

Conservation News



October 2010, Issue 4

www.popeswcd.org

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FALL BRINGS ALL KINDS OF EDUCATION EVENTS

Fall is always a busy season not just here but in general. There is much to do to get ready for winter. Its time to get the crops in. Get your garden wrapped up. Clean up the flower beds and send the kids back to school.

Here at the Soil and Water office we have and will be holding and helping with our annual education events. The fall is a busy time for this, as we have three events that we help with. The first was Water Fest, held on September 10 at Pope County Fairgrounds.

Although the day was rainy it was a success. The kids had good time and got to learn a variety of things about water. There were ten different learning stations and eight schools participated in the day. The other events that the SWCD assists with are on September 28th Conservation Education Day will be held at the Scandi Woods Environmental Learning Lab and on October 6th the Junior Envirothon will be held in Spicer.



POPE SOIL & WATER OPEN HOUSE



On November 10, Pope County Soil and Water

Conservation District will be holding an Open House from 9 am to 2 pm.

Stop by and order your trees to get the 10% discount. The discount ends on 11/10/10.

Find out about all our services including seed, seeding, drill rentals, tree planning and planting.

We can help you with all your conservation planning needs.

The water testing unit will be set up to test water samples for nitrates.

Coffee and doughnuts will be provided.

SEE YOU NOVEMBER 10!

Left: Students learn about watersheds at Water Fest.



NRCS ENDS BUSY FISCAL YEAR

The past year has been a busy one for NRCS. NRCS completed two Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), a Wetlands Reserve Program, WRP, an Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), a special EQIP for the Sauk River watershed under Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI), and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) funding periods. NRCS was successful in taking applications for all of the above programs.

- CSP had ten agreements that were funded for a total of \$251,836.
- WRP had three applications that were funded, for a total of just over 200 acres being enrolled, bringing in approximately \$525,000.
- EQIP had five agreements funded for a total of just over \$260,000. This includes the MRBI.
- WHIP had a few applications but none were funded.

Fiscal year 2011 looks to be busy also. We hope to have several funding periods completed by the end of the January. Stay tuned for more information on sign up period dates and deadlines or stop by the NRCS office at 1680 Franklin Street, Glenwood for more information.

PLANT CORNER: SUMMER MAY BE OVER, BUT SOME PESKY WEEDS ARE STILL HARD AT WORK



This quarter for the plant corner it was decided why should we reinvent the wheel. So we went looking for an article that would pertain to invasive plants and would pertain to this area, and we found it. The following article, a press release from the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), was released in October of 2007. The article is very much relevant to today and to our area. Hopefully you will find this article helpful as you plan for fall weed control of your weeds.

Sure, the growing season is over and cooler weather is moving in, but don't think the weeds in your lawn and garden are taking a little R & R. In fact, many of them, especially invasive weeds, are still vexing unsuspecting victims or are busy plotting their next move so they can come out swinging at the first hint of spring next year.

"Fall can be an important time of year for some native and exotic weeds," says Jeffrey Derr, Ph.D., Virginia Tech Weed Scientist and president elect of the Weed Science Society of America.

"Plants like yellow nut sedge, bermudagrass and phragmites are building underground storage reserves before they go dormant. Early autumn gusts can be quite effective at dispersing seeds of summer flowering plants like Tree of Heaven. Winter weeds, like annual bluegrass, common chickweed, and wild garlic are just starting to emerge, while rosettes of garlic mustard will be around in the fall and winter. That's why awareness of invasive plants shouldn't die out with the onset of cooler weather," warns Dr. Derr. "Some to watch out for in the fall:

Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), Though the leaves may have fallen off this native species for the season, the vines of this woody perennial can still cause an allergic reaction. The sticky urushiol oil, which causes the irritating reaction, doesn't evaporate, so touching shoes or clothes that may have rubbed against a plant and are carrying the oil can cause an allergic response even hours later. So beware of petting any animals that may have been exposed. Never burn poison ivy since the toxin can be inhaled from smoke. Also, be careful when cutting firewood since you may not notice poison ivy vines that have grown up trees.

Common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), This native summer annual weed releases one billion pollen grains from each plant, beginning in August and continuing through October, triggering

allergic reactions for nearly 36 million Americans each year, according to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. Unfortunately, common ragweed grows almost anywhere in the U.S.

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Don't be fooled by those pretty purple flowers. This invasive, exotic perennial will flower from June through September. But once the flowers are gone, that's when the plant goes to work and releases millions of seeds which can be carried great distances. Seeds that don't germinate can remain dormant for long periods. That's why eradication should take place before seed production begins. This tenacious plant can even sprout from fragments. So don't mow over them because new plants can sprout from the cut pieces.

Creeping charlie/ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), A nonnative and cool season perennial weed, ground ivy grows best in spring and fall. Ripping it out of the ground or treating large patches with the appropriate herbicides now may help salvage your lawn for next spring. Maintaining a thick, healthy turf through reseeding and feeding, while paying particular attention to the bare spots, helps keep this unwelcome intruder from moving in and taking over.

Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Once a prized, exotic plant in many home gardens, giant hogweed has held a place on the Federal Noxious Weed List since 1983 because of its potential harm to humans. The sap of the giant hogweed plant can cause severe blistering if the affected area is exposed to sunlight. As its scientific name suggests, this plant can reach Herculean heights of fifteen feet and can quickly dominate an area, crowding out native plant species. You must also be careful of the seeds it releases once it is done flowering because they also can cause irritation and blistering.

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Garlic mustard, a cool season biennial that has settled in many parts of the country, has a garlic odor when its leaves or stems are crushed. It is shade tolerant and found in forests, near streambanks, and along roadsides and trails. Hundreds of seeds are produced from each plant and can remain viable for up to five years. In the first year, these plants remain green throughout the winter, making them easy to spot for control or removal actions.

The effects of weed species on the nation's agriculture, water quality, wildlife and recreation have been estimated to cost the U.S. \$34.7 billion annually, according to a recent Cornell University report.

"Invasive exotic plants and problematic native weeds are present in

every region of the country," says Dr. Derr "It is not an isolated problem. So everyone must play a part in helping control these troublesome invaders."



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Order early for the best selection of trees.

You will be notified in April of pick-up dates for trees, tree products, and for grass seed orders.

Orders received before November 10th for 2010 planting will receive 10% off the tree order.

Special orders available upon request, call now to secure your order! No project to big or small!

ITEM	PRICE	#ORDERED	AMOUNT
SHRUBS (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees			
Buffaloberry	\$25.00		
Chokeberry, black	\$30.00		
Hazlenut	\$25.00		
Hi Bush Cranberry	\$30.00		
Juneberry	\$25.00		
Nanking Cherry	\$25.00		
Peking Cotoneaster	\$25.00		
Redosier Dogwood	\$25.00		
Sand Cherry	\$25.00		
Villosa Lilac	\$25.00		
Common Lilac	\$25.00		
LARGE TREES (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees			
Siouxland Cottonwood	\$25.00		
Hackberry	\$25.00		
Rooted Hybrid Poplar	\$25.00		
Bur Oak	\$25.00		
Silver Maple	\$25.00		
Sugar Maple	\$25.00		
American Linden Basswood	\$30.00		
SMALL TREES (All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees			
American Plum	\$25.00		
Common Chokecherry	\$25.00		
Red Splendor Crab	\$25.00		
EVERGREENS priced per bundle of 25 Trees			
Black Hills Spruce	\$30.00		
Colorado Blue Spruce	\$30.00		
Red (Norway) Pine	\$30.00		
Ponderosa Pine	\$30.00		
American Arborvitae (White Cedar)	\$30.00		
POTTED EVERGREENS (other varieties of evergreens available upon request)			
Black Hills Spruce	\$10.00 each		
HYBRID POPLARS			
Hybrid Poplar Sticks	\$0.50 per stick		
TREE CARE (Plant Skydd Repellent)			
Plantskydd (deer/rabbit) Repellent (treats 200-300 1' seedlings) 1 lb powder	\$25.00		
Plantskydd (deer/rabbit) Repellent (treats 400-600 1' seedlings) 2.2 lb powder	\$37.00		
Plantskydd (deer/rabbit) Repellent (treats 100 1' seedlings) 1 liter premixed	\$20.00		

Trees Ordered: _____

Page Total: \$ _____

****Conservation Grade Trees Must Be Ordered in Minimum Quantities of 25 unless otherwise noted.**

See Reverse Side for Tax & Signature is Required

POPE SOIL & WATER



Last Name: _____

ITEM	PRICE	#ORDERED	AMOUNT
TREE CARE			
Tree Shelters 4' height (biodegradable tubes-no assembly required)	\$2.50		
Wood Stakes 4' height	\$0.90		
Weed Control Mats 3x3 w/ 8 staples (some 4x4 weed mats available)	\$2.00		
Bulk Roll of Weed Fabric 500'	\$150.00		
Staples/500 per box (Anchor Pins)	\$35.00		
Flags-100 per bundle \$0.10 each	\$10.00 per bundle		
SERVICES -- All Services have a \$75.00 one time service charge			
Custom Installed Weed Fabric	\$0.50 per foot		
Custom Tree Planting (\$100 minimum charge)	\$0.50 per tree		
Full-Service Weedbadger (1 season, no service charge)	\$190.00 per acre		
Custom Mowing	\$50.00 per hour		
Custom Cultivation	\$75.00 per hour		
Custom Grass Seeding ATV	\$50.00 per hour		
Custom Grass Seeding No-till Drill	\$20.00 per acre		
Custom Spraying ATV (plus required chemical)	\$50.00 per hour		
EQUIPMENT RENTALS (Delivery charges do apply)			
Tree Planter (minimum charge of \$50.00)	\$50.00 per day		
No-Till Drill (minimum charge of \$75.00)	\$8.00 per acre		
Packer	\$2.50 per acre		
GRASS SEED MIXES priced per acre (Custom mixes available upon request) 50% DOWN REQUIRED ON ALL GRASS SEED ORDERS TO SECURE PRICING.			
CP25 (15 specie mix) Dry & Wet Mixes Available	<i>Call for Pricing</i>		
CP21 Basic Switchgrass	<i>Call for Pricing</i>		
CP21 Variety Mix Switchgrass, Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, Sideoats grama, Purple Prairie clover	<i>Call for Pricing</i>		
Tree Mix Per. Ryegrass, Annual Ryegrass, Timothy, Tall Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass	<i>Call for Pricing</i>		
645 Standard Wet Mix Indiangrass, Big Bluestem, Switchgrass, Canada Wildrye, Purple Prairie Clover, Yarrow	<i>Call for Pricing</i>		
645 Standard Dry Mix Big Bluestem, Sideoats grama, Indiangrass, Slender Wheatgrass, Western Wheatgrass, Purple Prairie Clover, Yarrow	<i>Call for Pricing</i>		
*Planning and Design service with on-site visit. (FREE) *Trees sold are for conservation purposes only. *SWCD cannot guarantee survival rate of trees. *SWCD reserves the right to substitute sizes or cancel species due to availability. *A 25% down payment is required on all orders at the time of the order. All orders after March 1st 2010 must be paid in full at the time of the order. All balances due by April 1st, 2010. Orders Cancelled after February 1st, 2010 will be charged a 25% cancellation fee. *10% Off Tree Orders sent in by November 10th, 2010.		Total This Side : Total Front Side : Subtotal : 6.875% Sales Tax : Total Order Cost : Paid : Balance :	

Pope SWCD prohibits discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

BRING BIRDS TO YOUR BACKYARD

Wherever you live, you can bring comfort to wildlife and joy to your own life by offering a bit of habitat to nature's creatures.

With the right plants for food and shelter, you can attract spring and fall migrating birds as well as those that might stay year round.

Add water and, if you happen to live on an acreage where you have ample space, you can do wonders for birds, butterflies and your own disposition.

Natural Food or Feeders.

Fruits, nuts, and seeds from trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses will attract a variety of birds. Look to plant those that offer the food the bird species likes that you want in your yard. The same is true for feeding stations; the location, feeder style and food type will determine the birds that visit.

To attract the greatest variety of birds, use a station with a variety of feeder types, such as gravity-fed cylinder tubes, hopper boxes, platforms and suet feeders. Position them at different levels. Offer millet for ground feeders; black oil sunflower and thistle for finches, and peanut and suet for woodpeckers. Locate the station feeders next to natural cover such as evergreen shrubs or trees. The feeders should be clean with fresh food or seed.

Open Water, Birdbaths.

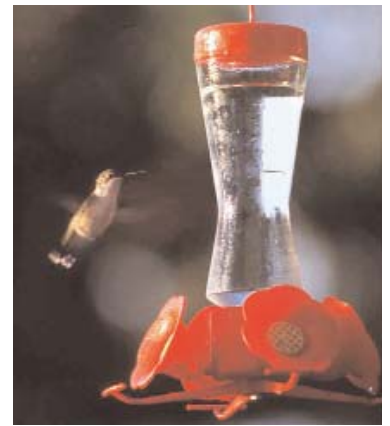
Most birds need open water for bathing, drinking and controlling their temperatures. A small backyard pond or a birdbath will do the job. The sound of flowing water attracts birds, so a fountain or small waterfall will increase your chances to bring birds to your back yard.

Cover, natural and manmade.

The same trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses that offer food to your backyard birds can offer them cover. The birds use that cover for escape, roosting, nesting and rearing their young. Another option is to build or purchase birdhouses designed for specific species of birds, with the opening size critical.

Backyard booklet available.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has a well illustrated, full color 28-page booklet available on backyard conservation available at no charge. It contains names of trees, shrubs, flowers and foods that attract birds. We have copies available at the office. For more information, stop at our office at 1680 Franklin Street N, Glenwood, or visit the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Management Institute's website at www.whmi.nrcs.usda.gov.



Hummingbirds don't use a sense of smell to select food sources, but can taste the amount of sugar in solution. They prefer sweeter concentrates, like those possible in a sugar and water feeder.

DID YOU KNOW....

Hummingbirds, the smallest birds in North America, are the only birds that can fly backwards. Their wings are adapted to helicopter-like flight-- a circular whirl that allows them to hover, move ahead, side-ways or backward.



8 LAKE TMDL STUDY UPDATE

Pope County SWCD and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency initiated an 8 Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study in May 2009. States are required under Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act to identify and restore water not meeting the State standards for water quality. A TMDL study is used to identify sources of pollutants in each lake, determine the reductions in nutrient loads needed for lakes to meet State Standards for water quality, and develop strategy to restore identified impaired lakes. Lakes included in this study are Ann, Emily, Gilchrist, Leven, Malmedahl, Pelican, Reno, and Strandness.

The MPCA hired Emmons & Oliver Resources, Inc. to

lead the technical analysis and to assist with the development of the final TMDL report. To date, a stakeholders meeting has been held to gather information about each lake in the study.

Review of the initial results of the study are posted on Pope SWCD website: www.popeswcd.org under the Programs and Projects tab. Please contact Pope SWCD with any comments and concerns you may have regarding the initial study. Community participation is vital to the success of this project.



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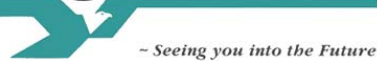
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Come said the wind
to the leaves one day,
Come o're the
meadows and we will
play. Put on your
dresses scarlet and
gold, For summer is
gone and the days
grow cold.

- *A Children's Song*
of the 1880's

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IMPORTANT DATES

October 6 Jr. Envirothon
11 Columbus Day

November 10 SWCD Open House
& Water Testing Clinic
11 Veterans Day
25 Happy Thanksgiving

December 25 Merry Christmas

**Board Meetings are held the third
Tuesday of each month.**

The public is welcome to join us.



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