

Frankly Speaking

Shop Our 2024 Tree and Plant Sale!

www.franklinswcd.org/tree-and-plant-sale

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Place your order now and pick it up in April when it's the perfect time to plant! Pick-up will take place at our office at 1404 Goodale Blvd Suite 100 in Grandview on April 12 and 13. Our trees are small (usually 1-2') and easily transportable in any vehicle with bags or small boxes.

Native Perennial Kits are also available to be shipped to your address. Additional details, plant highlights and order information for the sale can be found on pages 7 -11. We will NOT be accepting paper order forms this year. You can place orders on our website using a credit card or call us at 614-486-9613 to request an invoice to pay with a check.



plant
NATIVE
plants

2024 TREE SALE DATES!

Online Ordering Begins: January 6
Order by: March 24
Pick Up: April 12 & 13

Order online at

www.franklinswcd.org/tree-and-plant-sale

Or call us at **614-486-9613** for an invoice. We are not offering paper order forms this year!



The USDA Plant Hardiness Zones of Ohio show a warming trend between 2012 (left) and 2023 (right) with the cooler Zone 5b disappearing and warmer zone 7a arriving in the state.

Planting For the Future

It is no secret that trees provide numerous benefits to the environment, people, and wildlife alike. Some say that trees could be our best defense against rising temperatures caused by climate change. Trees not only provide shade on a hot and sunny day, but they also sequester carbon; absorb stormwater to prevent flooding; reduce air, water, soil, and noise pollution; stabilize streambanks; and provide necessary food and habitat for local wildlife including pollinators. We have always focused on the importance of planting native plants (i.e., plants that are indigenous to Ohio prior to European settlement and are well adapted to this region), but climate change is forcing us to take a step back and reevaluate this messaging. Will native tree species survive blistering summer temperatures, increasing extreme precipitation events, and longer periods of drought?

Planting for the Future *continued*

Climate change is predicted to shift our ecoregions, which are areas that share similar habitat types and species. This is prompting conservationists to attempt to reimagine which flora and fauna may dominate their current environments in the future. According to Analog Atlas, 2 degrees Celsius of warming could make summertime in Columbus feel more like southern Illinois, while 4 degrees Celsius of warming could make Columbus feel more like northern Arkansas. And according to the USDA Forest Service, increased temperatures may change Franklin County's USDA plant-hardiness designation from a 6 to a 7 and possibly even 8. As we plant trees in areas where we hope they will be perserved in perpetuity, it's important to think about how these long-lived organisms will be able to fare in warmer, wetter conditions decades in the future.



Virginia Pine, Pinus virginicus, on the left, has been planted in at least one Summit County, Ohio Metro Park in an act of assisted migration. Ohio's most common native Pine, White Pine, Pinus strobus, is projected to lose suitable habitat in Ohio as our climate gets warmer and wetter while Virginia Pine, a southern species, is predicted to gain habitat.

Surely, these changes warrant the need to be adaptable when thinking about the future of trees and conservation in Franklin County. Another aspect to think about when deciding tree species to plant is their overall benefits to wildlife and pollinators. Ohio pollinators have been in serious decline due to habitat loss, so increasing the availability and diversity of our tree canopy will give them much-needed support. Oak trees provide a food source for wildlife. Pine trees create nesting places for bird species. Dogwoods provide food for early pollinators. All our native plant species provide an ecological service to some kind of insect, bird, or mammal, making it especially important for us to prioritize planting native species over non-natives.

Given the uncertainty of climate change and the additional need to support wildlife and pollinators, it can be hard to decide on which tree species are appropriate to plant. As new research and models for species are released, we can make good guesses using tools like the U.S. Forest Service's Climate Change Tree Atlas. But it's also important to note that models can't predict everything, such as the introduction of pests. They also may struggle to factor in information like microclimates or soil suitability. Because of these shortcomings, planting a wide diversity of native plants will remain crucial. It is also imperative that we preserve as much land as possible, so that if trees must migrate in response to climate, they have suitable land to migrate to. Helping our forests adapt to climate change also gives wildlife a better chance at surviving and adapting, since the two are so closely linked.

Most Oak species in the Red Oak group, such as this Red Oak, Quercus rubra, are projected by climate models to be able to successfully shift their populations northward. However, their ability to travel depends on many factors, such as there being enough habitat for them to move into, the success of their seed dispersers, and lack of pest and disease pressure that are difficult to predict.



Native Plants for Wildlife

One aspect to consider when deciding on a tree species to plant is its overall benefits to local wildlife such as birds, insects, and mammals. Last year, Franklin Soil and Water catered our annual Tree and Plant Sale offerings to people, providing edible native plants and shrubs. This year, we're focusing on providing options that benefit our local wildlife and pollinators.



Many songbirds, like this Golden-crowned Kinglet, rely on the multitude of insects that specialize on pines from caterpillars to aphids and scale bugs.

Many native animals and insects rely on plants native to their region for food and habitat, and the loss of habitat that comes along with increased development can threaten their ability to find food and shelter. Native plants and native wildlife are inextricably linked.

Many of the native trees, plants, and shrubs we offer are also keystone species within our ecoregion, the Eastern Temperate Forests. Dr. Doug Tallamy and his research team have put together [a list of the top keystone plant genera within the Eastern Temperate Forest ecoregion](#), where they outline the number of caterpillar and pollen specialist bee species that rely on specific native plant genera. You'll find many of the trees and plants that we're offering this year on the list, such as Hickory (Genus *Carya*), Pines (*Pinus*), Oaks (*Quercus*), and Willow (*Salix*).

Oaks, Hickories, and other nut bearing trees provide a food source for a wide variety of wildlife, as well as spaces for nesting and shelter.

Pine trees create habitat for numerous species of wildlife, and some types of wildlife have been known to eat the seed.

Dogwoods provide food for early pollinators, and cardinals, titmice, and bluebirds all dine on their fruit!

Pussywillow blooms early in the spring, providing an early source of food for pollinators.

Shrubs such as **Elderberry and Buttonbush** provide food and seeds for a large variety of birds.

All our native species provide an ecological service to some kind of insect, bird, or mammal, making it especially important for us to prioritize planting native species over non-native plants.



A Yellow-rumped Warbler hunts for flies that are attracted to the stinky flowers of Pawpaw trees.

Apply for 2024 Mini-Grant Funds Beginning February 1!

Summary

Franklin Soil and Water's annual Conservation Mini-Grant program continues in its ninth year by offering up to \$2000 to non-profit organizations that demonstrate the need and ability to carry out on-the-ground conservation projects. All local conservation projects within Franklin County, Ohio will be considered and encouraged. Franklin Soil and Water's preferred projects are those directly benefitting underserved communities.

Examples of appropriate areas include [City of Columbus Celebrate One neighborhoods](#), [Opportunity Zones](#), and [areas that feature less than 20% tree canopy cover as determined by Columbus Recreation and Parks](#). Information about these programs and maps are located online.

We will be holding a free, virtual Q&A session for interested parties this February. First-time applicants are especially encouraged to visit with us. Contact our office at 614-486-9613 to sign up or register on our website.

Franklin Soil and Water's Conservation Fund is a pool of fees and proceeds originating from donations and events including the Annual Meeting and Tree Sale. This fund supports our Mini-Grant program and allows the District to support partner programming and projects throughout the year. Nearly 35 organizations have been awarded full or partial funding in the last 9 years.

Who Can Apply?

Franklin County, Ohio non-profit organizations such as schools, watershed groups, municipalities, community groups (including governing bodies and associations such as HOAs and condo associations) and civic associations may apply.

Ranking & Criteria

Environmental Impact - Environmental improvement and ecological benefit.

Connection to SWCD Mission - Demonstrates clear promotion of responsible land use decisions for the conservation, protection, and improvement of soil and water resources.

Visibility - Potential number of people reached/impacted by the project.

Cost Efficiency - The impact of the project relative to the funds requested.

Underserved Communities- Qualifying projects in historically underserved area will be given preference.

For additional details, application dates, or project examples, visit:

www.franklinswcd.org/conservation-mini-grants

Congratulations 2023 Mini-Grant Awardees!

- Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) Tree Nursery and Tree Ambassador Program
- Netcare Tree Planting



FLOW used a mini-grant to upgrade their tree nursery and expand their Tree Ambassador Program!

Franklin SWCD News

- Leigh Anne Ward was elected, and Kim Landsbergen was re-elected to our Board of Supervisors.
- We will have internships posted in January.
- Board and staff are working together to put together the District's Strategic Plan for 2024-2026.

New Franklin County Urban Agriculture Critical Infrastructure Grant Offers Community Gardens funds to scale up production and distribution

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District is excited to announce an Urban Agriculture Critical Infrastructure Grant in partnership with Franklin County Economic Development and Planning. This grant makes \$150,000 of federal ARPA funding available to local growers. Each individual organization may apply for up to \$15,000 of grant funding.

This grant seeks to strengthen the local food supply chain and support local farmers and is available to both for-profit and non-profit farms, including community gardens and other types of growing operations. Growing operations five (5) acres and below are eligible to apply, with additional consideration given to operations under 1 acre. Eligible uses of this grant include infrastructure that helps local farms and community gardens scale up their production and distribution, with examples including but not limited to high tunnels, water service, cold/dry storage, and market stands.

This grant will open on December 15th, 2023, and will close February 1st, 2023. Grant applications will be evaluated by FSWCD, Franklin County, City of Columbus, and other key community partners. Awarded grantees will be provided with technical assistance to ensure the funding is effectively utilized.

Community Backyards Now Offers Business Rebates!

In 2023 we expanded our Community Backyards rebate program to include businesses in the City of Columbus. Businesses, non-profits and other non-residential landowners within city limits can now receive a reimbursement up to \$2500 on native plants and green infrastructure. Start planning now and apply for your rebate this March!

Protect the Edge

Whether it's grasses, native wildflowers, or trees, buffers of vegetation will help shield streams, ponds, and lakes from receiving excess nutrients. Buffer strips absorb some surface runoff and act as a natural filter of fertilizers, chemicals, and sediment before they enter into the waterway. Waterway buffers can also help prevent erosion and provide habitat for wildlife. While a buffer of native plants is best, even just reducing mowing several feet from the edges of waterways can provide water quality benefits! Learn more by visiting:

BetheChange
for clean water .org

2024 Annual Spring Tree & Plant Sale

For detailed plant descriptions, pricing and to order online visit:
www.franklinswcd.org/tree-and-plant-sale

Introducing our 2024 plant selections!

This year we are offering bare root trees and shrubs, as well as live stakes.

We will once again be offering Native Perennial Kits that will ship direct to you in early June (see page 10 for details).



The next four pages contain bare root plants!

Bare root trees and shrubs are around **1-3 years old and only 12-24" tall**, and are a more cost-effective option than container trees. They will likely still be dormant (leafless) when you pick them up, but rest assured their root systems are alive and leaves will emerge once warmer temperatures arrive. Most of our bare root plants are sold in bundles of 5 or 10. Several plants may require a male and female plant to produce fruit. While we can't guarantee you'll receive both sexes, odds are you will wind up with both. Prices vary, but are generally \$1-\$3 for each bare root tree or shrub.

Evergreens



White Pine

Pinus strobus

A rapid-growing, long-lived native evergreen tree that commonly reaches 50-80' tall. Given time can make great

windcreens. Needles can be used to make tea.



White Cedar

Thuja occidentalis

A narrow, pyramidal conifer with scale-like leaves growing 30-50 feet tall. Prefers full sun and wetter soils.



Eastern Hemlock

Tsuga canadensis

Generally grows slowly to 70' tall in part shade and sheltered conditions like ravines or leeward sides of structures. Repeated shearing will give the tree a fuller look as a specimen tree. This tree is threatened by an invasive pest called Woolly Adelgid, so it's important to regular monitor Eastern Hemlock when planted.

Small Trees



Pawpaw

Asimina triloba

Pawpaw is a native, large multi-stemmed shrub or small tree that slowly forms thickets or small colonies, providing good cover for a variety of wildlife and reaching 15-30' tall. Dark purple flowers give way to tropical fruits that ripen in fall.



Chokecherry

Prunus virginiana

An incredibly adaptable tree that grows up to 30' tall. Produces dense clusters of white flowers in spring followed by red fruits that mature black. Birds will feast on the fruits for weeks in fall. Very shade tolerant.



Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida

A 20-40' tall tree with long-lasting 3" wide white blooms in spring that turn into blue berries that are loved by birds. Fall color is a deep red. Prefers part shade or shade and isn't picky about soil moisture.



Washington

Crataegus phaenopyrum

Noted for its attractive flowers and foliage, bright red fruits long straight thorns, and fall color. It is a small, low-branching, deciduous tree that typically grows 25 to 30 feet tall with a rounded crown. Prefers full sun and isn't picky about soil conditions.



Musclewood

Carpinus caroliniana

An understory tree up to 40' in low areas, Musclewood, or Blue Beech can also tolerate sunnier drier sites like forest edges. The flowers and seeds attract a wide variety of wildlife. The hard wood is great for crafting smaller objects, and the smooth, rippling bark and textured leaves add interest to the landscape.

Large Native Trees



Chinkapin Oak

Quercus muehlenbergii

A relatively fast-growing and wide-ranging Oak that grows anywhere from 45-100' tall. Prefers dry, alkaline soils and full sun to part shade. Dark, shiny green leaves in summer and beautiful fall color make this a great choice for an Oak tree!



Sweet Birch

Betula lenta

Up to 75' tall, Sweet Birch brings brilliant yellow fall color and an interesting bark pattern to the landscape. It also produces a wintergreen fragrance! Sweet Birch prefers shade or part shade and isn't picky about its moisture levels.



Bitternut Hickory

Carya cordiformis

An adaptable Hickory that grows up to 70 feet tall. Prefers moist soil, but can tolerate drought as well as most any light condition. Prolific nuts provide food for many types of wildlife.



Black Gum

Nyssa sylvatica

30-60' tall and variable in shape, this tree is also commonly called Black Tupelo. Prefers acidic soil and sun or part shade.

Live Stakes



Buttonbush

Cephalanthus occidentalis

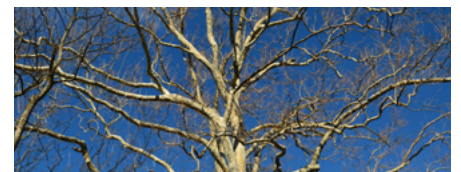
Unique globe-shaped flowers attract butterflies to this shrub which likes moister areas and even standing water. Various birds love to eat the seeds.



Pussy Willow

Salix discolor

Pussy Willow thrives in moist soils growing 6-12' tall. The Willow Genus supports many caterpillar species, so consider this plant a natural bird feeder!



American Sycamore

Platanus occidentalis

A classic lowland tree that grows quickly in full sun and moist to average soils. Sycamores can live to be up to 500-600 years old!

Shrubs



Meadowsweet

Spirea alba

A mounding 3-6' shrub that prefers wet soils and nearly any light exposure.

A great native replacement for common garden plant Japanese Spirea, which has invasive tendencies.



False Indigo

Amorpha fruticosa

A 6-12' loose, airy, thickening shrub topped with dark purple flowers with orange stamens. This shrub prefers moist soil and can even grow in several inches of water in sun or part shade.



Staghorn Sumac

Rhus typhina

A thickening shrub 15-25' tall that forms a nice hedge. Birds love the berries that can also be used to make a

lemonade-type drink.



Northern Bayberry

Morella pensylvanica

A 3-12' spreading shrub with inconspicuous flowers that prefers part shade. The berries feed Eastern Bluebirds and Yellow-rumped Warblers in winter.



Red Chokeberry

Aronia arbutifolia

a 6-12 foot shrub with 4 season interest. Prefers full sun and moist soils.



Blackhaw Viburnum

Viburnum prunifolium

This 12-15' shrub thrives on at least a half day of sun. Loves forest edges.



Black Elderberry

Sambucus canadensis

A greatly versatile shrub that grows 5-12' tall. Adaptable in locations that receive sun or part shade. Prefers moist, humusy soil but will tolerate medium soil.

Native Perennial Kits

Promote stronger and more resilient native habitats in your own backyard! Each kit contains 50 Midwestern native plants of ten species for various habitats for \$160. Each plant species is labeled with common name, botanical name, bloom color, bloom time, height, and other growing information. Each kit is suitable for covering about 100 square feet (if the center of the plant is 18" from the center of the next plant).

In order to provide a more accurate list of species in each kit, our supplier will not have species listing until early 2024. Please check our website for the species listing of each kit when it is available, and thank you for your understanding!

Prairie Wildflower Kit
Prairie Grass Kit
Shade Kit
Rain Garden Kit



Mushroom Kit

We will once again have shiitake mushroom kits! Don't worry if you are new to growing mushrooms. Included in the kit are easy to follow instructions, inoculated wooden plugs, wax, and dauber. All you need are seasoned hardwood logs, and a curiosity and willingness to learn about mushroom cultivation!

Seed Packet

Pollinator Wildflower Mix (1/8 oz packet covers 100 sq. ft.)



NATIVE OHIO PERENNIALS: Eastern Columbine, Dense Blazingstar, Purple Coneflower, Hairy Mountain Mint, Royal Catchfly, Bergamot, Foxglove Beardtongue, Red Milkweed, Tall Larkspur, Hoary Mountain Mint, Spotted Beebalm, Blue Mistflower, Side Oats Grama.

NATIVE AMERICAN ANNUALS: Black-eyed Susan, Cosmos, Scarlet Sage, Plains Coreopsis.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS: Plant in early spring in full sun and in well-drained soil. Lightly cover seeds and keep moist until plants are established. Packet should plant 100 sq. ft.



Important Information about Franklin Soil and Water's Spring Tree and Plant Sale



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- Last day to order is **March 24!** But we recommend placing orders early as there may be limited quantities of some plants.
- **There are no refunds** unless a plant you ordered and paid for is unavailable at time of pickup.
- Conservation-grade, bare root seedlings are generally small, so a large-capacity vehicle is not necessary for pick-up.
- It is important to plant bare root seedlings immediately. Do not leave them in your car or hot garage. You can read about proper tree planting here: www.franklinswcd.org/plant-your-trees-right
- The species we sell (except for edible landscaping) are Ohio natives or cultivars, but may not be native to Franklin County.

- If you are ordering Native Plant Kits (see page 10), they will ship directly to the mailing address you provide in early June. These will not be available for pick-up in April.

SAVE THIS INFORMATION FOR DETAILS ON PICK-UP!

Instructions for Tree Sale Ordering & Pickup

1. Place your order online and pay with a credit card at www.franklinswcd.org/tree-and-plant-sale -OR-
2. Call our office at 614-486-9613 if you are paying via check, or if you are a tax exempt organization. We will send you an invoice payable via check at your request. Please note, we cannot take credit cards over the phone.
3. Last day to order from the tree sale is Sunday, March 24.
4. **Pick up your order of bare root plants at the Franklin SWCD Office (1404 Goodale Blvd., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43212). See below for details.**
5. **Native Plant Kits (see page 10) will ship direct to you in early June.**
6. Orders not picked up by Tuesday, April 16 will be donated to local non-profits.

Pick-up Your Order at

Franklin SWCD Office, 1404 Goodale Blvd., Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43212

Friday, April 12 & Saturday, April 13
7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 8 a.m. - Noon

We will have a drive-thru pick-up and there will be no day-of sales.



*District programs and services are offered
on a non-discriminatory basis.*

Spring 2024

Frankly Speaking

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

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