



Ag NEWS AND VIEWS

For Crawford County's Agricultural Producers and Stewards of the Land



Grant Money Available for Practices in Sycamore and Brokensword Creek

Landowners and producers who operate farms in the Sycamore Creek and Brokensword Creek watersheds in Crawford County are eligible to receive incentive payments for a variety of conservation best management practices (BMP's) for the 2017 crop year. Targeted practices include cover crops; drainage water management; tile blind inlets; per acre incentives to reduce phosphorous runoff risk from farm fields; and nutrient management (variable rate and in row application).

The objective of this grant is to reduce nutrient losses from cropland and raise awareness of some newer best management practices (BMP's) that effectively reduce sediment and nutrient losses. The grant is designed to be simple, flexible and practical for participants. Funds are being provided through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Applications are currently being accepted. All projects must be completed and bills submitted before November 8, 2017.

Interested individuals, or those wanting more detailed information, are encouraged to contact the Crawford SWCD office at 419-562-8280 extension #3 or visit online at www.crawfordswcd.org

Crawford SWCD landowner records prior to 1990 are being made available to landowners

The Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District is offering landowners the opportunity to pick up old tile plans and other conservation records prior to 1990. These are records of individuals who had cooperated with the soil and water district in conservation programs since the late 1940s. Call Liz Miller at 419-562-8280 extension 3; or e-mail liz.miller@oh.nacdnet.net to find out if the Soil and Water District has any records pertaining to your land. Individuals must provide the names of prior landowners who have owned the land in order to obtain all the information that may pertain to them.

We will still maintain the group drainage project records. These group projects were large main tiles or ditches that affected several landowners.

The Soil and Water District will be purging the individual cooperator files in the late fall 2017 of all the old records prior to 1990. So please stop by as soon as possible to pick up the records that pertain to your property.

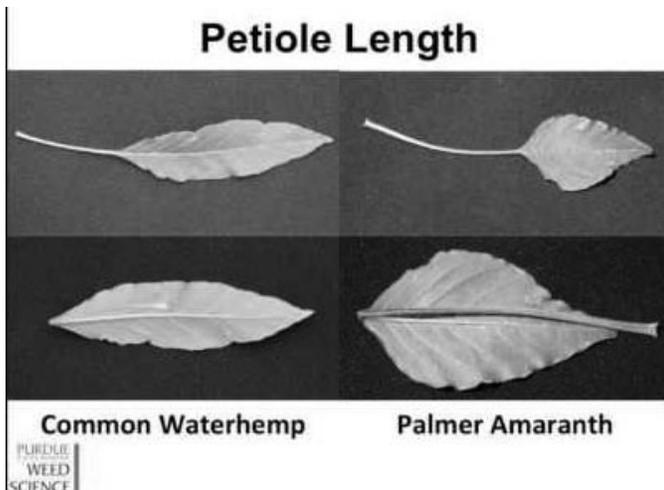
2017 Photo Contest

Do you have an eye for the beauty of Crawford County? We are excited to bring back the photo contest, "Showcasing Crawford County". This contest is for amateur photographers, and the photos must be taken within the county. We have five categories this year:

- Backyard Conservation
- Wildlife or Livestock
- Farm/ Rural Life
- Scenic Landscape
- Trees/ Crops

All photos will be displayed in our fair booth at the Crawford County Fair! We will be accepting photos and entry forms until **June 30th!** We are only accepting printed photos (no digital files), sized between – 4" x 6" and 8" x 10". The category winners will be picked by staff, and then the winning photos will be polled on our Facebook page for the grand prize winner. Category winners will win \$25.00, and the grand prize winner will win an additional \$25.00. For rules, entry forms, and more information, please refer to our web page – www.crawfordswcd.org or call (419) 562-8280 ext. 3.

Palmer Amaranth



Palmer amaranth is a pigweed species native to areas of northwestern Mexico and the southwestern United States. Within those regions, the leaves and seeds of the plant were used as a source of food by Native American tribes. Anthropogenic sources are the primary reason for the subsequent spread of the plant from its native region into the southeastern United States and portions of the Midwest (Ward et. al. 2013). Palmer amaranth has become a problem species in areas where it is not native, due to the high volumes of seed produced (100,000 to 500,000 seeds per plant), adaptability and its ability to resist glyphosate and ALS inhibitors. As a result, this plant can cause significantly diminished crop yields and farm income when not controlled (“Palmer amaranth”, OSU).

As of late 2016, Palmer amaranth had been identified in 18 counties within Ohio. Thus far Palmer amaranth is primarily coming into Ohio via the use of cotton feed products and contaminated farm equipment. There have also been a few instances of contaminated Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), cover crop, and wildlife seed. Being able to identify Palmer amaranth, use of residual herbicides in corn and bean fields, not running combines through infected patches, removing the plant before it produces mature seeds, and avoiding use of cotton feed products can all prevent the spread of Palmer amaranth. The Ohio Department of Agriculture will come and sample Conservation Reserve Program, cover crop, and wildlife seed for **free**, to test for Palmer amaranth seed. The phone number to contact ODA for this testing is **(614)-728-6410**. If samples are mailed into ODA for testing there will be a charge associated (“Palmer amaranth”, OSU).

Palmer amaranth can be easy to confuse with other pigweed species. Some identifying characteristics include a smooth stem, long petioles, and leaves that tend to be oblate or diamond shaped. Female Palmer amaranth plants have very large seed heads that can reach of to 3 feet in length. If you believe that Palmer amaranth is present in your fields you can contact Mark Loux with OSU at 614-292-9081 or loux.1@osu.edu.



Sources for text:

Ward, Sarah M., Theodore M. Webster, and Larry E. Steckel. “Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*): a review.” *Weed Technology* 27.1 (2013): 12-27.

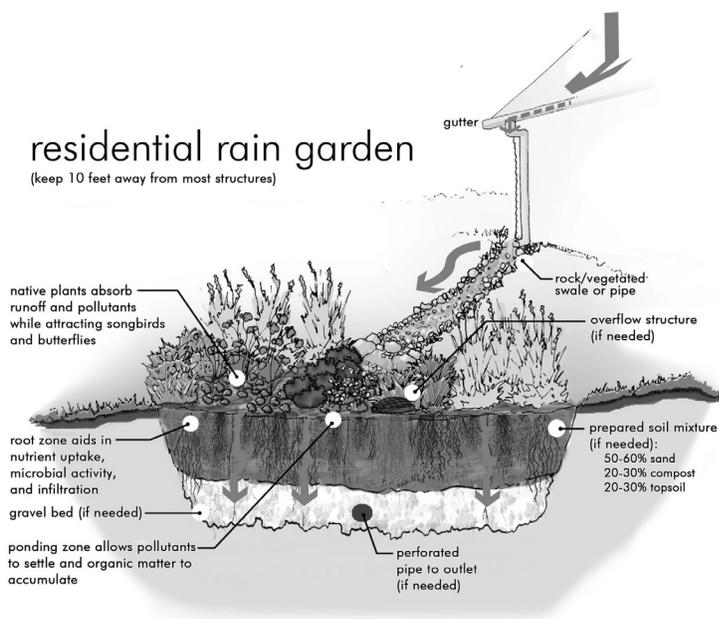
“Palmer amaranth.” OSU Weed Management- Information about weeds and herbicides for the agricultural community. The Ohio State University. Web. 10 April 2017.

Backyard Tips to Reduce Storm Runoff

Storm water issues originate when rain, snow or ice melt first begin falling on impervious surfaces like rooftops, streets, driveways and sidewalks. Storm water cannot soak into these surfaces and therefore runs off. Storm water runoff is quickly directed to our streams and rivers thru a network of drains and underground pipes where, as we can all attest to, it causes costly flooding and erosion problems. Storm water runoff can be especially troublesome for those living in urban areas where the concentrations of rooftops and pavement accelerate and exacerbate its problems. We know we cannot control the weather or Mother Nature, so what can we do? The following are recommended practices that you can do in your own backyard to help reduce storm water runoff.

- Disconnect downspouts from the storm drains and direct them to pervious areas like lawns or flower beds where they can be absorbed, reducing the need to use expensive lawn sprinklers.
- Install rain barrels to capture water from your downspouts and store for later uses such as watering gardens, flower beds or lawns.
- Plant a rain garden. Rain gardens are designed to capture, store and utilize storm water. They are full of water tolerant flowers and plants that act as a storm water sponge. Rain gardens are ideal for those small, natural depressions that always seem to collect water after a storm.
- Incorporate gravel, brick and/or mulch paths and sidewalks into your landscape which allow greater water infiltration than concrete or asphalt.
- Wash your car on a grassy area where water can soak in instead of on concrete or asphalt where it runs off. Use a bucket to save water.
- Clean up spilled car fluids and other chemicals (motor oil, lawn fertilizer, paint, etc) immediately from streets, driveways and sidewalks. Storm water runoff washes these harmful pollutants into our streams and rivers negatively impacting the environment and drinking water resources. Removing these pollutants from the water is expensive.

For more storm water management information contact the Crawford SWCD at 419-562-8280 Ext. #3 or visit online at www.crawfordswcd.org



Rain Gardens: Function and Beauty

Rain gardens are a great addition to any landscape, adding function to your landscape along with beauty and eye appeal. Rain gardens combine the beauty of multiple bloom times and color with an added function of improving water quality by reducing and filtering storm water runoff leaving your property. Rain gardens function much like a rain barrel, storing and conserving rain water that would otherwise be lost to runoff. These shallow landscaped depressions store rainwater for a 24-36 hour period allowing it to percolate into the ground. During this infiltration period, nutrients are absorbed by the plant roots and contaminants such as oils and metals are filtered by the soil, improving water quality. The Crawford SWCD provides technical assistance – garden design and plant selection- to interested homeowners. For more information, contact the Crawford Soil & Water Conservation District at 419-562-8280 Ext. #3 or visit our website at www.crawfordswcd.org

Calendar of Events

- May 9th: Spotlight on WQEL at 9:00 A.M.
- May 10th: Crawford SWCD Board Meeting 4:30 P.M.
- May 16th: Fish Fingerling Sale 2:00 P.M.
- May 17th: 5th Grade Conservation Days
- May 29th: Crawford SWCD and NRCS Closed in
Observance of Memorial Day
- June 6th: Spotlight on WQEL at 9:00 A.M.
- June 14th: Crawford SWCD Board Meeting 4:30 P.M.
- June 11-13th: State Envirothon, Pickaway County
- June 30th: Deadline for Photo Contest Entries

Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service

3111 State Route 98, Bucyrus, OH 44820-9601

Phone: 419-562-8280

Website: www.crawfordswcd.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Board Meeting Dates: (Public Welcome)

2nd Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

Board of Supervisors:

Nathan Brause, *Chairperson*
Zach Stuckey, *Vice-Chair*
Vacant, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Rose Hartschuh, *Fiscal Agent*
Paul E. Hartschuh, *Member*

NRCS Staff:

Brad Van Voorhis
District Conservationist

SWCD Staff:

Mike Hall
Program Administrator
Liz Miller
Administrative Assistant
Megan Brown
Technician
Diane Sand
Education Information Coordinator
Morgan Scheffler
MNM Specialist
Ann Cramer
MNM Assistant

Ag News & Views is published free of charge by the Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District with contributions by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

To subscribe, contact the Crawford SWCD office at 3111 State Route 98, Bucyrus, Ohio 44820-9601; phone 419-562-8280 or 419-562-2203 extension 3.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272

Address Service Requested

CRAWFORD SOIL AND WATER
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 3111 STATE ROUTE 98
 BUCYRUS OH 44820-9601