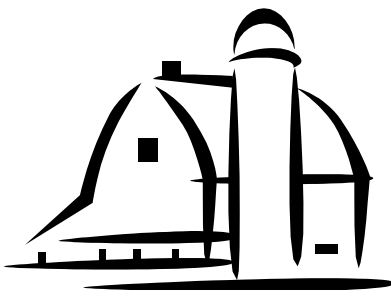


The On-Farm-Energy Initiative offers the Ag Energy Management Plan. The plan will be developed and future practices will be evaluated to save energy on the farm.

The Organic and Transitioning Organic Initiative is for certified organic produces or those currently working towards becoming certified. There are a variety of practices included in this initiative including: cover crops, nutrient management, pest management, and forage management among others.

There will be several ranking periods throughout the spring and early summer. If you are interested in any of the initiatives listed above call the Lorain NRCS office at 440-326-5800 or visit the Ohio NRCS website at [www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov) for more information.

Thanks to the conservation-minded farmers and landowners in Lorain County who take advantage of these opportunities and help us operate a well rounded soil and water conservation program.



#### **Helpful Link:**

**Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey.**

**<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>**

## JOEL MCROBERTS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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The Joel McRoberts Memorial Scholarship was created in 1998 in memory of Joel, District Technician with the Lorain Soil and Water Conservation District for 20 years. Joel died in 1997 of leukemia. The scholarship was created at the request of his widow Connie McRoberts, of Litchfield.

The scholarship is available to any student in Lorain County who will be majoring in an agriculture or natural resources management related field at any two or four year college. They must have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

Originally, the scholarship started at \$500.00 per student and was increased to \$1,000.00 a few years later. Recently the scholarship has been expanded to include two awards annually. This now includes one for an incoming college freshman and one for any current college student with at least one year completed.

With the generosity of the individuals in Lorain County the scholarship has grown with time.

Joel McRoberts was a big supporter of agriculture and higher education. Although he never attended college, he understood the value of education and always encouraged students to further their education and better themselves.

Joel was devoted to farming and the farmers in Lorain County. He had a deep appreciation of our natural resources and their protection. This memorial scholarship is administered in his honor.



### JOEL McROBERTS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is offered by the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District. The scholarship amount is \$1,000.00. High school seniors (Lorain county residents) who will enroll in an agricultural or natural resource related two or four-year course of study are eligible to apply. **Application deadline is April 30, 2012.**

### JOEL McROBERTS CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is offered by the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District. The scholarship amount is \$1,000.00. Applicants (Lorain county residents) must be enrolled as a full-time student in a two or four-year course of study, in an agricultural or natural resource related field. **Application deadline is July 31, 2012.**

Applications can be requested by visiting our website: [lorainswcd.com](http://lorainswcd.com) from your high school guidance counselor, from the Lorain SWCD office, 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, OH, 44035, or by calling the office at (440) 326-5800.



## Pines

**Eastern White Pine.** A majestic ever-green beauty when planted as a single specimen tree, this very hardy pine grows stately and gracefully tall. Needles are soft and bluish-green in color. Bark is thin, smooth and greenish-brown, turning darker as trees mature. With adequate moisture, growth can be 12" to 18" per year. Ideal for specimen planting, shade windbreaks and appealing Christmas trees.



**Pitch X Loblolly Pine.** This hybrid pine combines the cold hardiness and drought tolerance of pitch pine with the larger mature size, moist soil tolerance and fast growth of loblolly pine. Develops a dense, extensive root system that helps it adapt to extreme soil conditions. The Long naturally shed needles are used for pine straw mulch in the landscaping industry. Does best in full sun to partial shade. Grows to 60 ft.

## Spruces

**Norway Spruce.** Fast growing. Shiny green, short needles. Grows on most sites, except where soil is sour or water soaked. Full sun, grows to 100 ft.

**Colorado Blue Spruce.** Dense, conical shape with short needles, dark green to deep blue. Prefers rich, moist soil in full sun. Medium growth to 100 ft. *Note from nursery:* All Colorado Blue Spruce offered is bed run. The seed we plant is of the finest quality from dependable sources. Color in Colorado Blue Spruce is influenced by spacing and soil fertility. We make no representation as to percentage of blue trees. Bed run—green to blues.

## Deciduous Trees:

**River Birch.** Pyramidal shaped birch with thin salmon or pinkish bark curling off the trunk's surface. Nearly always sold in clump form. Borer resistant. A small to medium-sized stream bank tree useful for bank stabilization. Peeling, flaking bark

gives the tree an attractive appearance in winter. Grows to 50-60 ft.

**Pecan.** Most noted for edible nuts, but also is valued for wood. Does best on moist, well-drained river bottoms. Seedlings are grown from native wild seed.

**Bur Oak.** Large acorns with fringed caps are characteristic of this oak. Grows statewide on a variety of sites including dry uplands and moist lowlands. Reaches 3-4 ft. in diameter.

**Shellbark Hickory.** A large scaly bark hickory that grows best on rich bottomland soils. It produces the largest nut of any hickory.

**Elderberry.** Found in open woods, fence rows, roadsides and along borders of streams and ponds. The flowers are large, showy, flat-topped white clusters that appear in late May to June. The dark-purple berries are edible and make an excellent jelly. Many species of birds and mammals eat the fruit, and deer browse the leave and branches. Will tolerate both wet and dry sites.



## Perennials

**Val Rose Japonica.** The Lily of the Valley Shrub, as this broadleaf evergreen is sometimes referred to as, makes an early burst of color that really stands out in the landscape. Grows to a compact height of 5 to 6 feet with a spread of 4 to 5 feet. In April or May cascading clusters of small urn-shaped silvery pink flowers appear. Reddish brown new leaves follow, turning to a deep green in summer. Will grow in full shade but, new growth will turn a more brilliant color if planted in a sunny spot. Prefers soil that contains a high content of organic humus with good drainage. Deer resistant. Low maintenance. Unlimited uses in the landscape from showy shrub borders to specimen, foundation and mixed shrub plantings. Astounding effect

when mass planted.

## Grasses

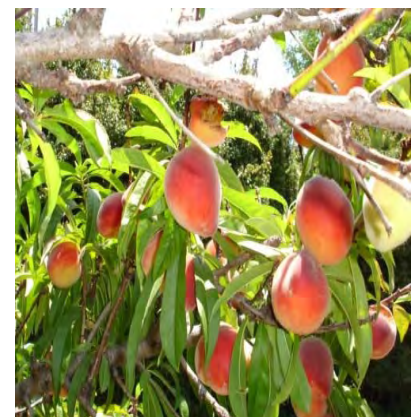
**Canary Grass.** Also known as Strawberries & Cream Ribbon Grass. Fast spreading clump of attractive stripes of pink, green & cream foliage appear in spring. Foliage turns white and green striped as plant matures. Height and spread 2 to 3 feet. Tan colored spikes appear June thru July. Prefers average to well drained soil. Foliage is excellent for floral arranging and waterside use. Also may be planted in pots or tubs.

## Fruit trees

**Gala Apple.** The Gala matures to a bright overall red color, with bold red stripes over a yellow background. The fruit is firm, juicy, fine textured, with a yellow white flesh It is aromatic with a very sweet flavor and stores very well. Disease resistant. A vigorous growing tree with mature height of 12-15 ft. bearing fruit after 3-4 yrs.

**Fuji Apple.** A Red Delicious apple and Ralls Genet apple hybrid developed by growers in Japan. Fuji is a crisp, sweet, great tasting apple with excellent storage quality. Disease resistant. A vigorous grower with mature height of 12-15 ft bearing fruit after 3-4 yrs.

**Hale Haven Peach.** A medium-large, yellow-fleshed, freestone peach desirable for eating, baking and canning or freezing. A highly productive winter hardy tree with mature height of 12-15 ft. May start bearing fruit after 1-2 yrs. Needs plenty of sun and regular watering. Hale Haven peach trees are self-fertile, meaning that they do not need another variety of peach for pollination.



# 2012 SEEDLING SALE ORDER FORM

*Please print clearly.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# of pkts	# per packet	Name	Size	Cost	Total
	5 seedlings	Eastern White Pine	1-3 yr bareroot	7.00	
	5 seedlings	Pitch X Loblolly Pine	1-3 yr bareroot	7.00	
	5 seedlings	Norway Spruce	1-3 yr bareroot	7.00	
	5 seedlings	Colorado Blue Spruce	3 yr bareroot	7.00	
	5 seedlings	River Birch	1-3 yr bareroot	7.00	
	5 seedlings	Pecan	1-3 yr bareroot	7.00	
	5 seedlings	Bur Oak	1-3 yr bareroot	7.00	
	5 seedlings	Shellbark Hickory	1-3 yr bareroot	7.00	
	5 seedlings	Elderberry	1-3 yr bareroot	7.00	
	bare root each	Gala Apple, 7/16" caliper	3-4' whip	12.00	
	bare root each	Fuji Apple, 7/16" caliper	3-4' whip	12.00	
	bare root each	Hale Haven Peach, 7/16" cal.	3-4' whip	12.00	
	each	Val. Rose Japonica	3-6" in pot	5.00	
	each	Canary Grass	3" pot	3.00	
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>

Also available for purchase the day of pick-up: Bluebird & wren houses, bat boxes, single & double squirrel feeders, jar & glass-sided bird feeders, Ohio Landscape Plants booklet & tree flags.

**Orders will be taken until stock sells out**

Return this form with payment to:

**SO ORDER EARLY**

Lorain SWCD

OFFICE USE ONLY

42110 Russia Road

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Rec. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Elyria OH 44035-6813

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

## STRAW BLOWER FOR RENT

The Lorain SWCD has received a grant from the 2009 Great Lakes Basin Commission for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. We were able to purchase a commercial Tailgate Straw-Mulcher to rent to landowners in Lorain County. The mulcher is designed for all mid to large-scale commercial and residential jobs with a capacity of shooting up to seven tons of straw per hour and shooting up to 35 feet out. The blower/mulcher is mounted on a trailer for easy transportation. Call the District office for more information on rental 440-326-5800.



## RAIN BARRELS OR RAIN GARDENS

**Planning to install a rain barrel or rain garden this spring?** Spring is right around the corner and now is the time to consider a Rain Garden or Rain Barrel installation. The Lorain SWCD promotes these features in an effort to help communities control Storm water to improve the quality of our water resources in Lorain County.

**What is a rain garden?** A rain garden is an attractive, landscaped area planted with perennial native plants that can tolerate wet conditions. Such gardens can be very attractive replacing areas in your yard that require higher maintenance. They are designed to capture and filter storm water runoff from impervious surfaces around your home, such as from your rooftops or driveway. Rain gardens are an easy way to slow down the water and filter pollutants from your yard. The Lorain SWCD has an excellent manual available for landowners entitled *Rain Garden Manual for Homeowners*. This publication takes you through the steps to designing, installing, and choosing plants to use in your garden. The manual is available free of charge and can be picked up at the District office or ordered by calling 440-326-5801. A shipping charge of \$2.00 will be applied to manuals that are mailed out. The *Rain Garden Manual for Homeowners* is also available online at <http://lorainswcd.com/forms/Rain-Gardens.pdf>.

**What is a rain barrel?** A rain barrel is a container used to collect and store rainwater that would otherwise be lost to runoff and likely be diverted to a storm drain. By using rain barrels, the amount of water flowing into storm drains and sewer systems is reduced. This in turn helps protect our local watersheds. Rain barrels can be easily hooked up to your downspout systems but please first check with your local municipality if any restrictions apply.

Rain barrels can have a very practical use for homeowners as they can store water for irrigation use later on during the warm spells of the summer. Using rainwater to water your garden is free of chlorine and provides a healthy source for your garden plants.

There are many sources for rain barrels now at local home improvement stores and online. In Lorain County, we are fortunate to have the services of Joe Reitz, Stormwater Manager from the City of Avon Lake who is very active in promoting rain barrel installations. Homeowners can contact Mr. Reitz to obtain a rain barrel free of charge as supplies last. The kits to install the barrels are \$20. Contact Joe Reitz at 440-930-4101. Information on rain barrels

### Welcome Dean!

The Lorain SWCD welcomed their newest supervisor at his first official board meeting on January 24th. Dean Rollin will be serving his term alongside fellow supervisors John Born, Dave Conrad, Will Schlechter and Bob Ternes. As supervisor, Dean will help oversee the operations of the District. An elected position, supervisors serve three year staggered terms without pay.

## District Hires NPDES & Natural Resources Coordinators

### New NPDES Coordinator for storm water at the District:

John Niedzialek is available on a part-time basis with the District to help facilitate erosion and storm water issues. John works with Lorain County communities, developers, builders and homeowners to provide technical assistance in implementing erosion and sediment control and storm water requirements on construction sites.

John is retired from the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture with 27 years experience working as a Soil Conservationist and Resource Conservation & Development Coordinator. He has Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control certification. John has previously worked in Ashland, Carroll, Ashtabula and Lake

Counties. John is a graduate of Kent State University with degrees in Conservation of Natural Resources with a graduate degree in Environ-



mental Studies in Geography.

### New Natural Resources Coordinator:

The Lorain SWCD has recently employed Karl Schneider as part-time Natural Resources Coordinator. He will be working with Lorain County farmers and landowners on local

use options. Schneider will be available to discuss a variety of natural resources topics such as drainage, ponds, soils, erosion control and other resource problems. He is available for field visits as well as discussion in the office.

Schneider retired in June 2011 as District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service after 35 years of service. He will bring a wealth of experience to Lorain County landowners.

Schneider will be working one day a week in this role. His office day will be Tuesday. He can be reached at the Lorain SWCD office at 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, OH 44035. Appointments can be made by calling the office between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 440-326-5800.



## FISH SALE

We are taking orders for fingerling-size fish for stocking your ponds.

**THURSDAY**

**MAY 10, 2012**

**10:00 AM–11:30 AM**

**AG CENTER PARKING LOT**

**42110 RUSSIA ROAD**

The truck from Fender's Fish Hatchery of Baltic, Ohio, will be here for delivery on Thursday, May 10, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. to distribute orders.

Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Yellow Perch, Redear Sunfish (Shellcrackers), Flathead Minnows, and Triploid White Amur are available.

You will need to bring a container

filled with **your** pond water to pick up your order—approximately 5 gallons of water for each 100 fingerling size fish. We suggest using a trash can with a new plastic liner—then put in the pond water so the top of the bag can be tied shut for transportation. Remember, the Amur are 10-12" long and need a suitable container.

Triploid White Amur are stocked to control leafy pond vegetation. Algae is not a preferred food. Since the Amur were first stocked in Ohio the fall of 1987, you may need to replace your Amur. The life expectancy is in the 10 to 12 year range. Recommend stocking rates for the Amur are 2 to 5, per surface acre of water, based on how much weed cover is in the pond at its worst point over the summer.

Other stocking recommendations are 100 Largemouth Bass and 500 Bluegill per surface acre of pond

area. Yellow Perch and Redear Sunfish (Shellcrackers) can be stocked at the same rate as Largemouth Bass. Channel Catfish can also be stocked in ponds that are 1/2 acre or larger. Though they will not reproduce in a pond, they do provide excellent fishing. The stocking rate is 50 per surface acre of pond area. A 4–6" long Catfish stocked this spring will double in size by next spring.

**Order Deadline:**

**Friday, May 4 2012**

**Remember to enclose payment with your order. Thanks!**

**Order form**

**on back page.**





**LORAIN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

42110 Russia Road, Elyria Ohio 44035  
 Phone: 440-326-5800 Fax: 440-326-5807  
 www.lorainswcd.com

PRSRST STD  
 US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 ELYRIA OH  
 PERMIT 22

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

John Born , Chairman  
 Robert Ternes, Jr., Vice-Chairman  
 David Conrad, Treasurer  
 Will Schlechter, Secretary  
 Dean Rollin

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ron Baumann  
 Neil Breyley  
 Dan Buttler  
 John Forthofer  
 David Manning  
 Alan Pitts

DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Sandy Denes, Administrative Assistant  
 John Niedzialek, NPDES Coordinator  
 Karl Schneider, Natural Resources Coordinator  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
 Ryan Kemper, Soil Conservationist  
 Dave Kopchak, District Conservationist for Cuyahoga, Lorain & Medina counties  
 Dale Barr, Soil Conservationist Technician

LORAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ted Kalo, Lori Kowski, Tom Williams

# FISH SALE ORDER FORM

**Order deadline date: Monday, May 7, 2012**

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

Mail and return with payment to:

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

Lorain SWCD

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

42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, OH 44035

Daytime phone # (required): \_\_\_\_\_ County where Amur are stocked: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Species</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u># ordered</u>	<u>\$ Total</u>
Largemouth Bass	2-4 "	\$0.90	_____	_____
Bluegill	2-4 "	\$0.75	_____	_____
Channel Catfish	4-6 "	\$0.80	_____	_____
Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker)	2-4 "	\$0.90	_____	_____
Yellow Perch	4-6 "	\$0.80	_____	_____
Flathead Minnow	per 100	\$7.00	_____	_____
Triploid White Amur	10-12 "	\$13.00	_____	_____

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_