

# Frankly Speaking

Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 60 Years

NRCS News	2
Tree Sale Order Form	5
Fish Sale Order Form	7

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## Native Plant Alternatives

Many homeowners have been disheartened when some of their favorite landscape plants turned out to be invasive problems in parks and natural areas. Planted for beauty or wildlife habitat, they have spread out of control. Those beautiful fall colors of Bradford pear trees and burning bushes have been showing up in empty fields and neighboring woods. Pretty blue periwinkle flowers and garlic mustard now crowd out trillium and Solomon's seal on forest floors. Purple loosestrife is taking over marshes and wetlands. If all invasive plants were removed from the yard, would there be anything left that is safe to plant?

Fortunately, the answer is yes! There are many beautiful native plants that fit in the landscape to add fall color, texture and spectacular blooms. They have the added benefit of attracting and supporting native birds, bees and wildlife. Most species native to Ohio are also hardier and better adapted to our growing conditions, where moisture and temperature can range to the extremes, than are non-native species.

Instead of the non-native shrub honeysuckle, try planting shrub dogwood, ninebark, winterberry, or one of the viburnums such as arrowwood viburnum or highbush cranberry. The birds love the berries of these shrubs and planting a variety will provide food for much of the year. Instead of barberry, plant a hedge of pasture rose or bayberry.

Burning bush is brilliant in the fall, but so are the yellows of amsonia or sassafras, and the scarlet reds of red maple, blueberry or chokeberry. In place of periwinkle or wintercreeper for groundcovers, try the native creeping

phlox or wild geranium in full sun or Virginia bluebells or wood poppy in the shade; all have lovely flowers but keep in their place. Vines that cause problems in wild areas, like Japanese honeysuckle and porcelain berry, can be replaced with the native trumpet honeysuckle that hummingbirds adore, white-flowered virgin's bower, or Virginia creeper, with its fabulous red fall color and berries for the birds.

One of the worst invasives is purple loosestrife. It is lovely in bloom, but produces hundreds of thousands of seeds that are carried by stormwater runoff into lakes, creeks and rivers, where the loosestrife crowds out native plants that wildlife need for survival. Some natives that are worthy alternatives are pink turtlehead, swamp rose, swamp rose mallow, cardinal flower and great blue lobelia. All do great in damp areas and full sun or light shade.

Another problem in central Ohio is the Bradford pear. It was once thought to be infertile, but the new varieties, while sturdier than the original, are also more prolific. Young pear trees are sprouting up in every empty field and right-of-way. They may have great fall color and beautiful spring blooms, but they should no longer be planted in the landscape. Instead, use serviceberry, flowering dogwood or redbud. These are equally beautiful and floriferous, and have great wildlife value.

Today's homeowners have many choices for landscape plants, with a wide selection of native trees, shrubs and flowers now available. It's easy to create a diverse, healthy ecosystem that will provide pleasure to both you and wildlife for years to come.



## NRCS News

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for financial incentive programs that benefit the environment as well as the agricultural producer. Agricultural producers can be large or small, beginning or experienced; a producer just needs to grow an agricultural product and sell it. Producers may receive financial and technical help with structural and managerial conservation practices on agricultural land. Producers with small parcels of land are considered for funding as well as larger producers.

Ohio NRCS supports locally led conservation efforts in the delivery of conservation programs through the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District. NRCS provides an integrated approach for addressing local natural resource concerns utilizing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Applications are accepted year round. Application-ranking periods this year will be January 18 and February 15.

Please visit <http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqip2013.html> or call Mary Ann Core at (614) 486-9613, ext. 112 to find out how to apply for conservation programs offered by NRCS.

## Edible Landscaping

As the local food movement grows and strengthens in Franklin County, we have responded by selling food plants in addition to native or cultivars of native trees, shrubs and perennials.

This year we are offering pear and peach tree packets; raspberry, blackberry and blueberry packets; and shiitake mushroom kits.

### Fruit Trees

The fun of harvesting your own fruit, the taste of homemade pies and desserts and the satisfaction of giving preserves and jam to friends and family make growing fruit trees and berries rewarding in many ways.

The pear tree varieties are 'Seckel' and 'Sunrise', selected for hardiness, vigor, productiveness and disease resistance. Both are grown on semi-dwarf stock. 'Seckel' is one of the best quality dessert pears. The fruit is small with rich yellowish-brown skin when fully ripe, usually in mid-September. 'Sunrise' is a new disease-resistant pear introduced by USDA-ARS and OSU. 'Sunrise' shows impressive resistance to fire blight. The fruit is yellow, often showing a slight blush. Flavor is good and sweet for an early-season selection, ripening in mid-August. 'Sunrise' pears are perfect for making pies or eating fresh.

The peach tree varieties are 'Contender' and 'Harrow Beauty'. These are both yellow-fleshed, freestone varieties. 'Contender' is a high-quality, large and firm fruit with excellent color. The trees are hardy and very productive. The fruit should ripen in mid- to late-August. 'Harrow Beauty' is a variety developed in Canada for superior cold hardiness. This brilliantly colored peach is recommended for northern areas where low winter temperatures may

cause damage to flower buds. It will ripen slightly later than 'Contender', in early- to mid-September. Both varieties are highly rated for winter hardiness and resistance to bacterial spot.

### Berries

This year we are offering a summer-bearing red raspberry. 'Taylor' is a biennial (fruits the second year), which ripens in July, fruiting for up to three weeks. 'Taylor' is a heavy producer with large, conical, light-red fruit up to one inch long and noted for its excellent flavor. Canes should be cut back to eight to twelve inches after planting.

'Natchez' is a thornless, semi-erect blackberry. It fruits early with large, glossy-black fruit and a high sugar content—perfect for jams, jellies or just eating off the vine. With its thornless canes, good health and vigor, it would be a welcome addition to any home garden. Do not plant roots vertically or deep, as they will not be able to sucker freely in order to establish a vigorous new planting.

Raspberries and blackberries don't like wet feet. Don't plant them where water puddles after a rain. Raised beds are an alternative in areas of standing water.

The blueberry packet includes two 'Chandler' and two 'Elliott' blueberry plants in one-liter peat containers. Both varieties are highbush cultivars with a mature height of five to seven feet. 'Chandler' is one of the largest fruiting blueberries, with berry size often as large as a quarter. 'Chandler' ripens in late mid-season, with 'Elliott' fruiting into September. 'Elliott' berries are medium sized, firm and light blue in color. Both varieties have the added benefit of wonderful fall color. Blueberries require acidic soils with high organic content, so do a soil test and add appropriate amendments, if needed.

Edible Landscaping continues on page 8 with Shiitake Mushrooms

# Native Perennials

(Available in two-inch pots)

## **Butterfly weed** *Asclepias tuberosa*

The brilliant orange blooms of this milkweed are irresistible to native bees, butterflies and wasps. It can grow to two feet and is a favorite food source of the monarch butterfly. Grows best in dry soils, in full to part sun. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds, is deer resistant and suitable for rain gardens.

## **Cardinal flower** *Lobelia cardinalis*

Striking red flowers along tall spikes appear in August and September. Grows two to five feet tall. Prefers moist to wet soils in sun or partial shade. Suitable for rain gardens, attracts butterflies and is excellent for attracting hummingbirds.

## **Columbine** *Aquilegia canadensis*

The two-tone blossoms of red and yellow appear in late spring. The delicate-looking columbine is quite tough and grows to two to three feet. Prefers part shade and well-drained soil. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds, is deer resistant and suitable for rain gardens.

## **Compass plant** *Silphium laciniatum*

This deeply rooted and long-lived plant takes a little more time to mature than other prairie plants—up to four years. Once mature, it will produce numerous yellow daisies along a five- to ten-foot-tall stalk. The deeply divided leaves will often orient themselves to the sun. Prefers well-drained soils in full sun. Attracts birds and butterflies and is suitable for rain gardens.

## **Cup plant** *Silphium perfoliatum*

This stunning plant reaches five to eight feet tall and produces showy yellow flowers in July and August. The large opposite leaves join at the stem to form a cup that catches rain. The large seeds are attractive to birds. Likes full sun to part shade and moist soil. Attracts birds, butterflies and hummingbirds.

## **Downy sunflower** *Helianthus mollis*

Beautiful three-inch blossoms shine over downy gray green foliage. Grows two to four feet tall. Seeds attract



songbirds, especially goldfinches. Prefers loose, well-drained soil in full sun. Attracts butterflies and birds.

## **Great blue lobelia** *Lobelia silphitica*

This adaptable flower will grow in sun or shade in moist, heavy soils. Spikes of blue flowers appear in late summer on two- to three-foot plants. It readily self-seeds and quickly fills in bare spots. Attracts butterflies and is suitable for rain gardens.

## **Pink turtlehead** *Chelone oblique*

Pink flowers resembling a turtle's head bloom in late September. It grows two to four feet tall and can be aggressive. Loves moisture, but can grow in full sun to full shade. Attracts butterflies and is suitable for rain gardens.

## **Royal catchfly** *Silene regia*

The brilliant red flowers of this rare beauty bloom over a period of weeks in July and August. The spectacular flowers, on plants two to four feet tall, must be seen in person to be fully appreciated. Prefers rich, well-drained soil in full sun. Attracts hummingbirds.

## **Showy black-eyed Susan** *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *speciosa*

The showy golden flowers appear in late summer and cover the 18- to 30-inch plants. It is very easy to grow,

takes little maintenance and tolerates drought once established. Requires moist soil and full sun. Attracts birds and butterflies, is deer resistant and is suitable for rain gardens.

## **Sky-blue aster** *Aster azureus*

Long blooming and low growing, it produces attractive blue flowers on two-foot plants in the fall. It provides late-season pollen and nectar for pollinators. Requires full sun. Attracts butterflies and is suitable for rain gardens.

## **Sneezeweed** *Helenium autumnale*

No, it doesn't make you sneeze; it does bloom during the fall, though. This beauty sports large clusters of bright yellow flowers in September. Prefers full sun and moist-to-wet soil. Grows to three to five feet tall. Attracts butterflies, is suitable for rain gardens, and is deer resistant.

## **Swamp rose mallow** *Hibiscus palustris*

This beautiful wetland plant is adapted to moist garden soils. The large five-inch flowers bloom in shades of white and pink on four- to six-foot-tall plants in mid- to late-summer. Requires full sun. Attracts hummingbirds and is suitable for rain gardens.



## Tree Packets

This year, landowners can choose from six themed tree packets. Each packet contains two seedlings each of five different species, for a total of ten plants.

The **Ash Replacement Packet** includes a selection of large trees that have medium to fast growth (for trees). Species were selected to replace ash trees removed due to emerald ash borer damage. They include two each of tulip tree, river birch, red oak, thornless honeylocust and red maple.

The **Homeowner Packet** includes a selection of native plants that would benefit any homeowner's landscape. It includes two each of chinkapin oak, flowering dogwood, eastern redbud, white spruce and highbush cranberry.

The **Honeysuckle Replacement Packet** is for those landowners who have removed bush honeysuckle and are looking for replacements. It includes two each of arrowwood viburnum, black chokeberry, silky dogwood, ninebark and pasture rose.

The **Pond Habitat Packet** is for planting along ponds and streambanks to provide erosion protection, bank stabilization and wildlife habitat. It includes two each of red osier dogwood, buttonbush, ninebark, pussy willow and sycamore.

The **Scarlet and Gray Packet** is for die-hard Buckeyes fans. It also provides food and shelter for wildlife. Species include two each of Ohio buckeye, red chokeberry, gray dogwood, red maple and gray birch.

The **Songbird Packet** provides food and shelter for songbirds. It includes two each of northern bayberry, red cedar, black chokeberry, nannyberry and downy serviceberry.

## And more . . .

**Dormant Live Stakes** are used to provide streambank stabilization for streams with steep or eroding banks. Live staking involves the insertion and tamping into the ground of dormant, rootable, vegetative cuttings. They will form a living root mat that reinforces and binds soil particles. Two-foot stakes of elderberry and peach leaf willow are available as bundles of five.

The **Native Ohio Prairie Wildflower Seed Mix** contains butterflyweed, smooth aster, partridge pea, purple

coneflower, rattlesnake master, dense blazingstar, bergamot, foxglove beardtongue, gray-headed coneflower, black-eyed Susan, royal catchfly, prairie dock, showy goldenrod, Ohio spiderwort, ox-eye and baptisia. The seed mix also contains big bluestem, little bluestem, side-oats grama, Indian grass and nodding wild rye grasses.

**The Pollinator Wildflower Seed Mix** contains these native Ohio perennials: eastern columbine, dense blazing star, purple coneflower, Ridell's goldenrod, royal catchfly, bergamot, foxglove beardtongue, lance leaf coreopsis, ox-eye and butterflyweed. These annuals are also included: black-eyed Susan, cosmos, scarlet sage and plains coreopsis.

### Instructions for Tree Sale Ordering

1. Fill out the order form on pages 5 and 6 and return with check to Franklin Soil and Water, 1328 Dublin Rd., Suite 101, Columbus, OH 43215
2. Or, place your order online at [www.franklinswcd.org](http://www.franklinswcd.org).
3. Last day to order from the tree sale is Sunday, March 31 at midnight.
4. **Pick up your order at our office on Friday, April 19 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. or Saturday, April 20 from 8 a.m. to noon.**
5. Arrange for someone to pick up your tree-sale items for you if you are unavailable. **Items from the tree sale that are not picked up during pick-up hours will be donated to local nonprofits at noon on April 26.**
6. It is important to plant bare root seedlings immediately. Do not leave them in your car or hot garage. Please read about proper tree planting on our Web site, [www.franklinswcd.org](http://www.franklinswcd.org).
7. Conservation-grade, bare root seedlings are generally small, so a large-capacity vehicle is not necessary.
8. **There are no refunds.**
9. Order early as there may be limited quantities of some plants. Your payment will be refunded if a plant is unavailable.
10. Orders received by February 15 will be entered into a drawing for a rain barrel!
11. Additional information and photos of trees, shrubs and perennials are available on our Web site, [www.franklinswcd.org](http://www.franklinswcd.org).
12. The species we sell (except for edible landscaping) are Ohio natives or cultivars, but may not be native to Franklin County.

SPECIES	SIZE	PRICE PER BUNDLE (P/B)	QUANTITY (Q) (# of bundles)	Cost (P/B x Q)
<b>EVERGREEN TREES</b>				
White pine	7-10" bare root	25 trees for \$15		
White cedar	8-15" bare root	10 trees for \$9		
<b>BROADLEAF TREES</b>				
American beech	12-18" bare root	5 trees for \$8		
Musclewood	12-18" bare root	5 trees for \$8		
Northern pecan	12-18" bare root	5 trees for \$8		
Persimmon	12-18" bare root	5 trees for \$8		
Eastern redbud	12-18" bare root	5 trees for \$8		
<b>SHRUBS</b>				
Spicebush	12-18" bare root	5 shrubs for \$8		
Winterberry	12-18" bare root	5 shrubs for \$8		
Witchhazel	12-18" bare root	5 shrubs for \$8		
<b>TREE PACKETS - 10 trees, 2 of each species listed</b>				
Ash Replacement Packet	12-18" bare root	10 trees for \$22		
tulip tree, river birch, red oak, thornless honeylocust, red maple				
Honeysuckle Replacement Packet	12-18" bare root	10 trees for \$22		
arrowwood, black chokeberry, ninebark, silky dogwood, pasture rose				
Homeowner Packet	12-18" bare root	10 trees for \$22		
highbush cranberry, flowering dogwood, chinkapin oak, eastern redbud, white spruce				
Pond Habitat Packet	12-18" bare root	10 trees for \$22		
button bush, red osier dogwood, ninebark, sycamore, pussy willow				
Scarlet & Gray Packet	12-18" bare root	10 trees for \$22		
gray birch, red chokeberry, Ohio buckeye, gray dogwood, red maple,				
Songbird Packet	12-18" bare root	10 trees for \$22		
bayberry, downy serviceberry, black chokeberry, nannyberry, red cedar				
<b>CONTAINER PLANTS</b>				
Flowering dogwood	3 gallon container	1 tree for \$16		
Oakleaf hydrangea 'Snow Queen'	3 gallon container	1 shrub for \$16		
Climbing prairie rose	3 gallon container	1 shrub for \$16		
Pawpaw	1 gallon container	1 tree for \$10		
American filbert (hazelnut)	2 gallon container	1 tree for \$10		
<b>FRUITS</b>				
'Taylor' red raspberry	3/6" collar bare root	5 brambles for \$15		
'Natchez' thornless blackberry	1 year old bare root	5 brambles for \$20		
Blueberry Packet	1 liter peat pot	4 shrubs for \$26		
'Chandler' and 'Elliott', two of each variety				
Peach Packet	4-5' bare root	2 trees for \$30		
'Contender' and 'Harrow Beauty', one of each variety				
Pear Packet	4-5' bare root	2 trees for \$30		
'Sunrise' and 'Seckel', one of each variety				

SPECIES	SIZE	PRICE PER BUNDLE (P/B)	QUANTITY (Q) (# of bundles)	Cost (P/B x Q)
<b>PERENNIALS</b>				
Blue star amsonia 'Blue Ice'	1 gallon container	1 plant for \$10		
Creeping phlox 'Sherwood Purple'	1 gallon container	1 plant for \$10		
Virginia bluebells	1.5 gallon container	1 plant for \$10		
Wood poppy	1.5 gallon container	1 plant for \$10		
Butterfly weed	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Cardinal flower	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Columbine	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Compass plant	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Cup plant	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Downy sunflower	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Great blue lobelia	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Pink turtlehead	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Royal catchfly	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Showy black-eyed Susan	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Sky blue aster	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Sneezeweed	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
Swamp rose mallow	2" pot	1 plant for \$3		
<b>LIVE STAKES</b>				
Elderberry	2' cutting	5 stakes for \$10		
Peach leaf willow	2' cutting	5 stakes for \$10		
<b>WILDFLOWER SEED PACKETS</b>				
Native Ohio Prairie Wildflower Mix	1/4 ounce	1 seed packet for \$7		
Pollinator Wildflower Mix	1/4 ounce	1 seed packet for \$7		
<b>EXTRAS</b>				
Shiitake Mushroom Kit		1 kit for \$25		
Ceramic 'toad abode'		1 for \$18		
Tree ID tags	1" by 3.5"	5 tags for \$1		
<b>My tax-deductible contribution to the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation Fund</b>				
<b>My tree sale total cost</b>				<b>\$</b>

My name \_\_\_\_\_

My organization's name \_\_\_\_\_

Complete address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

# Pond Stocking

Largemouth bass, channel catfish and bluegill are recommended species for stocking Ohio ponds. Forage species, such as minnow or bluegill, should be stocked as a food source for largemouth bass. Stocking rates will vary according to pond size.

Guidelines for a one-acre pond are 100 largemouth bass, 500 bluegill, 100 channel catfish, and 5 to 10 white amur (depending on the quantity and species of pond weeds).

Yellow perch are commonly thought of as competitors of bluegill. They do eat the same food, but cohabit well when they are stocked with a 1:1:1 ratio of bass, bluegill and perch. Yellow perch will spawn in early April, while bluegill will spawn in late May. Yellow perch prefer overhanging brush or vegetation in about four feet of water for their eggs.

White amur (grass carp) are members of the minnow family, can attain weights in excess of 50 pounds and live up to 15 years. These fish are quite useful for vegetation control.

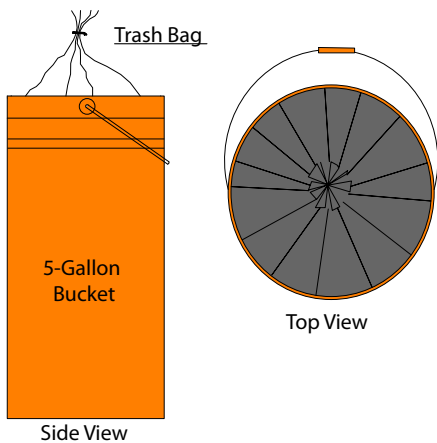
Leafy, rooted aquatic plants, such as pondweed and coontail, are white amur's preferred food, but they may not be effective for controlling milfoil, water meal, filamentous algae or pond lilies. The white amur sold by Franklin Soil and Water are sterile triploid and cannot reproduce. It is important that you do not overstock these fish, as some aquatic weeds in your pond are desirable for oxygen production and fish habitat.

## Instructions for Fish Sale Ordering

1. Fill out the order form and return with check to Franklin Soil and Water, 1328 Dublin Rd., Suite 101, Columbus, OH 43215.
2. Or place your order online at [www.franklinswcd.org](http://www.franklinswcd.org).
3. Last day to order fish is Friday, March 22 at 4:30 p.m.
4. **Pick-up your order at our office on Thursday, March 28 from noon to 1:00 p.m.**
5. Bring water from your pond in a plastic bag with a twist-tie, inside a five-gallon bucket (see graphic below). The fish are fingerlings and quite small, except for the white amur. Two white amur will fit in a five-gallon bucket.
6. **Deliver fish to your pond immediately.**
7. Fish are guaranteed to be in good condition, but there is no guaranteed survival.
8. There are no refunds. Please have someone pick up the fish for you if you are unavailable.

Please note change in size & price!

Species	Size (inches)	Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Bluegill	2-4	\$0.75 each		
Channel catfish	4-5	\$0.75 each		
Largemouth bass	2-4	\$0.80 each		
<b>Yellow perch</b>	<b>4-5"</b>	<b>\$1.75 each</b>		
Minnow	1-2	\$0.10 each		
White amur	8-14	\$13.00 each		
<i>Farm Pond Management Guide</i>		\$20.00 each		
<b>My fish sale total cost</b>				<b>\$</b>



My name \_\_\_\_\_

My organization's name \_\_\_\_\_

Complete address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_



(continued from Edible Landscaping on page 2)

## Shiitake Mushrooms

Shiitake mushrooms are a favorite of many. The grow-your-own kit includes enough spawn plugs for ten 40-inch logs, bee's wax, a wax dauber and labelling tags. Our supplier suggests using freshly cut oak logs that are two to four inches in diameter and forty inches long. The kit also includes a fact sheet with directions to start and maintain your mushroom-growing logs.

Growing mushrooms requires patience; the plugs take ten to fourteen months to bear mushrooms. The logs last up to four years after plugging. Mushrooms have a three-part growing process: inoculation or plugging the logs, laying, or the time it takes for the log to be colonized by the mushroom spawn, and fruiting. A shady area is the perfect place for growing mushrooms, which will produce during the spring, cool periods of the summer and fall.

The board and staff of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District offer our thanks to all of the landowners, land managers and nonprofit organizations who buy and plant native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses to improve our soil and water resources and wildlife habitat. Your suggestions about future tree sales are important to us, so please share.

Help us spread the word about the benefits of native plants by telling your neighbors, friends, relatives and co-workers about the annual tree and fish sale.



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