

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

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Spring Pond Management Tips

Did you have issues with weeds in your pond last summer? Maybe you had the floating mats of muck, called filamentous algae, that reduced the enjoyment and use of your pond. Now is the time to begin treating ponds to control weeds during the summer months. Don't wait until summer months to begin treatment as the weeds have already established and can be harder and more risky to control. Here are a few helpful tips for controlling weeds in your pond.



1. First... look at storm water runoff into your pond. Where does it come from and what may be mixing with it before entering your pond? Controlling or treating this runoff may reduce or eliminate the issue your trying to overcome.
2. Identify the culprit... knowing the specie of weed you want to control is critical to applying the correct treatment.
3. Know the proper application rate... follow the rate listed on the product label. Many application rates are listed in "acre-feet of water", which can be tricky to calculate.
4. Understand the potential hazards... chemical treatments can have adverse effects, abide by the label precautions for swimming, drinking, fishing and pets. Also research how the chemical may effect other aquatic life in your pond.
5. Consider alternative control measures... like barley straw bales or grass carp (White Amurs).

If you would like assistance with any of the above suggestions or have other pond management questions contact the SWCD office.

Grow More Timber

We manage our cropland, so why do we often not manage our woodlots? Do you own forest and have goals you would like to take to the next level? Two programs offer incentive to improve the management of your woodlots. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) offers incentive payments to do new conservation like grape vine control, control of woody invasives or to do other kinds of timber stand improvement. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers private forest landowners payments for actively managing, maintaining, and expanding conservation activities in their woodlots. In general, the more conservation you agree to do in CSP, the higher your payment will be. All CSP contracts receive an annual payment of at least \$1,500 with contracts lasting five years. In return the landowner agrees to pick and implement one or more new activities geared at improving their forest. If you would like to find out more about either of these programs, contact our office.



Girdling for timber stand improvement
by controlling ironwood.

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.
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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. 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM.	SWCD Staff: Mike Hall Program Administrator Diane Awbrey Secretary Monica Finney Education Information Coordinator Megan Brown Administrative Assistant Eric Hanes, Secretary Larry Leonhardt, Vice-Chair Adam Spiegel, Chairperson Ben Stuckey, Fiscal Agent NRCs Staff: Brad Van Voochis District Conservationist Kebby Fetter Soil Conservationist Duane Shawk H2Ohio/Ag Tech Derek Beat Technician	Nutrient Management Tech
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Calendar of Events
May 29th: Crawford SWCD & NRCs Closed in Observance of Memorial Day
June 7th-9th: Pollinator Flat Pick-Up
June 13th: Crawford SWCD Board Meeting 5:30 PM
June 19th: Crawford SWCD & NRCs Closed in Observance of Juneteenth Day
June 22nd: Conservation Camp - Camp Michael
June 29th: Conservation Camp - Camp Michael
July 4th: Crawford SWCD & NRCs Closed in Observance of Independence Day
July 6th: Conservation Camp - Camp Michael
July 11th: Crawford SWCD Board Meeting 5:30 PM
July 15th: H2Ohio - Last day to turn in crop year 2023 nutrient application records
August 8th: Crawford SWCD Board Meeting 5:30 PM
August 30th: Crawford SWCD Annual Meeting - Pickwick Place

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Those warmer days are getting ready to stay and while that is exciting and we are looking forward to it, its also important to be mindful of our Spring and Summer activities that could impact our local water sources. Checkout these 10 ways to help prevent stormwater pollution.

- ❖ **Only Rain Belongs in the Storm Drains!** Storm drains are for stormwater. Not mop water, not used motor oil, not your car wash rinse water, this includes leaves, yard waste and other debris that should be disposed of properly, and not put into the storm drains. Only rainwater should flow into the storm drain systems.
- ❖ **Pick Up Pet Waste!** Pick up, bag, and dispose of pet waste properly to assure that unhealthy bacteria are not flowing into our local waterways.
- ❖ **Use Pesticides and Lawn Fertilizers Sparingly!** Make sure you are always reading the label and applying correctly, during the correct weather events, never apply right before an anticipated rain event.
- ❖ **Throw your Trash and Cigarette Butts Away!** Litter not only will make its way into our local waterways and cause pollution, but it can also harbor harmful bacteria. It is also unsightly!
- ❖ **Fix your Car!** Oil and other leaks will drop onto pavement and later get washed into our water sources causing pollution. Fix those leaks, your car and the fish will thank you!
- ❖ **Consider a Rain Barrel!** A rain barrel will capture rainwater that you can later use on your garden or planters.
- ❖ **Set your Mower Height to 3 Inches or Higher!** This height will slow the rate of runoff and will produce a deeper and denser root system that can help suppress weed growth and the need for lawn watering.
- ❖ **Retain Grass Clippings!** Using a mulching mower is ideal for retaining the clippings in your lawn. This will help with keeping important nutrients in your lawn.
- ❖ **Sweep it UP!** Anything lying on pavement is more easily washed down the storm drains. Sweep... don't use the water hose to remove grass clippings and lawn chemicals to put them back onto the lawn.
- ❖ **Plant Native!** Native plants are going to be more drought tolerant, which will require less water, they provide food and habitat for local wildlife, and they provide a beautiful landscape!

H2Ohio Program Results and Benefits from Crop Year 2022

Forty-six producers raised 4,216.95 acres of Conservation Crop Rotation- Small Grains. After the small grain was harvested, a cover crop or double crop was required to be established. The reason for that was to gather any leftover nutrients from the small grain crop. Also, the cover crop or double crop provides for a living root longer in the year. This also reduces the amount of tillage that is generally completed after a typical small grains crop. By reducing tillage and having living roots in the soil longer, it reduces erosion and nutrients that would be lost within the erosion.

Sixty-two producers raised 11,979.95 acres of Overwintering Cover Crops. There are multiple benefits that can be gained by certain species. Those benefits include increased water infiltration through the soil, reduced erosion, nutrient scavenging, increased soil biological activity. These benefits all contribute to better water quality. In addition to water quality cover crops can aid in weed suppression.

Of the 11,979.95 acres of Overwintering Cover Crops, nine producers also intercropped 1,666.69 acres of Overwintering cover crops. By intercropping cover crops, it allows producers to establish cover crops earlier in the fall, and to be better established than those covers planted after harvest. It also provides better opportunities for the cover crop to fully provide the benefits of the species that were established. By establishing cover crops earlier in the year, it also allows for different species to be established, that would not normally be established due to timing.



SWCD Drainage Assistance Opportunities

The SWCD provides rural and urban landowners with assistance on a variety of drainage practices and issues including requests for watershed acreage calculations, on-site reviews of drainage issues, tile capacity estimations, ditch designs and culvert capacity estimates. The SWCD assists residents and landowners with Ohio drainage rules and laws and the associated petition and cooperative group requests found therein. The SWCD encourages cooperation among landowner groups to solve most drainage issues. Some of the more important issues relating to drainage in the county are undersized and broken tile mains, log jams and storm debris.



Log jams, like the one pictured, impact stream flow and cause flooding for upstream landowners. Ohio drainage law provides landowners the opportunity to form cooperative groups to remove log jams and improve overall drainage in the watershed.



Broken tile mains, often called blowouts, greatly reduce the ability to drain farmland and homesites in the watershed. Repairing these tile mains is the responsibility of everyone that drains through them.

Improving the flow of water in our tile mains, ditches and streams improves the flow of water in the watershed, benefiting everyone's drainage in the watershed. If you have drainage questions or concerns, contact the Crawford SWCD for more information or assistance.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CRAWFORD SWCD ANNUAL MEETING & SUPERVISOR ELECTION

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Crawford SWCD Annual Meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 30th at The Loft at Pickwick. This year's guest speaker will be Scott Shearer, Chair of the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering at The Ohio State University. We are looking forward to his discussion on autonomous tractors and other automated ag technologies that farmers could be using in the future.

Our annual meeting is also held in conjunction with our Supervisor Election. The Crawford SWCD nominating committee is currently searching for qualified candidates for this election.

Supervisors are public officials serving in a voluntary capacity and are responsible for directing the activities, programs, and financial resources of the Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District. Supervisors should have an interest in conserving our natural resources and agricultural conservation.

Contact the SWCD office at 419-562-8280 extension 3 for more information if you are interested in serving in this vital role for directing Crawford County's natural resource efforts.