

# SWCD STREAM

Wabasha County Soil & Water Conservation District



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## May - June 2026 News

- Plant/Seed Sale Pickup is May 20<sup>th</sup> at Wabasha SWCD!
- NEW: Cover Crop Sign Up Deadline is August 31<sup>st</sup>
- We are still conducting our county well inventory, please submit your well to protect Wabasha county water for generations to come! Scan the QR code below for our inventory form.
- Free test kits are still available through the MN Dept. of Health. Visit our website under the "Well and Groundwater" tab to be directed to the test kit request form.

Well Inventory Form



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



## GALLERY PEAR



## WANTED

Gallery Pear, also known as Bradford Pear has just finished its three-year production phase-out period has been changed from a Specially Regulated status to Restricted meaning that it no longer be imported, sold or transported in MN. Over time, several issues have led Gallery pear is native to Asia and was introduced as a rootstock for fire blight resistant pear production in the early 1900s. The tree poses a significant threat to native grasslands and wildlife. It establishes quickly and crowds out native plants that cannot compete for resources. Gallery pear can quickly spread along roadways and into natural areas. Once established in the wild, trees may develop thick, woody thorns capable of puncturing shoes and tires. Gallery pear flowers often have a strong, unpleasant ("fishy") odor. Small Gallery pear trees may be pulled by hand, taking care to remove all roots. Cutting and mowing are effective at reducing growth and providing access to overgrown sites. For these methods to be effective, herbicide applications must be followed up on resprouting plants.

For the removal of invasive species, contact your local SWCD technician Katelyn Abts at 651-560-2045 or [katelyn.abts@mn.nacdn.net](mailto:katelyn.abts@mn.nacdn.net) for possible cost-share.

## WABASHA SWCD'S MOST WANTED INVASIVE SPECIES



Wabasha County Soil & Water Conservation District

611 Broadway Ave #10

Wabasha, MN 55981

(651) 565-4673

[WabashaSWCD.com](http://WabashaSWCD.com)

# Get to Know Your Soil's Health!

The "Cropland In-Field Soil Health Assessment" is designed to be used as a diagnostic tool to help conservation planners and producers determine a baseline for soil health in fields where new practices are going to be implemented or in fields where practices have been implemented for a number of years. This tool can provide some qualitative means to track changes over time or compare fields under different management. We recommend an in field soil health assessment at the beginning of starting soil health practices and 3-5+ years after implementation to see how new practices have affected soil health.



## What do we do/look for during a soil health assessment?

- Infiltration Test**
- Plant Roots**
- Slake Test**
- Penetration Resistance (Compaction Test)**
- Soil Structure**
- Soil Color**
- Biopores**
- Biological Diversity**
- Soil Cover**

Are you just getting into cover crops, no-till, reduced till, prescribed grazing, or other soil health practices? Have you already been participating in these practices?

An in field soil health assessment may benefit you! We recommend everyone should get to know their soil's health! Healthy soil improves water retention and drainage, enhancing drought and flood resilience. It also boosts nutrient cycling, reduces erosion, and supports sustainable, productive, and profitable farming operations.

Reach out to Ella Jurgerson if you're interested in getting a field soil health assessment done on your farm!

**651-560-2061**

**[ella.jurgerson@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:ella.jurgerson@mn.nacdnet.net)**

## Drop the Pruner!

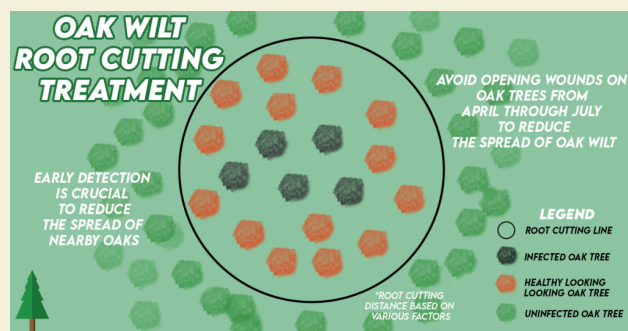
Oak Wilt, a fatal tree disease is now active. If you have oak trees, don't prune from April through July. When an oak has an open wound, sap beetles are attracted by scent and feed on the exposed sapwood. Many of these beetles carry fungal spores that infect the tree and eventually leads to its death. Oak Wilt can also be spread from tree to neighboring trees if the roots have grafted together. Oak Wilt fungus is not originally from here. As a result, our oak trees have no natural defenses leading to a death rate of 85% to 100%. Red Oak is very susceptible to Oak Wilt, often succumbing within the summer of getting infected. White Oak will hold on a few years but still has a relatively high death rate.

### Symptoms

Oak Wilt can be confused with other diseases or pests but look for these key details to make the most accurate conclusion.

- Look for leaves with brown edges and green centers.
- Wilted leaves drop off quickly and can be found on the ground around the dying tree.
- Wilting usually starts at the top or outer portions of the tree crown and quickly progresses downward.

- When the bark is peeled back from a branch with wilted leaves, you may see bluish staining on the wood surface.
- Cracking bark or fungal mats may be present on the tree trunk.



Oak Wilt is very present in Wabasha County so keep an eye on your oaks for symptoms that may suggest an infection. If you suspect Oak Wilt call a certified arborist or DNR forester to confirm. Cost-share for the removal of dead, dying or at risk oaks is available through Wabasha SWCD. For more information, contact your local technician

**Katelyn Abts at 651-560-2045 or [Katelyn.abts@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:Katelyn.abts@mn.nacdnet.net).**

## Roller Crimper for Rent

A roller crimper allows for termination of a small grain/ cover crop without tillage. Can be used in conjunction with a no-till planter. Call for info: (651) 560-2060

- Great tool for organic use & works well with no-till planting
- Holds water for increased weight
- Unit is 15.5' wide with a 3-point hook up, 2" ball hitch on trailer
- Rental cost \$100-130 per use
- Our crimper can be picked up near Elba
- A signed agreement is required ahead of renting



For added tips on the use of a roller crimper, check out this 5 min. video: <https://ziply.pk/0QAguk>