

Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District



Have You Seen This Critter?

Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) is a member of the carrot family (*Apiaceae*) which contains more than 3,000 species, including carrots, parsley, celery, Queen Anne's lace, and their relatives. Native to southern and central Europe, wild parsnip is believed to have been brought to North America as a root crop by colonists as early as the 1600s. It has naturalized in the wild and has spread throughout North America. As with many invasive species, it thrives in disturbed areas and along roadsides, but it doesn't limit itself to the harsh conditions along roads. It can also be found in open fields and lawns.

Wild parsnip contains chemicals called furanocoumarins and, when combined with sunlight on the skin, causes phytophotodermatitis (a toxic skin reaction). The chemicals prevent the skin from protecting itself from ultraviolet rays. The result is equivalent to a sunburn. Damage can be as mild as skin discoloration, or as severe as large, extremely painful blisters. Heat and moisture can enhance the skin reaction.

Wild parsnip can be easily confused with Giant Hogweed or Queen Anne's Lace. Wild parsnip reaches 5 feet tall and has flat-topped clusters of yellow-green flowers. In addition, it has a hairless green stem with vertical grooves, and compound leaves that resemble large celery leaves. In contrast, giant hogweed has large clusters of white flowers. There are coarse white hairs on the green stem, as well as purple blotches. Giant hogweed is a large plant, reaching more than 15 feet tall. Its huge leaves are highly incised and deeply lobed. Queen Anne's Lace has thin green stems with small hairs and no stem discoloration. In the middle of the white flower, there is a purple "heart" (a small, dark red or purple flower in the center).



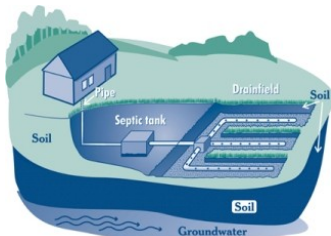
Wild parsnip in bloom and its leaves (top), Giant Hogweed (bottom left), and Queen Anne's Lace (bottom right).



New Services at Wayne County SWCD



Ontario SWCD Technician Tad Gerace



Standard gravity fed wastewater home system

Wayne County SWCD has partnered with Ontario County SWCD to better provide missing wastewater treatment services to people with individual treatment systems (septic and leach fields). The highly regarded NYS Uniform Procedures Program (UPP) for onsite wastewater treatment system inspection expanded to reach the Town of Geneva in Ontario County and towns in Wayne County. Ontario SWCD Technician Tad Gerace performs soil investigations to assist in the proper location of wastewater system components for new construction and repair/ replacement, as well as performing confidential existing system inspections. This service is increasingly requested by lending institutions and real estate professionals to ascertain the working condition of existing systems at the time of property deed transfer. This program protects home buyers, lenders, and realtors, and offers significant water quality benefits to local watersheds.

Call Tad Gerace at 585-396-1450 ext. 21 for a request form, fee information and to schedule a confidential inspection.

Agricultural BMPs are practical, cost-effective actions that reduce the amount of pesticides, fertilizers, animal waste, and other pollutants entering our surface water and ground water.

These four systems are the technical descriptions used for assistance with water management planning (drainage).

Three programs are available to fund BMPs:

- Wayne County SWCD Agricultural Environmental Management Program
- USDA NRCS Conservation Program
- USDA FSA Conservation Program

For more information, contact:

Wayne County SWCD
 315-946-4136
 NRCS
 315-946-4136
 FSA
 315-946-9912

“Understanding the Language”: Agricultural BMPs for Water Quality Programs

Agricultural production often requires complex strategies that must balance profitable and efficient farming with water quality concerns. This is achieved by using methods called Best Management Practices (BMPs). Agricultural BMPs are practical, cost-effective actions that agricultural producers can take to reduce the amount of pesticides, fertilizers, animal waste, and other pollutants entering our surface water and ground water, and to conserve water supply . Examples of BMPs include practices for the management of pests, nutrients and waste; vegetative and tillage practices; and structural practices. There are four available BMPs that are fundable under cost-share programs: Erosion Control-Structural Systems; Irrigation Water Management Systems; Nutrient Management-Cultural Systems; and Soil Conservation-Cultural Systems.

Erosion Control— Structural Systems	Irrigation Water Management Systems
<p><u>Definition</u> a constructed system to control the loss of soil from sheet, ephemeral, rill or gully erosion on agricultural lands outside of the farmstead or production area. This includes systems utilizing terraces, diversions, water and sediment control basins, waterways (both grassed and lined), and earthmoving practices in a system.</p> <p><u>Water quality purpose</u> to reduce all forms of erosion and thereby reduce sediment delivery to water bodies.</p>	<p><u>Definition</u> a planned system that determines and controls the rate, amount, placement and timing of irrigation water.</p> <p><u>Water quality purpose</u> to reduce surface water runoff, including any associated erosion, and/or leaching of nutrients and pesticides by applying irrigation water based upon the capacity of the soil to hold water and the needs of the crop.</p>
Nutrient Management— Cultural Systems	Soil Conservation— Cultural Systems
<p><u>Definition</u> managing the amount (rate), source, placement (method of application), and timing of plant nutrient and soil amendment applications for efficient use by crops and reduced losses to the environment.</p> <p><u>Water quality purpose</u> to reduce or prevent nutrient losses from runoff, erosion, and leaching to surface and groundwater resources.</p>	<p><u>Definition</u> cultural soil conservation systems employ management-based measures such as crop rotation, tillage, mulching, cover cropping, and/or other practices according to a soil conservation plan to control soil erosion, reduce runoff and enhance soil health.</p> <p><u>Water quality purpose</u> to reduce the detachment, transport, and loss of sediment and solid-phase nutrients as well as runoff volumes.</p>

Fall Homeowner Conservation Tips: Simple Ways You Can Save

Make Your Yard “Green”

- Instead of bagging your leaves, weeds, and yard clippings and leaving them out with the trash, consider composting them. Most kitchen waste (fruit and vegetable peels, teabags, and coffee grinds, etc.) can also be composted, which helps to keep organic, gas producing materials out of landfills. You will have a nutrient-rich, organic soil that will be ready to use by spring.
- As you tackle the job of raking leaves, clearing gardens, and cleaning yard debris, you can create a lot of noise and pollution. Rakes are effective, and cheaper than using a leaf blower. If you need a power tool for a hard to reach spot (like your roof, or in between shrubbery), try an electric leaf blower rather than a gasoline-powered one. Electric leaf blowers and trimmers are more energy-efficient and get the job done just as well as their high-powered counterparts.



Save Energy

- Weatherize your home by caulking and weather-stripping all doors and windows. Also use locks on your windows to make them tighter and draft resistant.
- Open curtains during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home.
- Use a programmable thermostat that will adjust the temperature while you're sleeping or out of the house. For every degree you lower your thermostat you can save about 2 percent off your heating bill.
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room, even if it's for a few minutes. Switching from incandescent bulbs to CFL bulbs can reduce your lighting energy usage up to 75 percent.



Conserve Water

- Sweep patios, driveways, and sidewalks. Never hose paved surfaces.
- If you are still watering your plants, lawns and gardens, remember they will need less water in the fall as daylight hours decrease. As the days get shorter so should your watering times.
- Recycle rainwater using a rain barrel. During a one inch rain event, enough water will fall on a 90 square foot roof to fill a 55 gallon barrel. This could be used for watering your lawn, washing your car, etc.
- Now is a great time to commit to making small changes that help conserve water. Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth or shave. Take showers instead of baths. Fill the sink, or basins, with water to wash and rinse dishes instead of letting the water run. Simple steps like these can help save hundreds of gallons of water per day.



Stormwater Management: Reducing Agricultural Runoff

Did you know that runoff from farms is the leading source of impairment to surveyed rivers and lakes and a major contributor to contamination of groundwater? (EPA 2000)

Agricultural activities that cause nonpoint source pollution include poorly located or managed animal feeding operations; overgrazing; plowing too often or at the wrong time; and improper, excessive, or poorly timed application of pesticides, irrigation water, and fertilizer. Pollutants that result from farming include sediment, nutrients, pathogens, pesticides, metals, and salts. Impacts from agricultural activities on surface water and ground water can be minimized by using best management practices that are adapted to local conditions.

The most prevalent source of agricultural water pollution is soil that is washed off fields. In addition, other pollutants like fertilizers, pesticides, and heavy metals are often attached to the soil particles and wash into the water bodies. Farmers can reduce erosion and sedimentation by 20 to 90 percent by applying management practices that control the volume and flow rate of runoff water, keep the soil in place, and reduce soil transport. Soil conservation practices such as crop rotation, crop residues, tillage management, mulching and cover cropping all contribute to reducing runoff and soil erosion.

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WAYNE COUNTY



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