



Spring 2020

WYOMING COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Environmentally Friendly Lawncare Practices



As weather warms up and plants start to grow, most people will find themselves with a long list of landscaping tasks to do around their property including: mowing the lawn, weeding the garden, and cleaning out flowerbeds. Whatever your spring projects are, keeping the environment in mind can help you be more productive and keep your property healthier.

Yard Clippings: Grass clippings can be beneficial to your lawn! Short clippings can be left on the lawn (Grass-cycling) and they will decompose quickly, keeping them out of landfills and recycling nutrients back into the environment. Studies have shown that leaving lawn clippings can reduce the need for fertilizer, making your yard healthier. Excess clippings can be composted to make an environmentally sustainable fertilizer for your garden.



COMPOSTING BASICS

What you can compost and what you should pitch



Special tips: Reduce erosion by seeding bare spots in your lawn and planting native shrubs and trees along waterways and shorelines. Plant roots hold soil in place and stop it from being carried away and into waterways.

Keep it out of the water: Do not throw lawn clippings and other debris into any nearby waterbody, these materials can cause excess nutrients and lead to algae growth and poor water quality. Dispose of them properly and keep your property and your environment healthy.

Manage Runoff: watch areas where downspouts release water or runoff concentrates. Those areas are susceptible to erosion. Consider installing rain barrels on downspouts or adding stronger vegetation in these areas to reduce the amount of flow going over them.

Fertilizer: Only use fertilizer when absolutely necessary, be sure to have your soil tested and find out what nutrients your soil is lacking. Cornell Cooperative extension can send your soil samples out and provide you with the results. Do not spread fertilizer near waterbodies, leave a buffer zone along any ditch, stream, pond, or lake to reduce excess nutrients in the water.

Environmental stewardship isn't just for large projects and group efforts, small individual decisions to do the right thing for the environment make the difference! It starts with you!

Invasive Species Corner

Spotlight Species: Spotted Lanternfly

Scientific Name: *Lycorma delicatula*

What is the Spotted Lanternfly?

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect that feeds on many agricultural cash crops such as apples, plums, cherries, grapes, peaches, hops, and many more. The insect also feeds on several species of native trees, depending on the current stage of development. The spotted lanternfly also has the ability to secrete “honeydew” which attracts molds to the plants and interferes with photosynthesis. Like most invasives, the spotted lanternfly has the ability to reproduce exponentially, this rapid breeding and feeding off entire orchards can severely threaten NYS agriculture.



How to Identify?

The spotted lanternfly has unique wings, which are considered the trademark identifier for the pesky insect. In the nymph stage, the bodies are black with white spots. As the insect matures, wings develop into a grey, red, black, and white pattern with black spots on the upper and lower wings. The adults lay egg masses in the fall on tree trunks, rocks, and firewood. The egg sacs are waxy and greyish, they should be scraped from the surface immediately to reduce the chance of offspring survival.



Fun Fact: The spotted lanternfly prefers to lay its egg masses on Tree of Heaven, another invasive!

Keep an eye out!

The spotted lanternfly is on the Western New York watch list because very few individuals have been found throughout the region. Currently, the closest cases to Wyoming county have been found in Monroe and Yates counties. The spotted lanternfly is still in a position to be detected early, and prevented from devastating the county's agriculture. However, this means citizens and the public must be vigilant if they do see a spotted lanternfly, or an egg mass. If you believe you've found a spotted lanternfly please take a picture and email to the NYSDEC at spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov.

Wyoming County Conservation Spotlight: Baker Brook Dairy Farm

Baker Brook Dairy Farm has actively participated in the Agricultural Environmental Management program since 2003. In 2017, the District applied for the first round of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation Waste Storage and Transfer Program that would allow Baker Brook Dairy to expand the farm's current waste management system.

Yes, that is actually Jake!

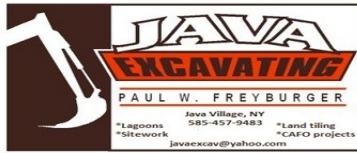


In summer of 2019, the project finally took off and resulted in one of the biggest waste storages the District has ever funded! The waste storage, at its highest capacity, can hold almost 7 million gallons of silage leachate, milkhouse waste, and most importantly manure. The installation of this system gives the farm enough storage to only spread when the weather conditions are optimal and runoff will be at a minimum. Baker Brook Dairy Farm and Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District have developed a good working relationship and will continue to work towards improving agricultural conservation in the future.



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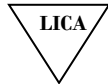
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