



CONSERVATION NEWS

Tidewater Soil & Water Conservation District
 6969 Fox Hunt Lane, P. O. Box 677
 Gloucester, VA 23061
 Phone : (804) 693-3562 ext. 5 Fax : (804) 694-5921
www.tidewaterswd.org

Spring 2010 Serving the counties of Gloucester, Mathews, and Middlesex

Earth Day– April 22

Did you know the first Earth Day was celebrated in April 22, 1970?

This year is the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. On April 22, 1970, twenty million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy environment. There were coast to coast rallies organized by Denis Hayes, also colleges and universities organized protests against pollution and the deterioration of the environment. Many groups found they had a lot in common fighting for the environment and band together.



“Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species acts.” In 1990 Denis Hayes was asked to organize another big campaign for Earth Day. This time it went global and 200 million people in 141 countries participated in Earth Day. They brought the environmental issues to the world stage and gave a big boost to the recycling efforts worldwide. This paved the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

In 2000 the Internet help link activist around the world for Earth Day, and by April of that year 5,000 environmental groups around the world were on board. They reached out to hundreds of millions of people in 184 countries. With this they sent a message loud and clear that citizens of the world wanted quick and decisive action on clean energy. The fight for a clean environment continues today. Do your part for a clean environment reduce, reuse, recycle, and repair.

Cost Share Update

We will be able to fund all of the Split Application of Nitrogen on Corn and Small Grains Practices. Please provide a written verification (such as a work order or a bill) and dates applied to the district within two weeks of the sidedress application.

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Cover Crop

The cover crop must be killed using mechanical or chemical means **no earlier than March 15th and no later than May 15th**. The practice will be considered complete once the cover crop has served its purpose and been killed. Please give us a call when you have done so at 804-693-3562 Ext. 5

Farm Service Agency News

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program or (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster that incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. It is the permanent disaster legislation enacted in the Farm Bill. FSA encourages all producers that to be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance on all crops in all counties or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Assistance Program or (NAP) administered thru FSA which includes hay and vegetables except for grazed acreage. FSA is currently looking at '2008 crop losses for SURE and are asking producers to contact FSA at 804-693-2691 if claims were filed in '2008. We encourage you to utilize this program moving forward as a risk management tool against the impact of droughts, excessive rain and other natural disasters.

Soil Samples

It is about time to get the garden started, but before you start planting, what is the first thing that should be done? Take your soil sample for your garden area, lawn, or flower beds. This way you know if lime or fertilizer is needed. It could also cut your expense because large amounts of fertilizer are not always needed. This test will also tell what your soil PH is, which is very important. Some of the nutrients can be tied up in the soil if the PH is too high or too low. Putting down more fertilizer will not do any good and will probably go into the ground water, creeks or rivers because the plants cannot use it.

Getting ready to take the soil sample:

- First get a soil sample box and information sheet for gardens, lawns and flower beds (pick them up at the local extension office or your Soil & Water Conservation District)
- Fill out the information sheet stating your information (name, address, etc.)
- Fill in the sample identification number (a number you give to your garden area, lawn, or flower-bed) such as 00001
- Fill in the plant to be grown by looking at the chart to the right (find the crop, grass or general garden to be sampled) such as flower garden #211
- Fill in if lime has been applied (how long ago and how much)
- Fill in what type of test you want preformed (routine test is normally all you need)
- Make out a check to "Treasurer, Virginia Tech" for the amount of \$10.00 for routine test (\$4.00 for organic matter test, \$2.00 for soluble salts or \$1.00 to have fax results sent)

Taking the soil sample: Do not take soil samples when it is extremely wet

- Divide your lawns, gardens or beds into sample areas (such as front and back for the lawn)
- Get a bucket and a trowel go out to your sample area and dig into the soil down to 4" deep, take out any grass or surface residue, put the soil in the bucket, repeat this about 10 more times all over your sample area (example on the back of information sheet)
- Make sure to put all the samples from that area in the same bucket. This will give you a composite sample of your sample area.
- Take the soil in the bucket and mix thoroughly and fill the small sample box with soil put the rest back in your garden area or refill your holes.
- Fill in the information on the side of the box (make sure the number for the sample area has the same number on the box and on the sheet)
- Rubber band boxes together with the information sheet
- Put all your sample boxes, information sheets and check in a mailing box and mail to:

**Virginia Tech Soil Testing Lab
145 Smyth Hall (0465)
Blacksburg, VA 24061**

In approximately four weeks you should receive your soil sample results. The report will include everything your soil needs including fertilizer, lime, etc. and recommend application rates.

2010 YOUTH CONSERVATION CAMP JULY 18-24, 2010

Youth Conservation Camp applications are now available at the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District for Gloucester, Middlesex, and Mathews students that are in the 9th -12th grade during the 2009-2010 school year. Youth Conservation Camp is a weeklong camp, July 18-24, 2010, that is sponsored by the VA Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Two students are chosen by Tidewater SWCD to attend this *free* camp at Virginia Tech each year. Camp admission, meals and lodging during camp is provided by Tidewater SWCD. Transportation to and from camp is the sole responsibility of the camper. While at camp, students will bunk in the college dorms and be involved in many activities and educational events including:

Sunday, July 18

Orientation to Virginia Tech Campus

Check in 1:30 pm & Unpack
Opening program
Tour VT Campus
Volleyball Tournament



Monday, July 19

Claytor Lake State Park
Lake Ecology
Fisheries Management
Land Use Planning & Watersheds
Swimming & Cookout



Tuesday, July 20

VA Tech Campus & Cascades
Hike to the Cascades Waterfall
Tour Forest Products Center
Turfgrass Management

Wednesday, July 21

Agriculture Research Farm

Agricultural Best Management Practices
Soils Workshop
Tour Dairy Science & Swine Centers

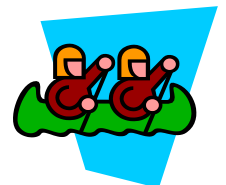


Thursday, July 22

Mountain Lake Wildlife & Forestry Day
Investigate forestry and wildlife issues
Tree Identification Hike
Wildlife research techniques
Karst Geology workshop
Tour College of Natural Resources & Veterinary School

Friday, July 23

Canoeing & Watershed Day on the New River
Stream Morphology
Shoreline Erosion
Scavenger hunt using GIS technology
Tour Aquaculture Center



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Bulk Rate
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Permit No. 53

P.O. Box 677
Gloucester, VA 23061

District Directors

Tyler Crittenden-At Large-Chairman
David Moore -At Large-Vice Chairman-VCE
Jason Bray-Middlesex-Secretary
Keith Horsley-Gloucester-Treasurer
Ronnie Lewis-Mathews
Daniel Rilee-Gloucester
Robert Respass, Jr-Mathews
Alan Sutherland-Middlesex

Return Service Requested

All programs of the Tidewater SWCD are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis; without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, political affiliation, marital/familial status, or handicap. The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

District Personnel

LaVerne Calhoun - District Manager
Staci Merkt - Conservation Specialist
Rene Moring- Conservation Assistant

NRCS Personnel

Brian Wooden- Acting District Conservationist

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Youth Conservation Camp

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT TIDEWATER SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(804) 693-3562 EXT.5
or VASWCD (804) 559-0324
Applicants must be in grades
9-12 during the 2009-2010 academic school year.
RETURN APPLICATION AND \$25.00 REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT BY APRIL 19TH
TIDEWATER SWCD
P.O. BOX 677 GLOUCESTER VA 23061