



Conservation Connection

Wood County
Land & Water Conservation Department

Volume 25 Issue 1

Cost Share Opportunities

There are many opportunities to improve your farm for you and the next generation. This summer's heavy rains may have revealed areas of weaknesses in terms of soil erosion. Soil leaving the field is like washing money down the drain. Along with soil goes the nutrient dense topsoil and it's organic matter, and added nutrients you can't get back without spending money. If the amount of soil lost over an acre was as thick as a dime, that would equal about 5 tons of soil or more. It's hard to notice that thin layer of soil leaving the field, so if you can see erosion, it's too much. Below are the current rates of cost-share practices that are intended to help keep the soil in place:

Nutrient Management	\$40/ac
Cover Crops	\$25/ac
No-Till	\$18.50/ac

Pastureland is the ultimate no-till cover crop with benefits that go beyond holding soil in place when managed. Young wild turkeys, birds, pollinators, and not to mention the cattle themselves benefit from grazing. It becomes less beneficial when cattle are concentrated enough to expose the soil, especially in a stream. There are cost-share options to improve streambank erosion due to unlimited cattle access. Options are to rotate the cattle to different areas with fencing, create a cattle crossing, or to fence them out.

In addition to those mentioned above, we also cost share grassed waterways, stream buffers, and more. If you are in the Mill Creek Watershed, you can also contact Ken Schroeder from UW-Extension at 715-346-1316 for additional cost-share options.

Get the Cost of Your Soil Samples Reimbursed!

You may have heard of the annual class that teaches farmers to write their own nutrient management plan. When completed, the cost of the class is reimbursed. New this year, the cost of the soil tests required to complete the class can also be reimbursed. Soil samples are considered good for 4 years, and the class qualifies you to write your own nutrient management plan for 4 years. This means you can get your yearly nutrient management plan complete, whether you are required or choose to use nutrient management planning, for no cost for as long as you are willing to put in the effort to come to class once every 4 years. The flyer on page 8 has the details on this year's classes.



Heavy rains can lead to wash outs like the one pictured above. If the ground isn't already saturated, cover crops can help the water sink in. If it's the normal drainage pattern in the field and wash outs happen year after year, a grassed waterway can help.



Grassed Waterway



Erosion resulting from cattle with unlimited access to an area.

2020 Tree Sale Order Form

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____

Email Address : _____

SPECIES	# PER BUNDLE	QUANTITY (# of Bundles)	PRICE PER BUNDLE	SUBTOTAL
American Hazelnut 12-18" (shrub)	25 per bundle		\$ 23.00	
Balsam Fir 5-10"	25 per bundle		\$ 18.00	
Bur Oak 12-18"	25 per bundle		\$ 24.00	
Elderberry 12-18" (shrub)	25 per bundle		\$ 23.00	
Red Osier Dogwood 12-24" (shrub)	25 per bundle		\$ 15.00	
Sugar Maple 12-18"	25 per bundle		\$ 25.00	
White Birch 9-14"	25 per bundle		\$ 20.00	
White Pine 7-15"	25 per bundle		\$ 15.00	
White Spruce 12 -18"	25 per bundle		\$ 21.00	
TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF TREES - SHRUBS ORDERED				\$
SPECIAL ITEMS				
	QUANTITY		UNIT PRICE	
<u>Generic Gel</u>				
4 oz. - \$7.25, 1 lb. - \$13.25, 3 lb. - \$23.25	_____	X	_____	= \$ _____
<u>Tree Shelters</u>				
	_____	X	\$ 2.50	= \$ _____
(Trees/Shrubs + Generic Gel + Tree Shelters) SUBTOTAL				\$
(5.5% Sales Tax) SUBTOTAL x .055				\$
ORDER TOTAL				\$

ORDER DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020

Fillable order form at - <https://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/LandConservation/TreeSale.aspx>

Payment must accompany your order. Please make checks payable to: Wood County LWCD

Please mail order along with payment to: Wood County Land & Water Conservation Dept.
River Block
111 W Jackson St.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Tree and Shrub Descriptions

Amercian Hazelnut (*Corylus Americana*) (Shrub) often in clumps reaching 12 ft. in height. Edible brown nuts. Grows best in moist, well-drained soils but will adapt to most types of soils. Full sun or deep shade. Attracts wildlife such as deer, grouse, turkeys, pheasants & quail. Recommended spacing is 6 feet.

Balsam Fir (*Abies Balsamea*) (Tree) 50-75 feet mature height. Soft, fragrant, bright green needles. Well adapted evergreen to the cold climates. Used to attract a variety of wildlife, landscaping purposes, visual screens as well as windbreaks. The seeds and buds are food for birds including grouse, squirrels and mice. Also provides cover and shelter for white-tailed deer. Prefers acid, moist to damp soil. Recommended spacing is 15-20 feet.

Burr Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa Michx*) (Tree) 50-100 feet mature size. Provides food and cover for wood ducks, turkey, and deer as well as many other small mammals and songbirds. Tolerant to a broad range of soil types. Prefers well drained sites with full sun. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.

Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra L. ssp. Canadensis*) (Shrub) 10-12 feet mature height. White flowers produce small purple berries. Excellent summer wildlife food and cover especially for songbirds. Fruit is edible by humans (used for wines and jellies). Broad tolerance to sun and shade, soil types and moisture conditions, prefers moist sites. Recommended spacing is 4-6 feet.

Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) (Shrub) 8-10 feet mature height. Has white flowers atop of bright red twigs that produce white berries persisting into winter. Provides food and cover to ruffed grouse, turkeys, cardinals, evening grosbeaks, and rabbits to name a few. Tolerates full sun to full shade. Prefers wet to moist soil, broad range of tolerance to soil types. Recommended spacing is 4-6 feet.

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) (Tree) Average 70 feet mature height. Grows best in moist fertile soils with partial to full shade. Produces winged seeds in the fall. The leaves turn a brilliant red, orange or yellow color in the fall. Highest sugar content in sap for Maple Syrup. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.

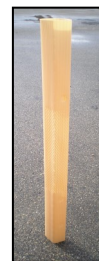
White Birch (Native) (*Betula papyrifera*) (Tree) 50-70 feet mature size. Small to medium-sized tree. Bark on branches and young trees is brown to bronze. Bark on mature trees white, peeling into long, narrow, paper-like strips. Birches are sun-loving, fast growing trees. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.

White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) (Tree) 50-100 feet mature height. Needles are 3-5 inches long occurring in bundles of 5. Frequent nest site of numerous species of birds. White Pine is ideal for wildlife cover due to its rapid growth. Grows on sandy soils and rocky ridges, but prefers fertile well-drained soils. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.

White Spruce (*Picea Glauca*) (Tree) 60-80 feet mature height. Provides nesting, roosting and winter cover to a variety of wildlife species; also, good for windbreaks. Will grow in full sun to partial shade and moist to dry soils. Recommended spacing is 10-15 feet.

Tree Shelters

The tree shelter we sell ships flat, pops up to a generous, leaf expanding 3.9 inch diameter, and installs quickly and easily with large tie holes for different staking options. The 4-foot tubes are vented to allow superior air exchange for efficient CO2 replenishment and assuring proper dormancy (hardening off) before winter. Tree shelters are available anytime throughout the year at the Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department.



Tree Shelters - \$2.50/each + tax

Generic Gel

Generic gel is a starch absorbent that retains water and gives it back to the plant during dry periods. The gel increases plant survivability. It comes in granular form and you mix it with water. Roots are dipped into the solution prior to planting. Generic gel is available throughout the year at the Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department. Sizes and pricing as follows:



<u>Size</u>	<u># Seedlings treated</u>	<u># Transplants treated</u>	<u>Cost</u>
4 oz.	1,000	250	\$ 7.25 + tax
1 lb.	4,000	1,000	\$ 13.25 + tax
3 lb.	12,000	3,000	\$ 23.25 + tax

A Look Back at the First Year of Wood County's Rental of its No-Till Drill



In April of 2019 the Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) obtained a rental Great Plains 10' no-till drill thanks to donations from conservation partners and county funding. The unit is meant to encourage producers throughout the Wood County area to give no-till planting a try on their farm. No-till planting is good for soil health, reduced runoff, weed control, tight time planting windows, and on a producer's pocketbook with the reduction of fuel spent on preparing a field for planting.

Overall, 2019 was a very wet year that likely contributed to the drill not being used as much as it could have been. The wet weather did increase the interest in cover crop planting with the unit, especially late in the summer when some unplanted fields dried up enough to get equipment into them. Interseeding pastures and hayfields were also common practices that the no-till drill worked well at accomplishing. As of mid-October, the rental unit was used to plant approximately 180 acres for 7 different producers. The unit was also used multiple times by UW-Extension and Auburndale schools as educational teaching material and trial plantings.

A few repairs and tweaks were made to get the drill to operate to its full capacity and so that it is ready for its next time out! Check out the rental unit details at: <https://www.co.wood.wi.us/Departments/LandConservation/SoilHealth.aspx> or feel free to call the Wood County LWCD at (715) 421-8475 to discuss the drill.

2020 Prairie Grass and Wildflower Mixes Order Form

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

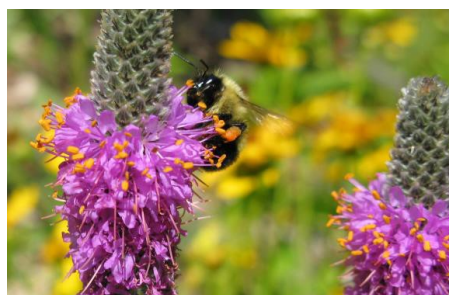
Address: _____

Email Address _____

Mix Description			Cost/Unit		Mix Description			Cost/Unit	
POLLINATOR, HONEYBEE AND MONARCH MIXES									
Pollinator Dry – Mix A			\$ 100.00 (1/2 acre)			Pollinator Wet – Mix B		\$ 95.00 (1/2 acre)	
Native Honeybee – Mix C			\$ 78.00 (1/2 acre)			Introduced Honeybee - Mix D		\$ 21.00 (1/2 acre)	
Standard Monarch – Mix W			\$ 45.00 (1/2 acre)			Standard Monarch Mesic – Mix X		\$ 72.50 (1/2 acre)	
Monarch Dry – Mix Z			\$ 195.00 (1/2 acre)			Monarch Wet – Mix ZZ		\$ 170.00 (1/2 acre)	
INTRODUCED MIXES FOR LAND RESTORATION EROSION CONROL & GRASSED WATERWAYS									
Erosion Control – Mix R			\$ 26.25 (1/2 acre)			Land Restoration – Mix S		\$ 27.75 (1/2 acre)	
Grassed Waterways – Mix T			\$ 37.50 (1/2 Acre)			Note: Mix R, S, & T can all be used for Land Restoration, Erosion Control and Grassed Waterways.			
Subtotal (x.055)	\$ _____	➔ ➔ ➔ ➔	+	Subtotal (x.055)	\$ _____	Order Total \$ _____			
5.5% Tax	\$ _____			5.5% Tax	\$ _____				



New England Aster



Purple Prairie Clover



Black-eyed Susan

Seed Mix Descriptions

Mix A – Pollinator – Dry Includes: Little Bluestem, Sideoats Grama, Black-eyed Susan, Prairie Alum-Root, Evening Primrose, Prairie Cinquefoil, Purple Prairie Clover, Bergamot, Sweet Black-eyed Susan, Mountain Mint, Hoary Vervain, Foxglove Beardtongue, Yellow Coneflower, Leadplant, Sky-Blue Aster, Heath Aster, Partridge Pea, Purple Coneflower, Ox-eye Sunflower, White Prairie Clover, False Boneset, Showy Goldenrod, Stiff Goldenrod, Round-Headed Bushclover, Butterfly Milkweed, Common Milkweed, Giant Hyssop, Large Beardtongue, Canada Milkvetch.

Mix B – Pollinator – Wet Includes : Fox Sedge, Switchgrass, Golden Alexander, Alum Root, New England Aster, Smooth Blue Aster, Foxglove Beardtongue, Wild Bergamot, Prairie Blazingstar, Common Boneset, Cardinal Flower, Compass Plant, Yellow Coneflower, Culver's Root, Cup Plant, Ironweed, Spotted Joe-Pye Weed, Great Blue Lobelia. Canada Milkvetch, Swamp Milkweed, Mountain Mint, Purple Meadow Rue, Rosinweed, Sneezeweed, Black-eyed Susan, Sweet Black eyed Susan, Blue Vervain.

Mix C – Native Honeybee Includes: Foxglove Beardtongue, Lanceleaf Coreopsis, Mountain Mint, Common Milkweed, Purple Prairie Clover, Maximillian Sunflower, Stiff Goldenrod.

Mix D – Introduced Honeybee Includes: Alsike Clover, Red Clover, Ladino Clover, Alfalfa.

Mix R – Erosion Control Includes: Red Clover, Orchardgrass, Timothy.

Mix S – Land Restoration Includes: Red Clover, Timothy, Orchardgrass, Redtop, Ladino Clover.

Mix T – Grass Waterways Includes: Alfalfa, Redtop, Timothy, Orchardgrass.

Mix W – Standard Monarch Includes: Orchardgrass, Timothy, Red Clover, Stiff Goldenrod, Common Milkweed, Oxeye Sunflower, Black-eyed Susan.

Mix X – Standard Monarch Mesic Includes: Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indiangrass, Sideoats Grama, Canada Wildrye, New England Aster, Bergamot, Showy Goldenrod, Stiff Goldenrod, Common Milkweed, White Prairie Clover, Black-eyed Susan.

Mix Z – Monarch Dry – Includes: Little Bluestem, Indiangrass, Heath Aster, Prairie Cinquefoil, Grayheaded Coneflower, Lanceleaf Coreopsis, Evening Primrose, Showy Goldenrod, Stiff Goldenrod, Giant Hyssop, Leadplant, Wild Lupine, Butterfly Milkweed, Common Milkweed, Partridge Pea, Purple Prairie Clover, White Prairie Clover, Ohio Spiderwort. Black-eyed Susan, Hoary Vervain.

Mix ZZ – Monarch Wet – Includes: Big Bluestem, Fox Sedge, Golden Alexander, Canada Anemone, Heath Aster, New England Aster, Panicked Aster, Smooth Blue Aster, Foxglove Beardtongue, Wild Bergamot, Common Boneset, Culver's Root, Stiff Goldenrod, Great St John's Wort, Ironweed, Spotted Joe-Pye Weed, Great Blue Lobelia, Canada Milkvetch, Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed, Mountain Mint, Sneezeweed, Sawtooth Sunflower, Black-eyed Susan, Sweet Black-eyed Susan, Blue Vervain.

Monarch Waystation at the River Block Building

In the spring of 2018, the Land and Water Conservation Department partnered with Monarch Encouragement to plant a native prairie/pollinator demonstration garden between the River Block building and the river. We started with 75 plants of 15 different species that bloom at different times from April to October. With a range of bloom times, there is always a source of nectar for the pollinators. It took some amount of effort to keep the new plants from drying up the first year, and we did some weeding. By the summer of 2019 the plants looked great! This year we added 25 new plants with 8 new species. We didn't have to water them this year! We hope to expand by adding around 25 plants every spring. Prairie plant's deep root systems make them drought resistant, hold soil in place, and absorb water. This makes them easy to care for once established. We are not pollinator planting experts, so if we can do it, so can you!

This sight is officially registered as a Monarch Waystation at monarchwatch.org. We have a bloom guide that lists when each species will bloom. Come pick one up and visit the garden next summer.



Deer Donation Program is Celebrating 20 Years

The deer donation program has been providing venison to needy people throughout Wisconsin for 20 years. Wood County will once again be taking part in the deer donation program this year. To celebrate the 20th year of the program, hunters will receive a free hat upon donation of a deer.



How to donate your deer

1. Donate any legally harvested deer by dropping it off at a participating processors by February 1, 2020.
2. Prior to donating, field dress the deer, register it and write your registration confirmation number down. You will need the registration confirmation number handy in order to fill out the hunter donation log sheet that the meat processor maintains.
3. Call first! Contact one of the participating processors before dropping the deer off to verify the processor has space to accept your deer. Processors in Wood County include: Pittsville Meats, 5328 2nd Ave, Pittsville (715) 884-6816; J & S Processing LLC, 8300 County Road V, Marshfield (715) 676-3654 and Strictly Wild Processing, 140 Buffalo St, Wisconsin Rapids (715) 459-2538.
4. Donate the entire deer to receive the processing for free. (Head and/or antlers may be removed for mounting.) Please handle the carcass as if it were destined for your own table. A couple bags of ice placed in the cavity will help preserve the carcass in warm weather.
5. When dropping your deer off at a processor, please complete the log sheet indicating your desire to donate the deer. We'll do the rest. The donated deer will be processed and the venison will be distributed to charitable organization to help feed Wood County's needy.

If you have questions regarding deer donation in Wood County, please contact Rod Mayer at the Wood County Land & Water Conservation Department at (715) 421-8475.

Test Your Well Water's Nitrate Levels at No Cost

SPONSORED BY THE WOOD CO. LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPT.



Wood County is offering a county wide free water sampling of your private well for Nitrates. High Nitrates in drinking water can cause serious health problems. Some of these health concerns include: blue baby syndrome. For adults, anemia, cardiovascular disease, metabolic problems, cramps, head-aches and gastric cancers.

Sample bottles can be picked up and dropped off at your local Land & Water Conservation Office located at **111 W. Jackson St., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495. (River Block Bldg.)** Sampling instructions will be provided with the bottle. Samples should be returned the day they are taken and packaged on ice. Samples are accepted Monday through Thursday. Questions? Contact: Land & Water Conservation Department (715) 421-8475.

Nutrient Management Planning

This course is designed to develop a nutrient management plan that will meet the NRCS 590 Standard requirements. Participants will enter soil test information into the software program, SNAP-Plus, and will develop a plan using the data. Subjects include conservation plans, field mapping, soil test analysis, manure management and crop selection and requirements.

It is highly recommended that you have current soil tests no more than four years old, sampled on a one sample per five acre basis and analyzed by a DATCP approved lab.

SOIL TESTING PAYMENTS Participants will receive reimbursement for up to \$750 of eligible soil testing costs. (Please contact your County's Conservation Department with any questions regarding this reimbursement.)



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



These courses are in partnership with the UW-Extension office and the county conservation departments from Marathon, Clark, Lincoln, Taylor and Wood counties.

COURSE ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Please register for the Full Course if you are new to Nutrient Management Planning. If you have already taken the Full Course in the past, please register for the Refresher Course.

Additional family members and/or farm employees may attend with a registered attendee at no additional charge.

Students planning to bring their own computer to complete work on SnapPlus must meet the following minimum computer requirements:

- Windows 7 or later, 10 is recommended
- Memory: 250 MB for software
- Browser: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox or Microsoft Edge

FULL COURSE - 12 HOURS TOTAL (SIX 2-HOUR SECTIONS)

Thursdays, January 16 - February 20, 2020 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	\$260**
NTC Spencer Campus	Class #62885

FULL COURSE - 12 HOURS TOTAL (THREE 4-HOUR SECTIONS)

Fridays, January 3 - 17, 2020 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	\$260**
NTC Medford Campus	Class #62882

Wednesdays, January 22 - February 5, 2020 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	\$260**
NTC Wausau Campus	Class #62883

Thursdays, January 23- February 6, 2020 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	\$260**
NTC Spencer Campus	Class #62884

Tuesdays, March 3 - 17, 2020 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	\$260**
Wood County Courthouse, Wisc. Rapids	Class #62886

REFRESHER COURSES - 8 HOURS TOTAL

Fridays, January 3 & 10, 2020; 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	\$130*
NTC Medford Campus	Class #62887

Wednesdays, January 22 & 29, 2020; 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	\$130*
NTC Wausau Campus	Class #62888

Thursdays, January 23 & 30, 2020; 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	\$130*
NTC Spencer Campus	Class #62889

Thursdays, January 16 - 30, 2020; 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	\$130*
NTC Spencer Campus	Class #62890

Tuesdays, March 3 & 10, 2020; 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	\$130*
Wood County Courthouse, Wisc. Rapids	Class #62891

**Participants will receive a \$130 reimbursement upon completion of a nutrient management plan. Reimbursements are provided by a DATCP Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant and administered by the county conservation departments.*

***Participants will receive a \$260 reimbursement upon completion of a nutrient management plan. Reimbursements are provided by a DATCP Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant and administered by the county conservation departments.*

GET STARTED TODAY

To register, call 715.675.3331 and press "1" or visit www.ntc.edu/ce