

Montgomery County SWCD
2036 E Lebanon Road
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CONSERVATION CONNECTION

The Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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Upcoming Events & Important Dates

- July 3: SWCD Monthly Board Meeting, 8:00 AM, USDA Service Center
- July 4: Office Closed
- July 10: Q3 Cisma Meeting, 4:00 PM, USDA Service Center
- July 15: Table Talk Tuesday, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM, The Table Spoon
- July 25: Forestry Field Day
- July 26: CGMC Garden Walk, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Nicholson Elementary
- August 6: Q3 CGMC Meeting, 10:00 AM, USDA Service Center
- August 7: SWCD Monthly Board Meeting, 8:00 AM, USDA Service Center
- August 21: SNW Regional Meeting
- September 1: Office Closed
- September 4: SWCD Monthly Board Meeting, 8:00 AM, USDA Service Center



Another Successful Year for Native Plants!

We recently wrapped up our annual native plant sale, bringing over 100 new trees and shrubs to our community to support pollinators and provide wildlife habitat! Soil and Water Districts across the state hold native plant sales and you can find a good list of sales and nurseries through the Indiana Native Plant Society's website if you weren't able to make our sale. There is a wealth of information to be found through their website on all things native.

We held our sale in conjunction with the Master Gardener's Native Plant Jamboree, a sale with multiple vendors selling exclusively natives, making for one huge day filled with native plants! While at the sale we also shared information and handouts about native planting. We are always available to give advice on plantings if you are looking to add a splash of color to your yard or have an even bigger project in mind. We are grateful to all of you who support the sale and our mission of making native plants the norm. We'll be back next year with more natives!

Above: Hanna Garriott (Resilient Indiana Technical Assistant) sits at Montgomery County SWCD's Native Plant Sale booth.

Spring Weed Wrangles

We had our most busy Spring of weed wrangles ever this year! We partnered with all kinds of groups to achieve one goal, become more aware as a community of the threat of invasive species. Every time we come together to work on a park we get one step closer to an invasive free Montgomery County, and we couldn't do it without our awesome partners!



Invasive Species Spotlight: Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Don't let the name fool you, there is nothing heavenly or pleasant about this tree. Brought over from Asia as an ornamental species, Tree of heaven has spread throughout much of the Eastern U.S. and can commonly be seen in old sidewalks, roadsides, and right of ways. Its large pinnately compound leaves are similar to a black walnut with a red stem and lots of leaflets. The odor produced by this tree is known to bring about nausea. In addition the tree can cause contact dermatitis if your skin is exposed while making contact with the tree. *Ailanthus* is a voracious spreader and will fill any available gap it can find.

To top that off it also uses allelopathic chemicals to prevent plants around it from growing making it the one of the most highly invasive plants around. It will resprout aggressively from trying to cut it down, leaving direct applications of herbicide as your best option for control. Basal bark sprays with herbicide with a high oil content are best suited for knocking this tree out. As always read the herbicide label and wear proper PPE anytime you are using herbicides to treat invasive plants. Think you've got some of these not-so-heavenly trees or other baddies? Call us up and we'll be happy to help you identify!



Table Talk Tuesdays

We launched a brand new program this past month called Table Talk Tuesdays! For one Tuesday a month we will be parking ourselves at the Table Spoon in downtown Crawfordsville from 12pm-3pm to answer all your conservation questions! Garden veggies not growing as well as they used to? Ask us about having a Community Growers site visit to assess your soil health. Want to improve your property for wildlife with a pollinator patch but don't know where to start? We got you! Stay tuned on our social media to see when the next Table Talk Tuesday will be and come see us!



Upcoming Garden Walk

The Community Growers of Montgomery County are preparing for our 4th annual Garden Walk! The CGMC Garden Walk is all about highlighting the backyard gardener, whether you are a beginner with one plant or have a big sprawling jungle of vegetables, we want you to share your story and what drives you to grow your own food. The stories and ideas people share spark inspiration for others and grow the connections between growers here in our community. At the end of the day we all want to eat better, more healthy food, right?

The Garden Walk this year will be on Saturday, July 26th, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Nicholson School Garden. All are welcome! Check our socials for event details and updates.