

District Digest

The BCCD Newsletter



**BERKS COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION

Submitted by: Kevin Witmier

It seems hard to believe but mosquito season is right around the corner. After seeing a record number of West Nile Virus positives last year, we must move forth into the spring months preparing for a similar situation in 2013. The Berks County Conservation District along with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection will again conduct county wide mosquito surveillance this year as well as apply pesticide to control mosquito populations when and where necessary. With that being said, **remember that eliminating mosquito breeding habitat is still the best way of controlling adult mosquito populations.** *(Continued on page 4)*

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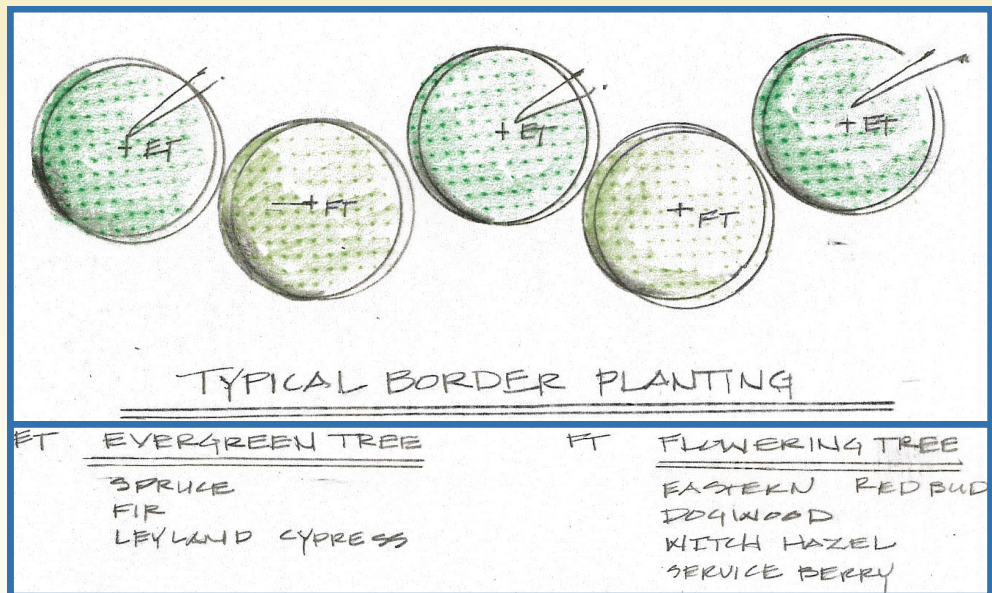
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1238 County Welfare Road
Leesport, PA 19533
www.berkscd.com
610-372-4657

2013 ANNUAL TREE SEEDLING SALE

Submitted by: Ann Sellers and Christine Esterline

It's that time of year again! The Tree Seedling Sale is underway with lots of new offers. Take a look at the flyer on pages 6 and 7 of the newsletter. There are 6 new options for 2013. Make sure to get your orders in before March 23, 2013. If you need a few landscape design ideas check out the Typical Border Planting below and/or the Typical Bed Planting on page 4. These simple designs can help make your seedlings become a beautiful garden. *(Continued on page 4)*



PA DEP'S NEW PERMIT DECISION GUARANTEE

Submitted by: Dan Greig, District Executive

The end of 2012 was a very busy time with PADEP in regards to programs which the BCCD has delegation agreements to administer the programs locally. Most of the changes will have impact on NPDES Permit Applications, Chapter 105 permits, and the procedures that the Conservation Districts are required to follow. *(Continued on page 10)*

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Watershed Specialist/Environmental Educator

Kevin Witmier

*West Nile Virus Technician***Conservation District / FSA Annual Banquet**

This year the banquet will be held on March 18, 2013 at 6:00PM. Come to enjoy a dinner, a presentation by Hawk Mountain and meet the Scholarship and Award recipients. The Banquet is at Haag's Hotel in Shartlesville, PA. Ticket prices are \$20.00 for Adult and \$8.00 for Children. Tickets are available for sale, call 610-372-4657 to order. Last day to order your tickets is March 11, 2013.

MANURE STORAGE SAFETY

The BCCD would like to remind all people that are around areas of concentrated manure about the importance of safety. Furthermore, concerns have been raised where gypsum has been used as a bedding material. Please read the tips below from the Natural Resource Conservation Service to ensure that you, others, and your livestock remain safe.

- ◆ First aid and other safety equipment should be supplied and located near manure storage facilities.
 - ◆ An emergency action plan including emergency telephone numbers should be developed and posted near the safety equipment and near all telephones.
 - ◆ Open storage facilities should be fenced and posted with "Keep Out" signs. Children and those that cannot read must be given special instruction or use symbols to assure that they are aware of the hazard.
 - ◆ To minimize hazards, agitation of manure is best done on windy days. Also access to underground storages shall be grated or gated.
 - ◆ Do not enter a manure pit unless absolutely necessary and only then if the pit is first ventilated, air is supplied to a self-contained breathing apparatus, a safety harness and attached rope is worn, and there are two people standing by.
 - ◆ Never attempt, without assistance, to rescue humans or livestock that have fallen into a manure storage structure or reception pit.
 - ◆ Properly ventilate animal housing adjacent to agitation area
- Until more information is known about gypsum in bedding material, additional safety measures should be taken for sites where any type of sulfur product has been added to the manure.

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BERKS COUNTY FARMERS HELP IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN MAIDEN CREEK WATERSHED



NRCS helped one Berks County farmer restrict the cattles' access to the stream that runs through his property by installing fencing and a slatted stream crossing (Right picture).

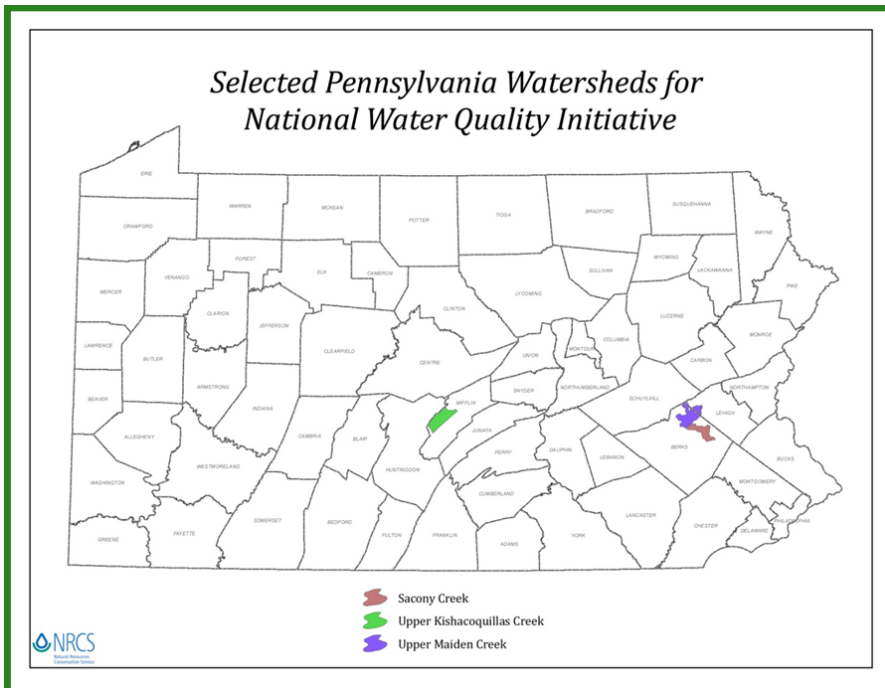
Farmers along the Sacony Creek and Maiden Creek in Berks County are hard at work improving water quality. With the help of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and our Water Quality Initiative, they are voluntarily undertaking conservation measures that will not only enhance their farm's operation, but will also have positive results on the impaired creek.



This "After" picture shows the stream crossing several months after construction providing buffer.

NRCS' new Water Quality Initiative uses funds from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to provide funding and advice to producers to install conservation practices such as agricultural waste storage facilities, improved grazing systems, cover crops, grass waterways, and streambank stabilization that can improve water quality.

In May 2012, NRCS made nearly \$700,000 available to farmers and forest landowners in three selected watersheds: include the Upper Kishacoquillas Creek in Mifflin County, the Upper Maiden Creek in Berks and Lehigh counties, and Sacony (also spelled as "Saucony") Creek in Berks County (see map below). With help from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the NRCS State Technical Committee, these watersheds were identified because conservation practices may significantly improve water quality. Berks County producers entered into 6 contracts to install nearly \$500,000 in agricultural Best Management Practices that promote water quality.



NRCS accepts applications for financial assistance on a continuous basis throughout the year. For more information about NRCS' programs, initiatives and services in Pennsylvania, contact the local NRCS field office at 610-372-4655 or visit us online at www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov.

Submitted by:
 Nicholas Ramsey
 USDA-NRCS
 District Conservationist
 610-372-4655 X110
nicholas.ramsey@pa.usda.gov

A few helpful hints when planting your garden:

1. Create smooth edges to the bed, so they are easy to maintain with a lawn mower.
2. Use odd number of plantings (e.g. 3 trees and 5 shrubs).
3. Amend the soil with organic matter such as compost.

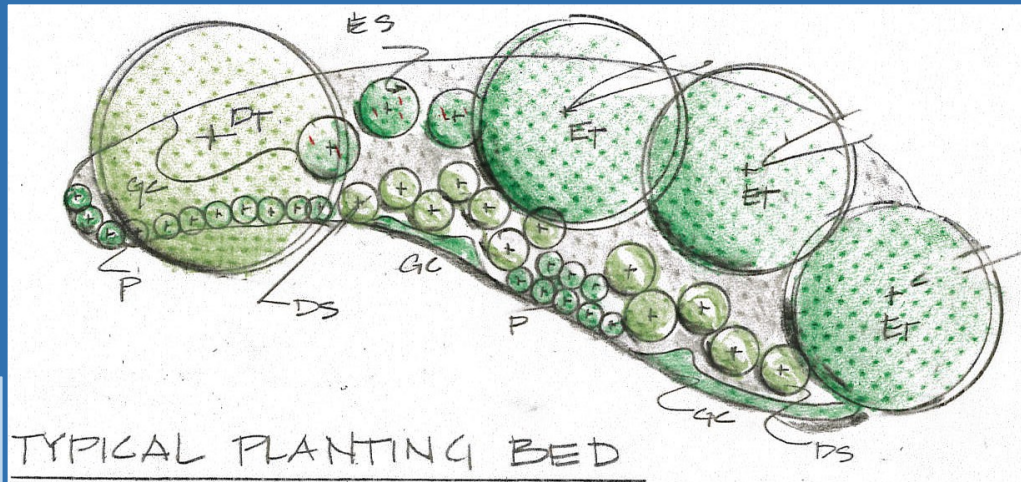
Seedling Sale Pick up dates are April 19th and 20th.

Pick-up at our "old location," near the Heim, there will be directional signs.

Proceeds Support Environmental Education for Berks County Students.

For more information visit our Website:
www.berkscd.com

BCCD's TREE SEEDLING SALE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



<u>DT DECIDUOUS TREE</u>	<u>ET EVERGREEN TREE (SMALL)</u>
OAK MAPLE	LEYLAND ARBORVITAE
<u>DS DECIDUOUS SHRUB</u>	<u>ES EVERGREEN SHRUB</u>
SPICEBUSH AMERICAN CRANBERRY	
<u>P PERENNIAL</u>	<u>GC GROUND COVER</u>
LIRIOPE	AJUGA

Landscape suggestions designed by: Ann Sellers

WEST NILE VIRUS (Continued from page 1)

As the weather begins to turn warmer in the spring, take a look around your home and neighborhood for potential mosquito breeding grounds. Mosquitos breed in areas of stagnant water, so by reducing breeding habitat, the potential for high future adult mosquito populations is greatly reduced. Throughout the mosquito season, routinely check for standing water around your home and encourage your neighbors to do the same. Things to consider are:

- flower pots or other yard containers,
- bird baths,
- clogged gutters,
- wading pools,
- unattended pools/pool covers,
- ornamental ponds,

• unused tires
Be thorough and try not to overlook anything for even the smallest of puddles has the potential to breed thousands of mosquitos in a year. There is no need to limit your outdoor activity unless advised by local officials. Simply take precautions to prevent mosquito bites when mosquitos are most active. The period of time right after sunset is when most caution should be taken as this is the time of day when *Culex* mosquitos, the genera of mosquitos most commonly responsible for vectoring West Nile, are actively searching for a blood meal. Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants and use insect repellents. Products containing DEET are recommended but be sure to follow the instructions on the

label when applying it to your skin. Active mosquito surveillance in Berks County is tentatively scheduled to start the first week of April and continue until approximately the first week of October. During that time, remember to report sick or dead birds that you may encounter by either contacting the District directly or using the online reporting system found at <http://www.westnile.state.pa.us/index.html>. Crows, blue jays and hawks are the species most susceptible to West Nile Virus.

Stay safe and healthy this mosquito season and feel free to contact the Conservation District at any time to voice any questions or concerns regarding the West Nile Virus program or mosquitos in your area.



**PRECAST CONCRETE STRUCTURES FOR
NPDES PHASE II
COMPLIANCE**



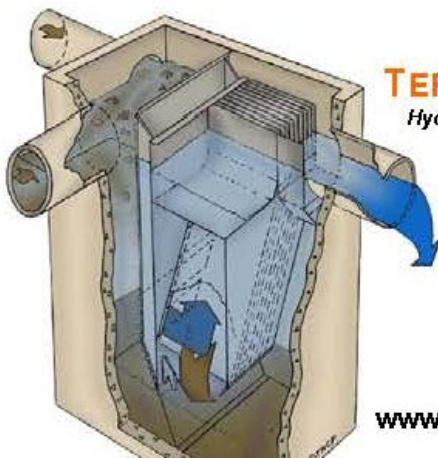
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2013 Envirothon Dates are set!
High School: May 2th
Middle School: May 7th

Both events will be at Nolde State forest.
 For more information about participating in or Sponsorship of the Berks County Envirothon, please

**DON HARTMAN CONSERVATION
LEADERSHIP SCHOOL**

The Berks County Conservation District is pleased to announce that we, along with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources—Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center, will be hosting the **Don Hartman Conservation Leadership School at Alvernia University during the last week in June 2013.** This week-long residential school, is designed to not only acquaint interested Berks County high school students with the field of natural resource conservation, but also to encourage and develop leadership skills that will last a lifetime! If you are or know of a high school student that resides in Berks County and are interested in the School, then please visit our website at

www.Berkscd.com/education or contact Kate Keppen at 610-372-4657.



Conifer



Arborvitae
 2 year old 8"-15"
 Mature Height: 40' - 50'
 Use: Windbreak, hedgerow
 Description: Dense pyramid shape










Fraser Fir
 2 year old 3"-7"
 Mature Height: 40' - 60'
 Use: Christmas tree, ornamental
 Description: Soft, shiny foliage





Colorado Blue Spruce








3 year old 8" - 16"
 Mature Height: 100'
 Use: Ornamental, windbreak
 Description: Stiff, silvery/blue needle

Eastern Larch




2 year old 1 - 2'
 Mature Height: 40' - 80'
 Use: Groves, bogs, specimen tree
 Description: Needles drop in winter


Concolor Fir
 2 year old 5" - 9"
 Mature Height: 120'
 Use: Christmas tree
 Description: Soft, silver/blue needle







Leyland Cypress
 1 year old 10" - 16"
 Mature Height: 60' - 70'
 Use: Privacy Screen, hedgerow
 Description: Soft, feathery needle





Douglas Fir






2 year old 5" - 12"
 Mature Height: 200'
 Use: Christmas tree
 Description: Soft, blue/green needle

Norway Spruce



3 year old 10" - 16"
 Mature Height: 150'
 Use: Windbreak, ornamental
 Description: Dark green foliage




Ajuga
 3" Potted Plant
 Mature Height: 3' - 4'
 Use: Landscape beds, rock gardens
 Description: Easy to grow
















Creeping Liriope
 2" Potted Plant
 Mature Height: 8" - 12"
 Use: Landscape beds
 Description: Drought tolerant

Ground Cover

Sun	Moisture	Other
<p>Full Sun </p> <p>Partial Sun </p> <p>Shade </p>	<p>Dry </p> <p>Moist / well-drained </p> <p>Wet </p>	<p>Pennsylvania Native </p> <p>Attracts Butterflies </p>

Shrub



American Cranberry Bush

2 year old 6" - 12"

Mature Height: 8" - 12"

Use: Wetland area

Description: Fruit attracts birds



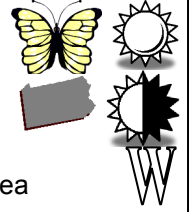
Spicebush

1 year old 6" - 12"

Mature Height: 6' - 12'

Use: Marshes, wetland area

Description: Min. 2 for best pollination



Blueberry Bushes

2 plants- 2 years old 12" - 18"

Mature Height: 4' - 6'

Use: Fruit, ornamental

Description: Acidic soil, 4.0 - 4.5 pH



Winterberry Holly

1 year old 6" - 12"

Mature Height: 6' - 12'

Use: Hedges, winter color

Description: Min. 5 for best pollination



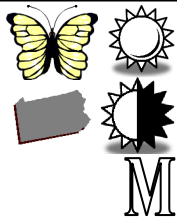
Serviceberry

1 year 6" - 12"

Mature Height: 32'

Use: Ornamental

Description: Attracts 40 bird species



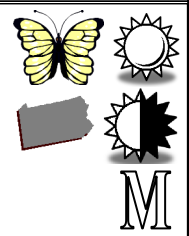
Witch Hazel

1 year old 12" - 18"

Mature Height: 30'

Use: Understory bush

Description: Beautiful fall colors



Chestnut Oak

1 year old 6" - 12"

Mature Height: 50' - 60'

Use: Ornamental, good for wildlife

Description: Prefers rocky soil



Red Oak

1 year old 12" - 18"

Mature Height: 60' - 70'

Use: Street tree, ornamental

Description: Fast growing



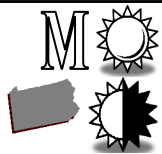
Eastern Redbud

1 year old 6" - 12"

Mature Height: 20' - 30'

Use: Ornamental, mass plantings

Description: Heart shaped leaves



Sweet Crabapple

1 year old 3" - 6"

Mature Height: 20' - 30'

Use: Ornamental, urban tolerant

Description: Fragrant pink blooms



Kousa Dogwood

1 year old 12" - 18"

Mature Height: 15' - 20'

Use: Ornamental, specimen tree

Description: Late blooming species



Tulip Poplar

1 year 12" - 18"

Mature Height: 80' - 120'

Use: Street, shade, ornamental

Description: Fast growing



Deciduous Tree



Deadline to order is **MARCH 23, 2013** Order #

Tree Seedling Sale Order Form

Common Name	Scientific Name	1 Plant	Bundle of 10	Bundle of 25	Bundle of 100	Quantity	Total Cost
American Arborvitae	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	--	\$ 8.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 56.00		
Colorado Blue Spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i>	--	\$ 7.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 57.00		
Concolor Fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>	--	\$ 11.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 94.00		
Douglas Fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	--	\$ 9.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 75.00		
Fraser Fir	<i>Abies fraseri</i>	--	\$ 8.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 68.00		
Eastern Larch (Tamarack)	<i>Larix Laricina</i>	\$ 2.00	--	--	--		
Leyland Cypress	<i>Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>	\$ 4.00	--	--	--		
Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>	--	\$ 7.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 57.00		
Ajuga	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	\$ 3.00	--	--	--		
Creeping Liriope	<i>Liriope spicata</i>	\$ 4.00	--	--	--		
American Cranberry	<i>Virburnum trilobum</i>	\$ 2.00	--	--	--		
Blueberry (pair)	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	\$ 17.00	--	--	--		
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	\$ 4.00	--	--	--		
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	\$ 2.00	--	--	--		
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	\$ 2.00	--	--	--		
Winterberry Holly	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	\$ 2.00	--	--	--		
Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	\$ 2.00	--	--	--		
Chestnut Oak	<i>Quercus prinus</i>	\$ 2.00	--	--	--		
Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	\$ 2.00	--	--	--		
Kousa Dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	\$ 2.00	--	--	--		
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	\$ 2.00	--	--	--		
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	\$ 2.00	--	--	--		
Sweet Crabapple	<i>Malus coronaria</i>	\$ 2.00	--	--	--		
Tulip Poplar	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	\$ 2.00	--	--	--		
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	\$ 2.00	--	--	--		

Additional Items

Name of Item	Description	Price per Item	Quantity	Total Cost
Wildflower Seeds	1 oz. (156 sq. ft.)	\$ 4.00		
	3 oz. (456 sq. ft.)	\$ 11.00		
Fertilizer Pellets	2 year time release	\$ 4.00		
Rain Barrels	(Circle Color) Blue Green White	\$ 75.00		
Tree Planting Bar	Locally Manufactured	\$ 40.00		

 Check this box if you do not wish to be added to our mailing list

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone #: _____

Subtotal

TOTALS:

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Children ages 5 to 12, color me and return me to the Berks County Conservation District. The first 5 children will win a prize. Return to us no later than April 18th and come see your picture on display at the Ag Center.

DO YOUR PART THIS EARTH DAY



NIEHS Kids Page

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

PERMIT DECISION

GUARANTEE *(Continued from page 1)*

Major Activities or Changes:

Governor Corbett's Executive Order for Permit Decision Guarantee:

Requires the Department to make permit decisions within a specific time frame if applications are administratively and technically complete. This decision affects the entire permit portfolio of PADEP.

PADEP Permit Program Standard Operating Procedures (SOP):

Identifies how PADEP will implement the Governor's Executive Order.

Creates timeframes, Application Ranking, requirements for administratively and technically complete applications, requires or strongly suggests applicant pre-submittal meetings with the CD or PADEP, and other SOPs that the Department must follow. The SOP does put more responsibility on the applicant and the designer to submit better plans and permit applications. It also requires an applicant response to review comments within a short time frame.

Chapter 105 Permit Fees:

A fee schedule for Chapter 105 Program was adopted by PADEP. All General 105 permits have various permit fees. Additional fees are required for multiple permits if needed for any activities. Permit fees for General Permits will remain in the Conservation District Clean Water Fund to be utilized to offset the cost of the program. These fees are in addition to the E&S project fee at the present time. PADEP stated that Permit Fees cannot be waived unless it is an activity or entity in regulation that is not required to pay the fee.

PADEP is offering training both in person and via webinar. Check the District's web site for dates, location and web information. The District hopes to schedule a local training session this spring to provide a forum which specific questions and answers can be discussed. We believe that our current timeframe for review of permit applications will meet or be timelier than the timeframes established in the SOP. Please bear with us in working in the above procedures into the program.

Hugh Hammond Bennett



The Father of
Soil Conservation

The first chief of the
Soil Conservation Service

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have lost sight of the
fact that productive
soil is essential to the
production of food."**

Landis C. Deck

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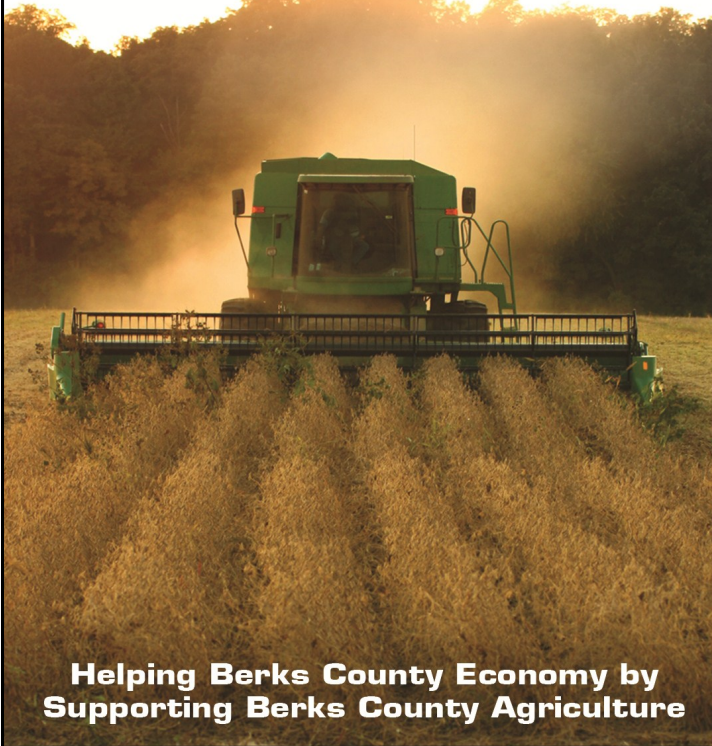
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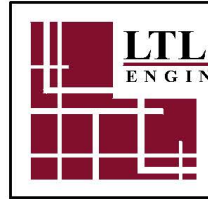
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SPRING FLOWERS SEARCH

The first THREE people to send the word search back to the Berks County Conservation district with all the words correctly found will win a Berks County Conservation District reusable Tote Bag!



1. Circle each word you find that is in the word bank below.
2. Scan and email, fax, or mail the word search to the Berks County Conservation District.

**Berks County Conservation District 1238
County Welfare Rd, Suite 200
Leesport, PA 19533
Kathryn.Keppen@berkscd.com
Fax: 610-478-7058**



O	H	T	A	K	S	S	F	Y	X	M	X	W	O	U
H	W	O	E	I	T	K	L	I	A	H	V	O	X	V
D	T	N	L	A	S	I	G	G	R	I	Y	L	I	G
D	P	N	T	L	L	E	N	Q	A	M	A	L	F	E
D	A	I	I	R	Y	O	E	I	O	P	I	I	A	R
X	C	H	E	C	L	H	N	R	H	A	N	W	E	B
E	J	G	L	I	A	N	O	L	F	T	E	Y	L	E
I	I	F	A	I	I	Y	O	C	G	I	D	S	A	R
T	P	W	E	Z	A	X	H	Y	K	E	R	S	Z	A
G	L	I	D	O	F	F	A	D	H	N	A	U	A	S
M	A	R	I	G	O	L	D	S	B	S	G	P	E	G
G	E	R	A	N	I	U	M	A	I	N	O	G	E	B
P	I	L	U	T	I	A	L	C	R	O	C	U	S	Z
M	T	W	E	C	P	M	F	N	V	J	S	N	N	R
G	A	D	U	H	A	Y	B	P	X	G	Q	Q	S	C

AZALEA	BEGONIA	CROCUS	DAFFODIL
DAHLIA	FREESIA	GARDENIA	GERANIUM
GERBERAS	HOLLYHOCK	HYACINTH	IMPATIENS
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**BERKS COUNTY
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Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

CALENDAR

<u>MARCH</u>	18th 23rd 27th	6:00PM 4:00PM 1:00PM	BCCD and FSA Banquet Seedling Sale Orders Due BCCD Board Meeting	Haag Hotel-Shartlesville, PA Berks Agricultural Center Berks Agricultural Center
<u>APRIL</u>	19th 20th 24th	9:00AM –6:00PM 9:00AM-12:00PM 1:00 PM	Seedling Sale Pick-up Seedling Sale Pick-up BCCD Board Meeting	Berks Agricultural Center Berks Agricultural Center Berks Agricultural Center
<u>MAY</u>	2nd 7th 29th	9:00AM—1:30PM 9:00AM—1:30PM 1:00PM	High School Envirothon Middle School Envirothon BCCD Board Meeting	Nolde State Forest Nolde State Forest Berks Agricultural Center
<u>JUNE</u>	24th- 28th 26th	All Day 1:00PM	DHCLS BCCD Board Meeting	Alvernia University Berks Agricultural Center
<u>JULY</u>	31st	1:00PM	BCCD Board Meeting	Berks Agricultural Center
<u>AUGUST</u>	28th	1:00PM	BCCD Board Meeting	Berks Agricultural Center