Views From The Foothills

A Publication of the Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District
Serving Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange & Rappahannock Counties
www.culpeperswcd.org

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Winter 2022

Inside This Issue

Welcome!

You are receiving this newsletter because you receive land use tax benefits in our counties. Please call 540-825-8591 to remove yourself from our mailing list.

Improve Pasture Quality Through the Use of Legumes

By David Massie, Culpeper SWCD Conservation Specialist

Do you want to add 20-60 lbs. of nitrogen per acre per year to your pastures? With nitrogen prices at a ten year high, and projected to further increase due to global demand, this winter might be a great time (financially) to get legumes back into our pastures and fields. Legumes will enhance the amount of nitrogen in your soil which will benefit the growth of the grasses. To have a successful renovation of these fields, follow these steps: (Note: Seed availability may be limited so contact your seed dealer as soon as possible.)

Take soil samples to see if soil fertility needs to be adjusted. Lime and fertilizer should be applied according to soil test results. Remember, lime takes a while to fully take effect, so plan at least six months ahead. Split applications may make better economic sense in the long term.

Curb sod growth, decrease residue and control broadleaf weeds. High density, intensive grazing in the fall and winter will remove as much vegetation as possible. This will ensure good seed-to-soil contact for your legume seed which is essential for germination and emergence. Broadleaf weeds are best controlled the season prior to planting; however, herbicides may be a possible option.

Make sure that you seed within the proper seeding date and use high quality seed that is adapted for local climate. Frost seeding or drilling legumes are best done in late winter or early spring. If frost seeding is the chosen method, it might be a good time to drag pastures to break up and distribute manure, achieving better seed-soil contact. Use either certified or propriety seed to ensure high germination rates, genetics, and low noxious weed content. A great mix for pastures is 4-5 lbs. of red clover, 1-2 lbs. of ladino or white clover, and 10-15 lbs. of lespedeza per acre.

Use correct seeding rate and inoculate seeds. Take time to calibrate your seeder or drill so that you do not waste seed by over applying or risk the chance of a weak stand with under applying. Make sure that the seed you buy is either already inoculated or that you inoculate the seed with the proper strain of nitrogen fixing bacteria prior to seeding.

Control seed depth and seed distribution pattern. Make sure that small seeds are not placed deeper than ½ inch. Always check the seed depth when using a drill because failed stands will result from drilling seed too deep. Also, check the spreading pattern of spinner type spreaders. Since seeds are much lighter than fertilizer, seeds are not thrown as far. This can result in "clover strips" throughout the pasture rather than uniform stands.

Control post-seeding competition. Without controlling post-seeding competition, you run the risk of failed stands. Competing vegetation needs to be clipped or grazed to a height just above the developing seedlings. It is better to do this sooner than later to ensure vegetation does not get ahead and choke out the seedlings.

If you follow these steps, you will be on your way to improved pasture plant diversification, adding nitrogen to the soil, and saving money on fertilizer costs.

Cropland Soil Loss, Sod Waterways and Cost Share Opportunities

By Amanda McCullen, CSWCD Conservation Specialist II

Ditch gotcha down? It starts off small, a rill at most. That little problem area in your crop field. But with time, that little rill is determined, and rain after rain, will grow into a full grown gully if you ignore it. You may be managing your field well, but that one year you didn't plant a cover crop, or a year when it felt like it didn't stop raining, maybe just the part of the field with poor soils, are all likely candidates for a little rill to pop up and start taking shape.

The rills or gullies in the photo below can be fixed. Time, fuel and equipment can smooth and regrade them. Although if it is located in a low spot that surface runoff will always drain to, it may need more than smoothing to fix. Establishing a good stand of sod is the best protection from having a rill or gully reestablish itself.

Tips to establish a grassed waterway that will last:

- Time it right. Plant during the ideal window, which for fescue is March 1st – April 30th or August 1st – September 30th.
- We recommend planting a nurse crop too, such as rye, to establish cover as quickly as possible.
- If rills develop after grading and before seeding, regrade again before planting.
- When regrading, put topsoil back on top if possible. Then seed and fertilize to encourage good growth.
- Once grass is well established, mow periodically, no lower than 6-8". Wait until after Aug. 1 to benefit wildlife nesting.
- Don't use the waterway as a road (as convenient as it may look). When working the fields, lift equipment and turn off sprayers before going across the waterway.
- Leave space. Planting or spraying right up to the edge will eat away at your waterway over time. The waterway has been engineer designed and the width of the waterway is important for it to function properly.
- Nothing is maintenance free. Check for erosion and bare areas of soil after major rain events, and fix those areas before they get worse. Reshape and reseed those spots if needed.
- Fertilize and lime as needed based on soil samples.

If you're struggling with erosion issues in one of your crop fields and are interested in more information on how to resolve the issue, give us a call. We have trained staff with experience designing effective grassed waterways to control surface runoff and prevent gully erosion. We can provide technical assistance, the design, and there's a cost-share program that will cover 75% of the approved estimated cost, with a 25% state tax-credit available on your out-of-pocket costs. You must apply prior to beginning any construction in order to be eligible for cost-share, so if you're interested in getting rid of those gullies this spring, give us a call soon.

Culpeper & Rappahannock: 540-825-8591
Greene, Madison & Orange: 540-308-6301

Below left: Gully erosion in a crop field
Below middle: Construction of a grassed waterway
Below right: Established grass waterway

What's beautiful and ugly at the same time, uses bright colors to ward off strangers and flutters to attract others yet?

Riddle & article by: Adam Downing, District Extension Forester based in Madison

The Spotted Lanternfly….

Perhaps you've heard of it? In case you haven't, please take a few minutes to become acquainted. If you have already heard of it, these few minutes may be a useful update and reminder….

BECAUSE WE NEED YOU!

We need eyes looking for this beautiful insect but ugly pest which is new to Virginia as of 3 years ago and has greatly expanded its range this past year.

The spotted lanternfly (SLF) is a planthopper type of insect originally from China and first arrived in North American in 2014 in SE Pennsylvania. Since then it has shown up in states from Massachusetts to Indiana with the first VA infestation occurring in January 2018 in Frederick County.

The rapid spread of this insect is due both to its wide host of plants (tree of heaven, peaches, maple, hopes, walnut, grape-vines and ~ 70 other species AND its ability to hitch hike. All life stages of the insect are easily transported on anything from a pant-leg to a railroad car we need. Egg masses, in particular, may be laid on tree branches, rock, trailers, trains and lawn furniture. Eggs laid in the fall can be transported thousands of miles to hatch in the first warmth of spring and a new population will be started.

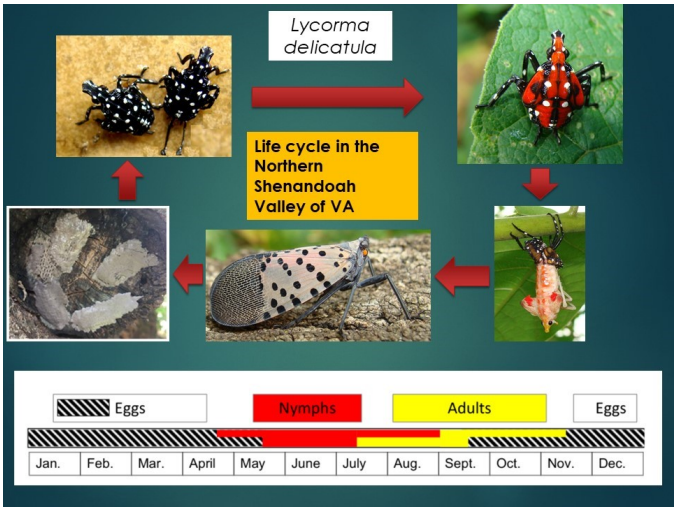
The spotted lanternfly causes serious damage including **oozing sap, wilting, leaf curling and dieback in trees, vines, crops and many other types of plants**. In addition to plant damage, when spotted lanternflies feed, they excrete a sugary substance, called honeydew, that encourages the growth of black sooty mold. In addition to damage to agricultural crops, the sheer numbers of these insects in heavy infestation areas result in nuisance issues from a coating of excrement on landscape plantings, decks and vehicles to massive numbers of adult insects covering building walls and doors.

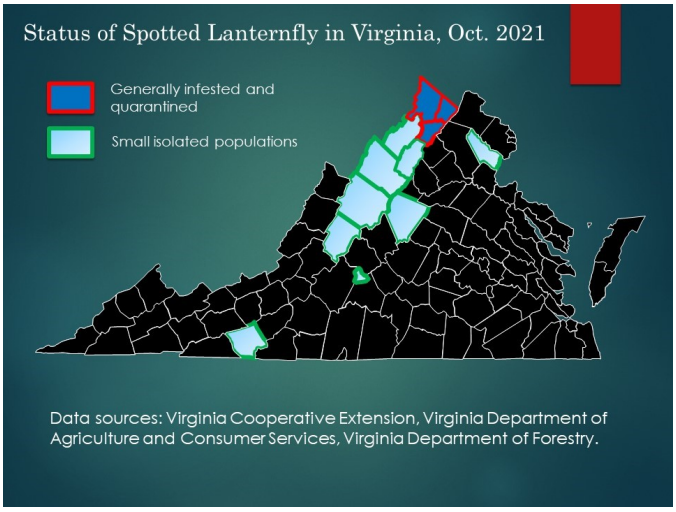
So now the good news, this insect is not easily confused with anything else so identification is easy and this where more eyes come into play. We really do need you to keep your eyes open. Watch for egg masses now and early this spring, for the 1/4" long nymphs shortly thereafter and later through the summer for the quiet, but distinctive adults. Adults look sort of like a moth but when they open their wings, the bright red reveals their true identity.

If you see something you think might be the spotted lanternfly, take a picture if you can, squash it and report it by contacting your local Virginia Cooperative Extension office or online here: Report a Spotted Lanternfly in Virginia (qualtrics.com)

For more information & color photos and videos of the pictures below:

- Web-portal: Spotted Lanternfly in Virginia | Virginia Cooperative Extension | Virginia Tech (vt.edu)
- Video: Fifteen Minutes in the Forest: Spotted Lanternfly in Virginia - YouTube





Virginia Technical Note, Agronomy #12 Establishing Native Warm Season Grasses for Forage Production and Wildlife Benefits October 2017

Reprinted with permission (VA_TN12_Agronomy_Update.pdf (usda.gov))

Traditional cool season grasses used for forage production in Virginia have little value to bobwhite quail, rabbits, and other early successional wildlife species. These same cool season grasses have poor forage production during summer months. Native warm season grasses have good forage production during summer months. To maintain the stand, producers must maintain a high residual grazing height. These grasses are naturally taller and erect, and provide better habitat for quail and other early successional wildlife species.

PRODUCTION POTENTIAL

Recent grazing trials at the University of Tennessee demonstrated the potential of native warm season grasses. Cattle averaged 2 pounds of gain per head per day for 70 days of rotational grazing during the summer months. The cattle were introduced to the pasture at a 18-24-inch height and removed from the pasture when the grass was grazed down to 12 to 15 inches. Their results were similar to the findings of other trials conducted over the last 30 years in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia.

SPECIES

The native warm season grasses with the greatest utility for forage production are Indiangrass, big bluestem, little bluestem, switchgrass, and eastern gamagrass. Indiangrass and big bluestem have similar seasonal growth patterns and can be mixed together. Switchgrass and eastern gamagrass each have different rates of establishment and different seasonal growth patterns from each other. They are best established and managed as single species stands.

CULTIVARS AND ECOTYPES

Each species has cultivars and ecotypes that are adapted to Virginia. Many of the cultivars have been developed in the southern part of the Midwest, but have been tested and proven in the Southeast. Cultivars and ecotypes from the Central Great Plains and Northern Great Plains will not survive in Virginia. Certain species and cultivars are better suited for lowland poorly drained sites versus upland well drained sites.

Indiangrass: The best adapted released cultivar is Cheyenne, a selection from Oklahoma. Suther source-identified germplasm is an ecotype from the Suther Prairie in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Seed companies in the East have developed their own ecotypes of Indiangrass.

Big Bluestem: The best adapted released cultivar is Niagara, a selection from New York. Suther source-identified germplasm is an ecotype from the Suther Prairie in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Seed companies in the East have developed their own ecotypes of big bluestem.

Little Bluestem: The best adapted released cultivar is Cimarron, a selection from Oklahoma. Suther source-identified germplasm is an ecotype from the Suther Prairie in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Seed companies in the East have developed their own ecotypes of big bluestem.

Switchgrass: The best adapted released cultivars are Carthage, a selection from North Carolina, and Shelter, a selection from West Virginia, North Carolina. Seed companies in the East have developed their own ecotypes of switchgrass.

Eastern Gamagrass: There are three cultivars of eastern gamagrass with potential in Virginia. Highlander is a cultivar from Tennessee. Verl and Iuka IV are cultivars from Oklahoma.

SITE PREPARATION

An existing stand of cool season grasses and legumes must be thoroughly killed before sowing seeds of native warm season grasses. At the very least it takes two applications of herbicides, one in the fall and one in the spring to kill the cool season species. The warm season grasses may be established without tillage with a no-till grass drill if one is available. If the seed must be sown with conventional equipment the seedbed must be tilled thoroughly and packed firmly before sowing the seed with a drill or by broadcasting it.

Republisher's note: *It is often recommended to utilize a spray-smother-spray rotation for site preparation. The site is sprayed with a non-selective herbicide. Then the site is quickly no-till drilled with a smother crop which is cut for hay or grazed. Then the field is sprayed again before planting the warm season grass.*

Site preparation without herbicides will require a couple years of tillage and sowing annual cover crops (millets in the summer and small grains in the winter) until the perennial cool season grasses and legumes do not germinate or sprout.

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Continued from page 4

ESTABLISHMENT

Indiangrass, big bluestem, and switchgrass may either be drilled shallow at ¼" depth or broadcast onto a firm seedbed. Broadcast seedings must be packed after the seed is sown. Eastern gamagrass has a large seed and is commonly sown with a corn planter at a depth of 1 to 1½".

Switchgrass and eastern gamagrass have smooth seeds and may be sown without any additives. Indiangrass, big bluestem, and little bluestem must be sown with a drill equipped with a chaffy seed box that can handle the hairy seeds OR mixed with an inert carrier such as pelletized lime and either drilled or broadcast.

Common Name	Seeds per Pound	Seeding Rate Drilled (Amount of Pure Live Seed per Acre)	Seeds per Square Foot	Seeding Rate Broad-cast (Amount of pure Live Seed per Acre)	Seeds per Square Foot
Big Bluestem	165,000	4	16	5	24
Indiangrass	175,000	4	16	5	24
Little Bluestem	260,000	2	12	3	18
Total		10	44	13	66

Switchgrass seed is sown at 6 pounds of pure live seed per acre when drilled and 9 pounds of pure live seed when broadcast. Eastern gamagrass is sown at 10 pounds of pure live seed per acre with a corn planter on a 30- to 36-inch row spacing.

Spring oats may be sown at 1 bushel per acre as a nurse crop to control erosion and provide early season grazing.

Seed must be sown before the average date of the last frost locally for optimum germination and growth: April 15 for the Piedmont and May 1 for the Mountains. Seed of eastern gamagrass will germinate best if it is pre-chilled commercially for 2 to 3 months. It may be pre-chilled naturally by sowing it between December 1 and January 31.

MANAGEMENT

The native grasses should not be grazed during the establishment year. If a nurse crop of oats is established, the oats may be grazed, but the cattle should be removed from the stand to prevent grazing the native grass. Annual broadleaf weeds may be controlled either by applying a broadleaf herbicide or by mowing over the top of the native grass plants.

Grazing the second year should begin when the plants are 18-24 inches high and the cattle should be removed when the plants are 10 to 15 inches high. A grazing height of 12 to 15 inches should be maintained over the winter.

Most native warm season grasses do not respond well to high rates of fertilizer. Fertilization of more than 60 pounds of nitrogen per acre usually does not increase yield. Fertilization should be delayed until the grass is 12 inches high.

Eastern gamagrass will respond to fertilization of up to 300 pounds of nitrogen per acre annually. With a rotational grazing scheme, apply 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre when the cattle are removed from the pasture.

Rotational grazing will suppress weeds, but will not entirely control them. In a pure grass stand, herbaceous broadleaf weeds can be controlled with herbicides designed for their control. Trees and shrubs require herbicides designed specifically for the control of woody plants.

Our Annual Tree Sale has Begun Accepting Orders! Cut out & mail the order form on page 9 with payment. Contact Stephanie DeNicola at stephanied@culpeperswcd.org for current availability.

Converting from Wildtype to Novel Tall Fescue

Conservation Innovation Grant Project Fact Sheet

CIG # 69-33A7-16-1243 Produced by Dr. John Fike, Project Director

Tall Fescue

Tall fescue is the predominant forage in the upper South, largely because it is well-adapted to the region's soils and climatic conditions, tolerates drought, is competitive and persists under a wide range of management. This is largely due to its association with a fungal endophyte (a fungus living within the plant).

Wildtype vs. Novel Endophytes

Endophytes support tall fescue growth and persistence, but the common, 'wildtype' strain found in 'KY31' tall fescue produces toxic alkaloids that harm livestock (Figure 1). Once this was realized as a problem, scientists removed the endophyte and promoted "endophyte-free" fescue - but it did not persist. The newest technology has been to create the best of both worlds. Novel, non-toxic endophytes have been discovered and combined with tall fescue to create a pasture grass with high persistence.

Deciding Whether to Renovate

Most producers recognize the signs of fescue toxicosis (e.g., rough hair coats, missing tail switches, poor weight gain and low reproduction). Pasture testing can aid decisions about pasture renovation and management (Figure 2).

How Much Renovation Is Enough?

It may be challenging financially to renovate the whole farm. However, research from Arkansas (Caldwell et al., 2013) indicates that planting 25 percent of a farm with novel fescue for use during breeding and weaning periods can improve farm profit.

Renovating Toxic Pastures

Keys to successful renovation include:

- Eliminating toxic fescue plants and seed
- Ensuring viable endophyte in novel fescue
- Having suitable establishment conditions

Endophytes in tall fescue are passed from mother plant to seedling through the seed - and fescue is a prolific seed producer. To avoid contaminating a new planting of novel fescue, it is critical to kill all the existing toxic fescue and to keep any toxic seed from growing.

The seed can survive for some time, but the endophyte will die by or before 18 months. Thus, toxic seeds should be kept out fields to be renovated for a similar period of time. This can be managed close grazing or clipping.

Time and poor storage conditions can kill the endophyte in a seed bag - just as in the field, Use novel fescue seed that has been certified by the Alliance for Grassland Renewal (Figure 3). with close grazing or clipping.

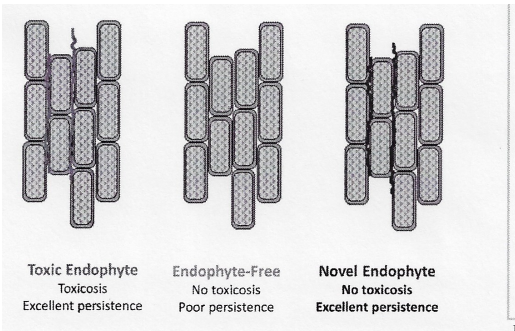


Figure 1. A common schematic of tall fescue plant cells with different endophyte status.

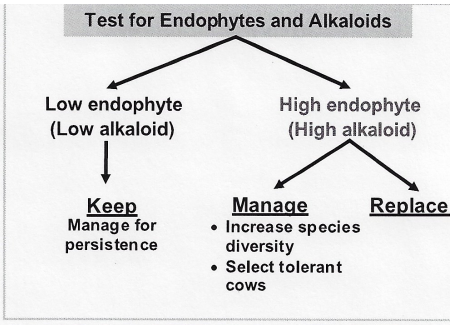


Figure 2. Decision tree for fescue management based on endophyte presence or alkaloid levels.

Continued on page 7

Figure 3. This "Alliance" insignia, found on novel fescue seed tags or bags, indicates the seed has been tested and has viable novel endophyte. The label will also have a "use by" date.

Continued from page 6

Establishing new stands presents risks, but many factors are within a grower's control.

- Fall planting is recommended
- Ensure soil pH and fertility are adequate; apply lime and nutrients according to soil test
- Have fields weed- and fescue-free at planting
- Be sure fields are not affected by carryover herbicide
- Do not plant seed too deep
- Kill broadleaf weeds in late winter if needed
- Fertilize at planting and in March
- Let grass establish before planting legumes

Renovation Schemes

Three general schemes (Figure 4) are used for fescue renovation. The schemes use at least two herbicide applications, with the latter helping ensure escapes are killed. The spray-wait-spray approach may be the most economical, but many farmers choose spray-smother-spray to help meet forage supply needs. The smother crops used in these systems should have upright growth habits to allow better herbicide penetration to the understory when they are killed out. Avoid low-growing grasses such as annual ryegrass or crabgrass that can cover (and protect) escapes.

https://vaforages.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Converting-from-Wildtype-to-Novel-Tall-Fescue.pdf

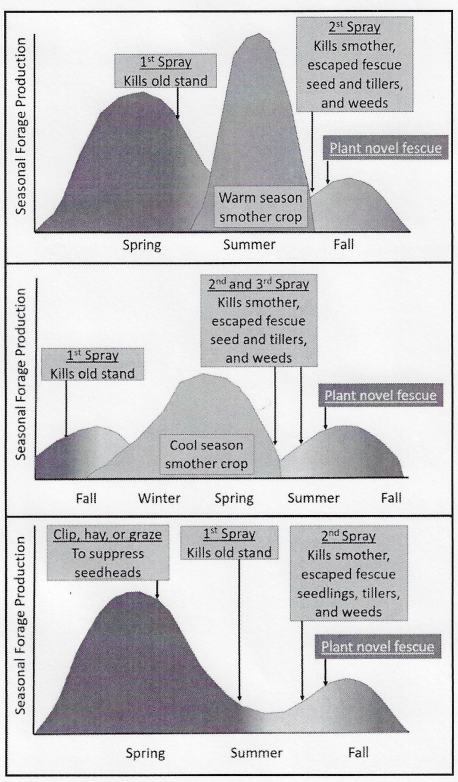


Figure 4. Spray-summer smother-spray (top), spray fall smother-spray (middle), and spray-wait-spray (bottom) schemes are used to renovate toxic fescue pastures. Note that the fall smother regime starts in fall and covers a much longer span of time.

Virginia Natural Resources Conservation

Scholarships Available!

Summer Camp Scholarships:

Do you know a young person who loves the outdoors? Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District offers scholarships to two summer camps:

Camp Woods and Wildlife will be held June 20-24, 2022, at the Holiday Lake 4-H Center.
https://dof.virginia.gov/education-and-recreation/youth-education/camp-woods-wildlife/

Youth Conservation Camp will be held July 10-16, 2022, at Virginia Tech.
https://vaswcd.org/conservation-camp

Contact Stephanie DeNicola for more information at: stephanied@culpeperswcd.org.

College Scholarships:

Each year, the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District awards up to $4,000 in educational scholarships to students who plan to pursue a career in a conservation-related field. These scholarships are available to eligible students living in the five-county area the Culpeper SWCD serves — Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock. In awarding scholarships, priority will be given to graduating high school seniors, but current undergraduate and graduate students will also be considered. Consideration will be given primarily to achievement and demonstrated interest in natural resources.

Individuals should apply who are full time students enrolled in, or who have applied to, a college undergraduate or graduate program interested in an area of student that supports soil and water conservation, natural resource management, environmental science, or a related field. 2022 Applications must be completed and submitted to CSWCD by April 15, 2022, at 5pm. Visit www.culpeperswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Scholarship-App-22.pdf for an application. Unofficial transcripts will be accepted, and applicants may include contact info for references (email preferred) in lieu of official letters.

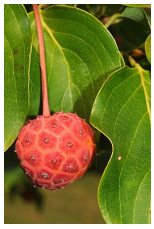
Applications may be emailed to: stephanied@culpeperswcd.org.

2021 Culpeper SWCD Tree Sale

Five of one species for $5
NEW THIS YEAR: Wildflower meadow mix
See article on page 5: culp-swcd-nletter-09.21.pdf (culpeperswcd.org)

Kousa Dogwood (*Cornaceae Cornus*)

Kousa dogwood grows 15 to 20 feet tall and has beautiful exfoliating bark, long lasting flowers, good fall color and attractive fruit. The white, pointed bracts are produced a month later than flowering dogwood and are effective for about a month, sometimes longer. The red fruits are edible and they look like a big round raspberry. Birds devour the fruit quickly. Fall color varies from dull red to maroon. It is resistant to the dogwood anthracnose disease, caused by the fungus *Discula destructive*. (Flowering dogwood is very susceptible and commonly killed by it)



Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*)

Norway Spruce is best used in a lawn area or as a wind break or screen, planted apart. Norway Spruce tolerates most soils if moist & transplants easily. The Norway spruce is a beautiful ornamental tree species. The pyramid-shape makes it as a viable choice for Christmas trees. Full sun required. It tolerates slightly alkaline, wet at times, well-drained, loam and clay soils. Norway Spruce can grow 80-100 feet tall and spread 25-40 feet. Small-diameter branches sweep horizontally from the straight trunk which can grow to four feet thick. Branchlets droop from the branches toward the ground in a graceful, weeping fashion forming a delicate pyramid. The root system is shallow and often dense, particularly close to the trunk which makes growing grass difficult.

Red maple (*Acer rubrum)*

Red maple reaches a mature size of up to 90 feet in height & 2½ feet in diameter. It grows on a variety of sites. Red maple is a popular shade & ornamental tree, with brilliant fall color. Red maple is one of the most abundant and widespread of eastern North American deciduous trees. Red maple's ability to thrive in a wide range of wet to dry conditions surpasses the tolerance capabilities of perhaps all other species. It attracts deer, elk, moose, snowshoe hare, wood ducks, pileated woodpeckers, screech owls and flickers. Red maple is widely used as an ornamental or shade tree. The foliage turns brilliant red or yellow in the fall. Sap may be used to make syrup, although yield is lower than from sugar maple.

Paw paw (*Asimina triloba*)

Pawpaw is a small tree that is best known for producing banana-like edible fruits. It found in cool moist areas, often along streams or moist road sides. It is often found in the understory. It is a small tree up to 40 feet tall, 12 inches in diameter, often found in growing in small clusters. The large fruits are eaten by a variety of animals including

SOLD OUT

Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Redbud is a very popular ornamental for its springtime production of pink flowers. Redbud is found on a variety of soils, including moist valley and slope soils and lime outcrops. It is a large shrub or small tree up to 30 feet with a short, often twisted trunk and spreading branches. Deer browse young trees and a variety of birds eat the seeds. Flowers are edible and make an excellent addition to salads. Red dye can be derived from the roots.

American Elderberry (*Sambucus Canadensis*)

Elderberry can be effectively pruned into a nice, small, single or multi-stemmed, small, flowering tree but needs regular pruning to remove suckers growing from the base of the plant. In early summer or sporadically all year long, elderberry is literally smothered with 6- to 10-inch-wide clusters of yellowish-white blooms. These are followed by a multitude of small, dark purple berries which are quite popular with birds, & can be used in pies, jellies or fermented to make a wine. Ideal for use in naturalized landscapes where it will tolerate acid or alkaline soil & even some drought, elderberry performs best in full sun on moist to wet, fertile soils.

NEW THIS YEAR: POLLINATOR MEADOW SEED MIX FOR SMALL AREAS OF YOUR YARD!

This meadow seed mix includes an already pre-mixed cover crop and will cover a 1,000 square foot area.
Limit one order per customer. The meadow mix does best in sunny areas that receive 6 hours or more of sunlight.
The mix is designed for both riparian and upland sites. Detailed instructions will accompany the seed mix at pick up.

RETURNING THIS YEAR: Live stakes to address streambank erosion and other uses
Silky dogwood (*Cornaceae cornus amomum*) and Streamco Willow (*Salix purpurea*)
These shrub cuttings come in bundles and root readily when planted in moist soils. See page 11.

Species	Price	Quantity	Species	Price	Quantity
Kousa dogwood (5 seedlings)	$5		Red maple (5 seedlings)	$5	
Norway spruce (5 seedlings)	$5		~~Paw paw (5 seedlings)~~	~~$5~~	SOLD OUT
Eastern redbud (5 seedlings) **MAX 2 packs per customer**	$5		Elderberry (5 seedlings)	$5	
Silky dogwood (25 live stakes)	$25		Streamco willow (25 live stakes)	$25	
Meadow mix **MAX 1 per customer**	$30				
TOTAL COST: (check or cash only)					

Name	
Address	
Phone number	
E-mail	

Checks payable to CSWCD. Pick up dates are Friday March 18 and Saturday March 19, 2022 at Culpeper office. Plants not picked up by 12pm on Saturday March 19, 2022 may be forfeited without a refund.
We do our best to insure quality control. However, no refunds on trees that do not grow.
Questions? Contact Stephanie DeNicola at stephanied@culpeperswcd.org or 540-825-8591
Mail order form & payment to ATTN Tree Sale, CSWCD, 351 Lakeside Drive, Culpeper, VA 22701
Species descriptions & pictures from Virginia Tech Dendrology https://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/factsheets.cfm

The District carries nonwoven geotextile (filter fabric) for sale that meets most state and federally funded project requirements, as well as many on-farm needs. Geotextile is sold by the foot, which comes in 12.5' widths. Please call the Culpeper Office at 540-825-8591 for pricing and more information!

It Pays to Implement a Nutrient Management Plan

Your farm can benefit.

Your local Soil and Water Conservation District can help you qualify for funds that decrease the cost of writing and implementing a nutrient management plan. Nutrient management can benefit your bottom line by:

- Decreasing fertilizer usage and costs.
- Improving crop quality.
- Increasing the optimum economic yield.

Money comes from the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program, which is carried out by conservation districts and administered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

How and where they work.

Developing and implementing a nutrient management plan improves water quality by decreasing the amount of nutrients from fertilizer or manure that enter local streams. Excessive levels of nitrogen deplete oxygen in surface water, impairing aquatic life.

Nutrient management practices can be implemented on any crop or pasture lands, including anywhere corn and small grains are grown. They help producers reduce unnecessary nutrient applications by basing them on realistic yield expectations and matching nutrient sources to crop requirements.

Here's the payoff.

In State Program Year 2022, the Virginia Cost-Share Program will pay:

- Up to $4 per acre for writing and revising nutrient management plans. Per acre rates are based on the type of operation, nutrients applied and the nutrient source.
- Up to $8 per acre for sidedressing certain nutrient applications. Per acre cost share rates are based on the type of operation, nutrients applied and the nutrient source. Soil nitrogen testing is reimbursed at a flat, per-sample rate.

Cover crop and no-till practices complement nutrient management and can enhance economic benefits. District staff can direct you to additional opportunities that fit your operation.

Take the next step.

Conservation begins with your local Soil and Water Conservation District, which can help you apply for many different cost-share funding programs to help you implement nutrient management best management practices. They also can identify other conservation programs for which you might qualify.

Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District
540-825-8591
www.culpeperswcd.org

DCR Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

VIRGINIA'S SWCD SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Get Help To Control Runoff In Your Yard

By Richard Jacobs, P.E., CSWCD Urban Program Specialist

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District is helping homeowners solve common runoff problems. Excess runoff can cause standing water in the yard. The resulting bare spots in your yard can lead to erosion and dirty streams. Native plants can grow anywhere to hold soil. Rain gardens soak up runoff to reduce soil loss. Rain barrels and cisterns capture runoff to reduce flooding. All these practices can add beauty to your yard. Grants are available for these and other practices.

Now is a great time to improve your yard. For more information contact the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District (540-825-8591) or Richard Jacobs at richardj@culpeperswcd.org.

Rain Garden with native plants

Three 300 gallon cisterns

Conservation Landscaping Meadow

Free Lawn Soil Tests Still Available!

Contact Stephanie DeNicola at stephanied@culpeperswcd.org for information.

RAIN BARREL SALE!

Rain barrels are available! Prices are $75 for one and $140 for two. For more information, contact Stephanie DeNicola at 540-825-8591 or send an email to: stephanied@culpeperswcd.org.

HELP US CONSERVE PAPER! WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL? SEND AN E-MAIL TO STEPHANIED@CULPEPERSWCD.ORG.

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