

SWCD STREAM

Wabasha County Soil & Water Conservation District



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September-October 2025 News


- Planting trees this fall? We have some tree tubes left in stock, \$4.00 for the 72"
- The Wabasha County Well Inventory is still ongoing- submit your well to the inventory to stay informed!
- 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!
- Interested in planting cover crops this fall? Call the SWCD A.S.A.P to get planning started! More info available in this newsletter!



For more information on treatment and identification, scan the QR code or visit the MN Department of Health's website.



WANTED



POISON IVY

WABASHA SWCD'S MOST WANTED NOXIOUS WEED

Toxicodendron radicans, Poison Ivy, a name that everyone knows and fears. Unlike all the other species featured in the Most Wanted column, poison ivy is native to Minnesota with a range extending from Canada to South America. Exposure to the toxic compound urushiol in the plant can cause severe blisters, rashes, and swelling on human skin and occasionally livestock. As such, poison ivy has a specially regulated legal status whereas the plant must be eradicated or controlled for public safety along rights-of-ways, trails, public accesses, where public access for business or commerce is granted. For private landowners, if poison ivy is not in an area that is not traversed by humans or livestock, it is recommended to leave it alone as the plant is native and is beneficial to the local wildlife. If you think that the poison ivy on your property is a threat to human or animal health, herbicide treatments can be used successfully for eradication. Choose herbicides with active ingredients such as glyphosate, 2,4-D amine or triclopyr. Follow-up treatment the following years is usually required

Cost-share for Poison Ivy is currently not available through Wabasha SWCD but for other invasive species or for technical assistance on specially regulated species contact your local SWCD technician Katelyn Abts at 651-560-2045 or katelyn.abts@m.n.madnet.net

Cover Crops- Getting Started

To see the benefits of cover crops we may need to think long term. It can take a while to see changes in the soil. Which practices you use and your initial soil conditions will dictate how fast you see improvements in your soil. New practices could include cover crops, reduced tillage, increased crop diversity and incorporation of livestock or manure into your operation. It may take 3-5 years of consistent practice use before you start seeing your soil change. Don't let this discourage you, get started now to see the benefits down the road! Getting started with cover crops can bring up a lot of questions. What should I plant? How much will it cost? Is there any funding available to help cover the cost of the crops? Price margins are tight. Added funding may make or break whether I can do cover crops. We recommend reaching out to us to see what is available for funding. Interest for cover crops has been high this year, and we ask you to come in at least 3 weeks before you intend to plant, to talk to us about cover crops. When you come in, we ask you to bring your maps and know the acres you want to plant and what species you want to plant. Questions may arise when your thinking about planting cover



Oats & Radish



Scan to Visit
Midwest Cover Crop Decision Tool



Planting Green!



Drone Seeding Cover Crops



crops. like "What should I plant?". Based on your goals there are lots of options to help you meet the needs of your farm. There is a great online tool to help in making these decisions. The Midwest Cover Crops Council – Cover Crop Decision Tool was developed across multiple states with input from a variety of agronomists and it is updated periodically. With the tool you're able to select your specific goals and it will provide you a list of cover

crop species geared toward your goals with recommended planting dates and additional details about considerations for the species. Search the website at <https://covercroptool.midwestcovercrops.org/> or scan our QR code to visit the Midwest cover crop decision tool! For any questions relating to cover crops or other agronomic practices, reach out to Deanna or Ella!

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Featured SWCD Project

Over the past few years a Mazeppa Township landowner had noticed some specific locations with significant erosion occurring on his farmland. He asked for help from the SWCD to address this issue. We were able to identify the areas of concern and find the appropriate combination of practices to fix them. The SWCD created a plan that included three grade stabilization structures, two diversions, and one water and sediment control basin. With financial assistance through our watershed based funding, that landowner was able to afford to implement each of these practices and ensure that those gullies will no longer continue to remove large amounts of valuable soil from his farm. Projects like these are also a benefit to the public through improving water quality and reducing peak flow during flood events. In total this project alone is estimated to have reduced critical pollutant loads such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and total suspended solids to the streams below by 123lbs/yr, 16lbs/yr, 3tons/yr respectively. practices are broken



into two major categories, engineered or ecological. This type of project is an example of one that has a large component of engineered practices. Every year we address a variety of goals with practices similar to this. If you think you may have some concentrated erosion or gullies that could benefit from a project like this please contact Matt Kempinger from the SWCD for assistance.

Matt Kempinger

District Technician

(651) 560-2055

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Submit Your Well to the Wabasha County Well Inventory!

Currently in Wabasha County, there is an estimated 1,600 private wells that are not in the MN Department of Health's database. That means that over half the private wells in the county are completely unknown to the MDH. Why is this an issue? If a crisis were to occur where your well may be susceptible to harmful impacts, you may not be contacted directly as part as an emergency response. A common example is a chemical spill that has infiltrated aquifers in the area. Unused well on your property? There are some financial assistance opportunities to seal these direct conduits for contamination into your drinking water supply. Submitting wells to the inventory also helps with future water resource planning so we can keep water in Wabasha County clean and healthy! Check out MN Well Index to see if your well is in the database and look for a red dot to indicate your well's location. Get your well inventoried today by calling Wabasha County SWCD or by filling out our online form. When you submit your well via phone or online, please provide us with a location of the well such as "55 feet Northwest of the barn" or GPS coordinates are preferred. By submitting your well for the inventory, you are an active participant in the efforts to **keep Wabasha County's water clean and healthy for generations to come!**

Visit <https://bit.ly/WabashaWell> to fill out the form online