


# SWCD STREAM

Wabasha County Soil & Water Conservation District



  
 Wabasha County Soil & Water Conservation District  
 611 Broadway Ave #10B  
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[WabashaSWCD.com](http://WabashaSWCD.com)

## WABASHA SWCD'S MOST WANTED INVASIVE SPECIES

Winged Burning Bush or Euonymus alatus is a restricted species in Minnesota meaning that the propagation and sale of the plant is prohibited. Transportation must follow MN State 18.82. It is a round multi-stemmed shrub 5 to 10 ft tall. Young stems are green, thin, with corky brown wings. The bush sticks out in the fall as the leaves turn bright red. The bush was introduced to America from northeast Asia as an ornamental shrub and has spread rapidly by wildlife and producing copious amount of seeds that form dense stands in the forest understory. This bush looks similar to the native plant eastern wahoo though the best way to identify burning bush is through its corky winged branches. To remove burning bush, foliar or cut stump herbicide applications can be effective, either triclopyr or glyphosate works just fine. While landowners are not required to remove burning bush, it is highly recommended to consider alternative shrubs with similar characteristics such as glossy black chokecherry or regent serviceberry.

Cost-share for the removal of Winged Burning bush and other invasive species is available so contact your local SWCD technician Katelyn Abts at 651-560-2045 or [katelyn.abts@mnsd.net](mailto:katelyn.abts@mnsd.net).

**WANTED**



**BURNING BUSH**



Scan this QR code for more info or visit the MN DNR invasive species webpage.

## May-June 2025 News

- Planting trees? We have some tree tubes left in stock. \$3.50 for the 60" and \$4.00 for the 72"
- The SWCD is looking for a retired farmer to help us transport our rental no-till drill to the farms where used, seasonal spring & fall. Call us if interested, (651) 565-4673
- Due to the busy spring planting season there will not be a gathering for the May 'Coffee & Conservation' - see you in June.
- Wabasha County Local Work Group to input on priorities for EQIP funding will be held June 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Contact us if you are interested in participating. Free well tests are still available through the MN Dept of Health. Fill out an online form by either scanning the QR code below or call 651-560-2045 to fill out the form by phone



# Cover Crops: A Gateway Practice

Cover crops continue to be popular throughout the Midwest, as per this March's National Cover Crop Survey Report of Agriculture Advisors. This report included 646 respondents, mostly from here in the Midwest and California. The majority of advisor respondents say 1-25% of their grower clients plant cover crops.

## Notable quotes on motivations for using cover crops:

"Benefits I see from not only the conservation side, but the agronomic benefits such as water infiltration and weed control."

"Cover crops can be a great way to incorporate livestock on the land and cut costs for producers."

"They can also act as a gateway practice for farmers and perhaps at some point, they will extend rotations, reduce inputs, or incorporate other conservation practices."

Here in Wabasha County last year 2024, conservation programs helped fund 2,145 acres of cover crops with 37 producers. This does not include the added acres growers did on their own dime.

## 7 out of 10 of Advisors who farm use Cover Crops Themselves

The popularity of cover crop use is being sustained, while the number of acres in cover crops is slowly increasing. The USDA's Economic Research Service reports that cover crop acres have increased 17% between 2017 and 2022, now around 18 million acres. Cover crops can pay off in the long-term for those willing to give them a try. If you see their benefit, put in the time and management to get them to work into your operation, you can see your soils change over time. Talk with other producers who have experienced cover crops over the years. Join us in our monthly, 'Coffee & Conservation' gatherings. Think long-range planning as it can take 3-5 years to start seeing changes in the soil. Many who start planting cover crops continue to expand them across their acres and some even diversify their plantings. Cover crops may be a no brainer for some, especially for those with a need for livestock feed. According to the survey the top four reasons for starting to use cover crops are to reduce erosion, receiving an incentive payment, to improve soil health and to produce forage for livestock.

## Take advantage of cover crop funding incentives while they last!

As this spring's planting season progresses, we at the Wabasha's conservation office continue to promote and provide incentive funds for the planting of cover crops. While planting this year, reflect on where cover crops could add benefits to your operation. Consider why you may want to plant cover crops? Are you hoping cover crops to help in erosion control, weed control, soil health improvement, livestock feed, soil compaction or to carry over excess nutrients for next year's crop. Contact the Wabasha conservation office now to get a head start in planning your 2025 cover crop and contracting for funds. Starting early helps ensure funds are available and allows time to plan. If things change before you plant your cover crop, we'll have more time to adapt. We do encourage multi-year use of cover crops in order to see the long-term benefits cover crops can bring to your fields. However, if you are new to cover crops, we recommend starting out small, possible one field and planting only one grass species. Cereal rye has been popular for its' weed and erosion control benefits. Please contact Deanna at (651) 560-2060 with questions or to start planning. [Deanna.pomije@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:Deanna.pomije@mn.nacdnet.net)

## Act Quickly! CRP Sign-up Open for a Short Time!

The Conservation Reserve Program has opened for signup May 12, 2025. Both General and Continuous signups are open now through June 6, 2025. Please contact the Wabasha FSA office at 651-565-3345 x2 or [mnwabasha-fsa@usda.gov](mailto:mnwabasha-fsa@usda.gov) as soon as possible if you are interested in this important conservation program.



Rye in Corn

## Currently in Wabasha County, there is an estimated 1,900 private wells that are not in the MN Department of Health's database

The MN Department of Health maintains a data base that provides basic information and locations for water supply wells. One of the main uses of the map is to identify water supplies that may be vulnerable to leaks and spills and to aid responders in emergency situations.

Check to see if your well in the MDH's database by looking up MN Well Index on MN Department of Health's website. Enter your address to look up your well and if no dot is present near your home, it is likely that your well has not been inventoried. Enter your well information into the database by filling out an online form <https://bit.ly/WabashaWell> by visiting

**You can request a physical form by calling 651-560-2045 or email [katelyn.abts@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:katelyn.abts@mn.nacdnet.net). Thank you for your participation!**

