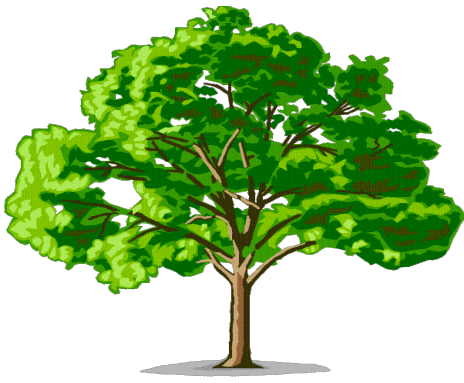




Lorain County BIG TREE Contest



Lorain County Conservation District is excited to announce the 11th Annual Lorain County BIG TREE Contest! This voluntary contest will promote the beauty and benefits provided by our county's biggest and oldest trees. This year our featured tree species is Northern Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*). Participants can nominate what they believe might be the largest catalpa in Lorain county. Staff will verify the measurements of each nominated tree using the ODNR Division of Forestry's Big Tree Program procedures. Each tree will receive a score based on trunk circumference, crown spread, and total height to determine the winner.

The objectives of this contest are:

- To engage residents in the recognition, management, and enhancement of our county's tree populations.
- To showcase the critical roles that trees play in sustaining healthy soil and clean water.
- To recognize that each healthy tree in our county reduces flooding and improves water quality by soaking up storm water runoff and filtering out pollutants.

BIG TREE Contest Guidelines:

- Nominated trees must be in Lorain County.
- Only one nomination per individual tree. The first nomination received will be entered into the contest.
- The tree does not have to be on the property of the nominator; however, **permission** from the landowner must be obtained prior to nomination. The owner of the tree will receive the contest prize.
- **Nominations must be submitted to Lorain County Conservation District no later than Friday, July 24th, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.**
- Please e-mail jfisher@loraincounty.us or submit in person or through the mail to Lorain County Conservation District, 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, OH 44035.
- The top three winners will be awarded gift certificates to The Original Don Mould's Garden Center in North Ridgeville. First place is \$100.00, second place is \$50.00 and third is \$25.00. **The winner will be announced at the Lorain SWCD Annual Meeting in September.**

The Original Don Mould's Garden Center started as a Christmas tree farm in North Ridgeville, Ohio in 1961. More than half a century later, the family-run business is diversified and capable of performing a wide range of services for both residential and commercial customers. The Original Don Mould's Garden Center is located at 34837 Lorain Rd., North Ridgeville, 440-327-3407 and features complete lawn and garden supplies, quality nursery stock, and bulk materials for all of your landscaping needs!

For more info, visit <https://www.lorainswcd.com/big-tree-contest>, email jfisher@loraincounty.us, or call 440-326-5808.