

### What MAEAP can do for you and your farm (for free!)

Did you know that by working with your local MAEAP technician you can access a ton of free services and technical assistance? MAEAP is a voluntary, confidential, free service of the Conservation District and our technician wants to help you and your farm in any way she can. Below are some examples of free services Jen can offer your farm. If you are looking for help with something not mentioned here call Jen and ask if she can help! Accessing MAEAP Technician's services does not obligate you to becoming MAEAP verified.

- Manure and cover crop assistance (save money on fertilizer!)
- Technical assistance to reduce soil erosion or runoff
- Water conservation tips for irrigation
- Assistance completing new water use reporting requirements for high capacity wells
- Pesticide Inventories and anything pertaining to chemical use, storage or handling
- Farm Emergency Plans
- Anything related to manure storage, handling and use.
- Improved access and ranking for NRCS Cost Share programs
- Grazing advice and technical assistance
- GAAMPS compliance assistance for Right To Farm Protection
- Soil, compost manure and water testing assistance

For more information, please contact Jen Silveri at (517)543-5848 ext 112 [jennifer.silveri@mi.nacdnet.net](mailto:jennifer.silveri@mi.nacdnet.net)

### Deer and EHD topic at Wildlife Habitat Workshop

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 6:30-8:30pm

Basement Conference Room,  
551 Courthouse Dr Charlotte, MI 48813

Come learn about what EHD means for Michigan's deer herd. Find out what you can do on your property to create habitat. There will be representatives from DNR, US Fish & Wildlife Service, local habitat organizations, and more. Call ECD to reserve your spot 517/543-5848 x 5

### Youth: Call for Creative Writers

ECD's Go Green Youth Challenge Creative Writing Contest is open to all Michigan K-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Public, private and homeschooled students are all eligible to participate. The writing contest will have an environmental theme each year, this year's theme being "What Do Trees Mean to You?" Students can submit any type of creative writing (i.e. essay, short story, poem, etc.) fewer than 300 words, and remember originality and imagination count! In addition to the first, second and third prizes for each age category, there will also be one overall **Grand Prize of a Samsung Galaxy Tablet**.

This contest runs alongside the Go Green Youth Challenge fundraising program, where students raise money to plant trees across Michigan. Both contests have a deadline of **April 1, 2013**. For full program rules and details, please visit [www.miarbordayalliance.com](http://www.miarbordayalliance.com).

### Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds (MGROW) needs input!

MGROW is an outgrowth of the Grand River Expedition 2010. They are striving to bring together local communities, watershed groups and other stakeholders in the Middle Grand River watershed area to build a greater understanding of and stewardship for the rivers that run through our region. There are many different watershed efforts in the region and by working together and sharing resources we can effectively develop consistent educational messages, promote recreation and share specific water quality information. This helps improve the use and citizen understanding of our valuable water resources in the region. For more information please visit: [www.mgrow.org](http://www.mgrow.org).

### Other Upcoming Events

March 23 Vermontville Electronics recycling

March 30 -Tree Sale ordering deadline:

April 13 Recycle Rama—Lansing

April 19 Tree Sale Distribution

April 26 ECD hosts statewide Arbor Day celebration at Potter Park

June 6th -Native Plant Sale

# Tree Planting Tips

**Planting Preparation**

*A little forethought can go a long way*

Snow may be covering the ground now, but planting season is just around the corner. For many, that means putting new trees in the ground. But there are several things to consider before you dig that hole, or even before you make the purchase. By thinking about the following points you may save yourself some headaches in the years to come.

**Plant for Final Size:**

Obviously, the tree you purchase is going to get considerably larger over time; you would be extremely disappointed if it didn't. So read up on the species you are considering to find out what the final height and spread might look like. Avoid planting trees too close to other structures or each other.

**Plant for Energy Efficiency:**

Which side of your house you choose to plant on can make

all the difference. A well placed tree can greatly reduce your home heating and cooling costs. Deciduous trees placed to the south, southeast and southwest can help reduce summer heat, while evergreens to the north and northwest can help block winter winds.

**Plant for Safety:** Think about what the adult tree will look like; does it block entry points to your home? If so, you might want to choose a different location. Concealing cover may aid those looking to break into your home.


**Plant for Aesthetics:** Trees can also add beauty to your yard. When choosing a species to plant, consider the scale, shape, color, seeds and flowers in order to pick the one that will meet your needs. Also consider the amount of yard care needed. Do you want to deal with the aftermath of the large flower petals of a Magnolia, the fruits of a Walnut or acorns of an Oak? Every tree species is different, and you should choose based on as much

knowledge as possible in order to enhance your landscape as you desire.

**Plant for an Ecosystem:** By planting trees you are also planting habitat for all kinds of creatures. What you invite will depend on what you choose to plant. Different trees hold different food sources (crabapples vs. acorns for instance), and different heights will offer cover to different birds and mammals. But the habitat values go beyond wildlife. The roots of your tree will prevent soil erosion, filter water and reduce runoff. Basically trees = better regional water quality. And finally,


**Plant for Posterity:** With the potential to live for hundreds of years, trees can be living monuments to be cherished for future generations. The benefits a tree gives us will only increase as it ages. Trees planted now can be a gift for the present as well as the future.

Thank you  
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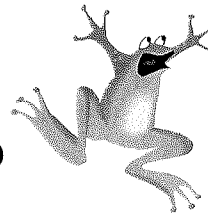
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# What is Causing that Racket?



Ribbit.....ribbit.....croak.....croak..... Spring will be here before we know it, bringing rain, warmer temperatures and the noisy calls of frogs and toads waking up from their winter slumber.

The first warm rains of April bring American Toads out of the woods to the breeding ponds, where the air is soon filled with their melodious trills. Several of our frogs postpone their breeding activities until later in spring, when air and water temperatures are higher. Frogs are far more often heard than seen. Most frog sounds are the advertisement calls of the males, intended to attract the females for breeding. Frog voices may carry for long distances, especially the higher pitched calls of the smaller species. The males increase the loudness of their calls by ballooning out their throats or special sacs at the sides of their throats, creating a kind of resonating chamber. Only males produce advertisement calls, but both sexes may give shorter warning calls or screams when danger threatens. Males can also produce distinct calls that warn away rival males that approach their calling or breeding sites.

Michigan is home to many frogs and toads. Each species has a unique call.

Fowler's Toad: A short, bleating cry, like a lamb, but quite unlike the American Toad's trill.

Green Frog: An emphatic "clung," like a picking banjo string. Short and loud.

Mink Frog: Likened to distant hammering: "Kuk, kuk, kuk, kuk, kuk."

Western Chorus Frog: A raspy, rising trill "cree ee k" similar to the noise made by strumming the small teeth

of a pocket comb.

Gray Treefrog: A short musical trill. Often heard before and after breeding season on warm nights.

Eastern American Toad: A prolonged trill.

Bullfrog: A deep, low, rumbling croak, often written as "jug o rum!"

Wood Frog: A duck like "quack," some describe it as "a lot of chuckling."

Northern Leopard Frog: A low croaking snore.

Pickereel Frog: A soft, short snore-like croak.

Northern Spring Peeper: Tinkling of bells is a popular description.


Blanchard's Cricket Frog: Distinctive, metallic clicking call, similar to the sound made when two pebbles are tapped together.

Unfortunately, frogs, toads and other amphibians have been declining in population due to habitat loss, pollution, disease and collection. How can you help these fascinating creatures? Volunteer with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Annual Frog and Toad Survey! Michigan's annual survey efforts help biologists keep tabs on frog and toad abundance and distribution in the state. The surveys are conducted by volunteer observers along a statewide system of permanent survey routes, each consisting of 10 wetland sites. Observers visit the sites three times during spring when frogs and toads are actively breeding and listen for calling frogs and toads at each site, identify the species present, and make an estimate of abundance. To participate in this fun, educational event contact Lori Sargent, Survey Coordinator, at [sargentl@michigan.gov](mailto:sargentl@michigan.gov) or 517-373-9418.




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**Conservation District Staff**

Andrea Stay, *Executive Director*  
 Jennifer Hunnell, *Arbor Day Coordinator*  
 Jen Silveri, *MAEAP Technician*  
 Rachael Loucks *Watershed Coordinator*

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 Dave Brown, *Secretary*  
 R. Keith Moss, *Member*

**NRCS staff**

Tim Redder, *District Conservationist*  
 Ruben Torres, *Soil Conservationist*

**2013 Spring Tree Sale**

Size	Per 5	Per10	Per25	Per50	Per100	Per500
Blue Spruce 5-10"	X	X	\$16	\$28	\$38	\$130
Norway Spruce 5-10"	X	X	\$16	\$28	\$38	\$130
Red Pine 5-10"	X	X	\$16	\$28	\$38	\$130
White Pine 5-10"	X	X	\$16	\$28	\$38	\$130
White Spruce 5-10"	X	X	\$16	\$28	\$38	\$130
Douglas Fir 5-10"	X	X	\$19	\$38	\$48	\$140
Black Cherry 6-12"	X	\$14	\$19	\$35	\$57	X
Black Walnut 12-24"	X	\$16	\$28	\$50	\$86	X
Hybrid Poplar 12-24"	X	\$14	\$22	\$40	\$67	X
Red Oak 8-12"	X	\$14	\$22	\$40	\$67	X
Red Maple 6-12"	X	\$14	\$22	\$40	\$67	X
Sugar Maple 6-12"	X	\$16	\$28	\$50	\$86	X
White Birch 8-13"	X	\$14	\$22	\$40	\$67	X
White Oak 8-12"	X	\$14	\$22	\$40	\$67	X
American Hazelnut 6-12"	\$10	\$16	\$28	\$50	\$76	X
Choke Cherry 8-18"	\$10	\$16	\$28	\$50	\$76	X
Common Lilac 12-24"	\$10	\$16	\$28	\$50	\$76	X
Highbush Cranberry 6-12"	X	X	\$22	\$40	\$67	X
Nanking Cherry 12-24"	\$10	\$16	\$28	\$50	\$76	X
Ninebark 12-24"	\$10	\$16	\$28	\$50	\$76	X
Quaking Aspen 12-24"	\$10	\$16	\$28	\$50	\$76	X
Red-osier Dogwood 5-10"	X	X	\$19	\$35	\$57	X
Silky Dogwood 12-24"	\$10	\$16	\$28	\$50	\$86	X
Blue Spruce Transplants	5/\$25	10/\$35	25/\$54	50/\$80		
Norway Spruce Transplants	5/\$25	10/\$35	25/\$54	50/\$80		

White Pine Transplants 5/\$20 10/\$30 25/\$50

**Fruit Trees & Packets**

Apple - Braestar	\$17 each or \$30/pair
Apple – Granny Smith	\$17 each or \$30/pair
Apple—Honeycrisp	\$17 each or \$30/pair *Just added!
Apple –Red Macintosh	\$17 each or \$30/pair
Apple –Liberty	\$17 each or \$30/pair
Dark Sweet Cherry—Royal Ann	\$17 each or \$30/pair
Dark Sweet Cherry—Van	\$17 each or \$30/pair
Nectarine- Fantasia	\$17 each or \$30/pair
Nectarine—Independence	\$17 each or \$30/pair
Peach—Redhaven	\$17 each or \$30/pair
Autumn Britton Raspberries	1/\$3.50 5/ \$16.50 10/\$30.00
Chester Blackberry	1/\$3.50 5/ \$16.50 10/\$30.00
Draper Blueberry	1/\$7 5/\$33 10/\$30
Elizabeth Blueberry	1/\$7 5/\$33 10/\$30
Jewel Strawberry	12/\$3 25/\$5 50/ \$10
Albion Strawberry	12/\$3 25/\$5 50/ \$10
Bird & Butterfly Packet -10 trees	\$10/PKT

**Deadline to order is March 30th 2013.**

Full payment and customer name & address info must accompany order. Please add 6% sales tax to total. Make checks payable to Eaton CD and mail to ECD address. You will receive pick-up instructions with your receipt after you place an order.

Full order form with plant descriptions available at [www.eatoncd.org](http://www.eatoncd.org)

Tree Sale Pick-up will take place **April 19th** at Jansons - 799 Island Hwy, Charlotte, MI 48813