



From the *Fall Line*

Serving the Counties of King George, Spotsylvania, Stafford & the City of Fredericksburg

Spring 2016



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**VCAP- NEW COST-SHARE
PROGRAM**

HOMEOWNER HIGHLIGHTS

**TREE SEEDLING AND RAIN
BARREL SALE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION**

AGRICULTURE UPDATES

NRCS CORNER

**VA COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION UPDATE**

DIRECTORY

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Introducing:

The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)

By

Kyle Haynes

Tri-County/City SWCD, District Manager

The Tri-County/City Soil and Water Conservation District is excited to introduce the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) to the Fredericksburg region. This new program provides cost-share incentives and technical assistance to residents, private businesses, and public agencies that would like to install and maintain Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as rain gardens, conservation landscaping or permeable pavement on their property. Urban BMPs not only contribute to improving the health of streams and rivers in our region but also throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. (Continue on the next page)



The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)

With rapid urbanization in our District, it is more important than ever to acknowledge the impact that increased stormwater runoff has on our local watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay. Stormwater runoff is rainfall that collects and transports pollutants (nitrogen, phosphorous, bacteria, sediment) as it flows across rooftops, streets, sidewalks, and lawns, depositing those pollutants into streams and rivers in our backyards. The pollutants transported by stormwater runoff can cause algae blooms, sediment deposition, and elevated bacteria levels, which can be harmful for both aquatic and human life. In addition, excess stormwater runoff can lead to streambank erosion and flooding in urban and suburban areas.

BMPs such as rain gardens, rainwater harvesting, and permeable pavement are designed to help slow and/or capture stormwater runoff where it falls. The amount of cost-share funding available for each practice varies, but the program covers a significant portion of the cost of materials and installation.



Photo Credit: Potomac Conservancy www.Potomac.org



Photo Credit: NCSU – Rainwater Harvesting

Our everyday actions can have a substantial impact on the water quality of our local watersheds. To lessen the impacts of stormwater runoff, consider reducing the amount of rainwater that leaves your property by installing a BMP. If you're interested in applying for technical and financial assistance through VCAP or you would like to request a site visit, contact Kyle Haynes at (540) 656-2401, or email him at kyle.haynes@tccswcd.org.

VCAP offers 13 BMPs that help mitigate the negative impacts of stormwater runoff, including:

- ***Impervious Surface Removal***
- ***Pet Waste Stations***
- ***Urban Nutrient Management***
- ***Conservation Landscaping***
- ***Rainwater Harvesting***
- ***Rain Gardens***
- ***Vegetated Stormwater Conveyances***
- ***Dry Well***
- ***Bioretention***
- ***Green Roofs***
- ***Permeable Pavement***
- ***Constructed Wetlands***
- ***Infiltration Basin***

Homeowner Highlights by Giannina D. Frantz

Stormwater Runoff and Soil Erosion

Rainwater falling on your roof is usually directed away from our houses and typically moves down the nearest slope or the curb into the street. In many instances, this excess water is redirected to gutters and storm drains. As the rainwater travels, it collects sediment and pollutants that eventually make their way to our local streams and rivers. Soil erosion is a common problem in residential areas especially near gutter downspouts and steep grades. A few signs of erosion include:

- ✚ Small channels in your yard;
- ✚ Sediment collecting in low areas or on driveways;
- ✚ Soil splashes on windows and exterior walls; and
- ✚ Exposed tree roots or stones.

Erosion can have a very negative impact on your property and derail attempts to improve your "curb appeal". The good news is that erosion can be controlled with proper techniques to reduce the volume and velocity of rainwater.

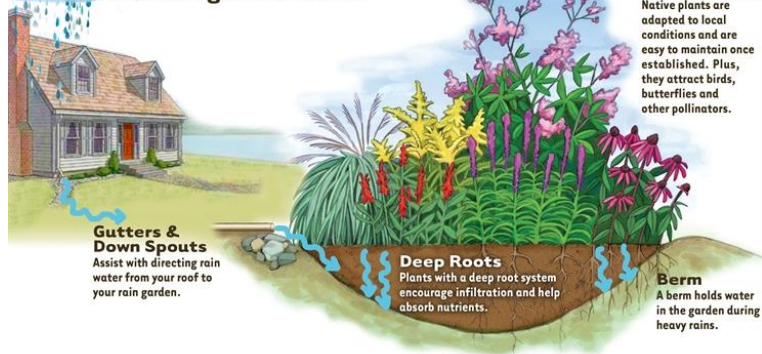


Creating a Rain Garden

Rain Gardens are a great solution to prevent soil erosion in your yard. A carefully placed rain garden diverts excessive drainage from roofs, gutters and pavement capturing water and reducing erosion of your property. By planting flood and drought tolerant vegetation (preferably native to

Virginia) in a slight depression; rainwater is collected and soaked up by the vegetation absorbing water and pollutants such as pesticides and fertilizers which impair water quality, reducing the flow of water, holding the soil in place while absorbing valuable water and nutrients.

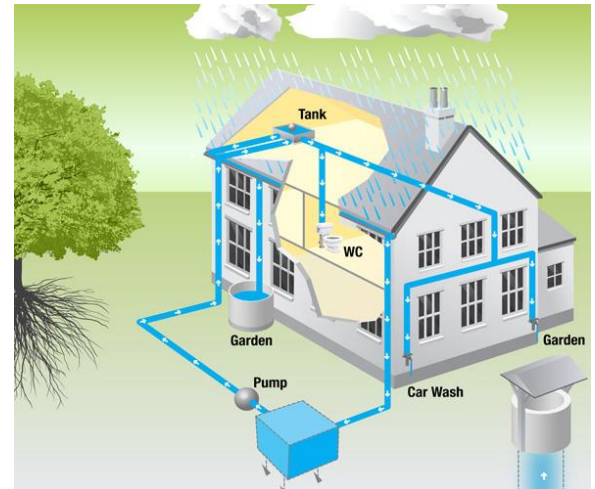
How does a rain garden work?



Rain gardens create a beautiful habitat for butterflies, small birds, and bees improving the attractiveness of our yards!

Rain Harvesting and Rain Barrels

Rain harvesting and rain barrels are another excellent way to prevent soil erosion, conserve water and save money! Rain barrels are containers that are connected to your downspouts to capture runoff from the roof. The water collected can provide plants and gardens with water, reduce flooding in your yard, and help protect the Chesapeake Bay. Rain harvesting is a great way to have a reliable supply of clean **FREE** water to use outside especially during dry periods. Water collecting during rain events can be used for many different purposes including gardening and washing your car or exterior windows!



Some larger rain harvesting containers are enclosed or buried under the surface but smaller rain barrels are stored above ground.

The installation of Rain Gardens and Rainwater Harvesting systems may be covered under VCAP through TCCSWCD. Please contact our office for more information on participating in this urban cost-share program.

Annual Tree Seedling and Rain Barrel Sale

Tree Seedlings & Rain Barrel Sale

April 16th, 2016

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

City of Fredericksburg Farmers Market

Hurkamp Park
George & Prince Edward St

Spotsylvania County Farmers Market

Route 3-Gordon Road Commuter Lot

The District would like to invite all residents in our area to visit our booths at two local farmers markets to support our Annual Tree Seedling and Rain Barrel Sale. We are selling a variety of tree seedlings including many native Virginia species. The seedlings will be sold as bundles of two for \$4.00. Rain barrels will be offered in two sizes: 50 and 65 gallons for \$75 and \$90, respectively. To guarantee your purchase, pre-orders should be paid in full by Wednesday, April 14th.



The EarthMinded™ RainStation™ Rain Barrels connect to your downspout and automatically collect runoff water from your home's roof.

Product features:

- ***Extra-large 65-gallon or large 50 gallon capacity***
- ***Includes a reversible “Planter Top” lid that can be used to grow annuals or herbs on top of the barrel making it both functional and decorative.***
- ***Flexifit™ Diverter automatically passes excess water through the downspout to prevent flooding***
- ***Hole saw included, installs in minutes***
- ***A large opening lid with locking feature for safety***
- ***Sealed system keeps out mosquitoes, pests and sunlight***
- ***Works with standard rectangular downspouts (2 x 3" and 3 x 4")***

<http://www.earthmindedconsumerproducts.com/index.html>



2016 Tree Seedling Species

Trees



American Plum



Persimmon



Eastern Red Bud



Q & A TREE SEEDLINGS SALE

Q. Where do we get tree seedlings?

A. The Virginia Department of Forestry is our main provider of bare-root seedlings. We also purchase seedlings from private nurseries.

Q. How large are packages?

A. They are first- and second – year bare-root trees and shrubs, which means they are small and come without soil. We add a color ribbon to each package to help identify the type of the species.

Q. How fast will they grow?

A. The seedlings typically start out in a dormant state but when cared for properly, they can grow quite fast according to each species growing speed.

Q. How do I care for them?

A. Keep the roots moist and plant your seedlings as soon as possible. Dig a hole wider than it is deep. Water throughout the summer for the first year, especially if your seedling is planted in direct sunlight. Fertilizer is not needed. We will provide a planting guide with your purchase.

Source: Northern Virginia SWCD

Shrubs



Hazelnut



Silky Dogwood



Lilac



Tree Seedling & Rain Barrel Sale

Saturday, April 16, 2016 9 – 12 noon

Visit Our Website for more information: www.tccswcd.org

Trees benefit our environment by controlling erosion, reducing toxins, converting carbon dioxide to oxygen, and enhancing wildlife habitat. Proceeds will be used for educational programs.



Persimmon-Matures to 20 to 60 feet and 1 to 2 feet in diameter. Grows in sandy woods to moist river bottoms to rocky slopes and is deer resistant. The fruit is sweet and edible when ripe.



Eastern Redbud - Grows to mature size of 15-30 feet. Beautiful showy "red buds" in Spring. Planted as an ornamental tree suitable for small landscapes and is deer resistant.



Hazelnut – Small shrub, reaching 8-15 feet in height and 8-12 feet wide. It is as near to maintenance free as any plant and produces excellent nuts.



Silky Dogwood - Large shrub, often 6 to 10 feet in height. It performs best in soils that are moist, somewhat poorly drained. Can be used for wildlife habitat, slope stabilization, and as an ornamental. It is also deer resistant.

Pre-Orders should be paid in full by Wednesday, April 14th! All Orders MUST be picked up between 9 -12 noon on April 16th.



American Plum - Multi-stemmed small tree, reaching 25 feet. Blooms in early spring. Plums can be eaten fresh or processed as preserves and jellies. Partial to full sun.



Lilac - Large deciduous shrub, growing 20 feet. Sweet-smelling flowers, which appear in early summer. Very hardy in full sun. Attracts butterflies and is deer resistant



Rain Barrel - Collect and store rain water runoff from your rooftop via rain gutters. Great way to water your landscape and garden and save money. The rain barrels are made of recycled plastic bottles. The kit includes: the barrel, lid, spigot, plug, connector hose, a drill bit to cut the downspout hole the right size, and detailed instructions.

Directions: Fill out form circling WHERE you'll pick up your seedlings and fax to: (540-656-2403) or clip order form and mail to: TCCSWCD, 4811 Carr Drive, Fredericksburg VA 22408, or email: tricity@tccswcd.org or call (540)656-2401 by April 14th.

I Will Pick Up My Seedlings
At This Location

City of Fredericksburg
Farmers Market – Hurkamp Park
George & Prince Edward St

Spotsylvania County
Farmers Market
Gordon Rd & Rt 3

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

**PAY BY CASH OR CHECK-
NO CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS**

SEEDLING SPECIES	SIZE	# IN PACK	\$ PACK	# PACK	TOTAL	SEEDLING SPECIES	SIZE	# IN PACK	\$ PACK	# PACK	TOTAL
Persimmon	14-22"	2	\$4			American Plum	18-24"	2	\$4		
Eastern Redbud	12-20"	2	\$4			Lilac	8-16"	2	\$4		
Hazelnut	18-22"	2	\$4			Rain Barrel	65 gal	1	\$90		
Silky Dogwood	12-22"	2	\$4			Rain Barrel	50 gal	1	\$75		
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE											

Environmental Education and Outreach Programs

2016 Youth Conservation Camp



We are currently accepting applications for 2016 VASWCD Youth Conservation Camp to be held on July 10-16, 2016 at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in Blacksburg, Virginia. For the past 40 years, the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts has sponsored a week long summer conservation camp for Virginia high school students on Virginia Tech's campus and surrounding areas.

The program brings together about 70 interested students for a week of learning about Virginia's natural resources from conservation professionals and faculty from Virginia Tech. Most of the instruction is hands-on and outdoors. Youth Conservation Camp is a scholarship-based educational opportunity for students specifically interested in natural resources; environmental science and natural resource conservation. To be awarded camp attendance students must be in grades 9-12, during the 2015-2016 academic school year.

Tri-County/City SWCD covers the majority of the camp costs to include meals, lodging, activities and transportation while at camp. If selected, eligible applicants will be responsible only for a non-refundable \$75.00 fee and their own transportation to and from camp. We encourage all Fredericksburg area high school students to apply for the Youth Conservation Camp.

Applications are available on the district website <http://tccswcd.org> and must be submitted via mail/email before April 11th, 2016.

For more information please contact Izabela Sikora, TCCSWCD Education Coordinator at 540-656-2402 or email: Izabela.sikora@tccswcd.org.





Agriculture Updates

By
Etta Lucas (Conservation Specialist)

Nutrient Management Plans

If you received an approval letter from our District office for this practice; it's time to get your Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) written or revised by a NMP certified planner. The development or revision of your Nutrient Management Plan is needed to assure that implemented plans are accurate and up to date to minimize the impact to the environment by nutrients used in crop, pasture, and hay production. The following items are required in the plan before cost-share payments can be made:

1. The plan must cover at least *twelve months* of crop and management practices
2. Plans must contain an *aerial photograph with FSA Tract, Field numbers, and field acreages and a scaled map*
3. A complete copy of the Nutrient Management Plan, containing the planner's Virginia Nutrient Management *Certificate number*
4. An *invoice* for planning services from the private certified planner
5. The acreage receiving mechanically applied, on-farm generated, animal manure or a combination of mechanically applied on-farm generated animal manure and commercial fertilizer and the acreage receiving only commercial fertilizer and/or imported animal manure
6. Plans must be developed based on soil analyses taken within a *three year period* prior to plan development and must be performed by Virginia Tech or other soil testing laboratories approved by DCR
7. All *credits for residual fertilizer* must be credited in the plan

Small Grain Cover Crop

If you were approved for the *Small Grain (wheat, barley or rye) Cover Crop Program*, you must provide a current Nutrient Management Plan which includes the fields on the tract before payment can be made. Please call the District office to discuss your plans after you make a decision. You may harvest the grain or destroy it after March 15th. The cover crop must be certified as destroyed/unharvested before payment can be made.



Tax Credits

The General Assembly has authorized *other tax credits* to encourage the purchase and usage of certain agricultural equipment in support of soil and water conservation. The usage of these tax credits by an agricultural producer does not require issuance of a Tax Credit Certification Letter or approval of the equipment by the SWCD; however, you must have an approved Nutrient Management Plan on file in the District office.

If you have any questions, please call Etta Lucas, Conservation Specialist at (540) 656-2402.

NRCS Corner
Introducing Lucia Kossler
NRCS District Conservationist

“Hi everyone! I’ve asked TCCSWCD if I can have “a corner” of their newsletters to send out reminders, etc. to all of you regarding existing contracts and upcoming funding opportunities. It will normally be MUCH shorter than what you’ll find here today, but I wanted to take a minute to introduce myself first. My name is Lucee Kossler and I am the new district conservationist in the Fredericksburg NRCS office. Notice I didn’t say that I replaced Ron? I’ve quickly learned that Ron is irreplaceable! He has been unbelievably helpful in my transition and, although I won’t pretend to bring to the table the 34 years of knowledge and wisdom that he left with, I do promise that I’ll work my hardest to bring as much financial assistance and technical assistance to you as I can and if I don’t know an answer to your questions, I’ll certainly find it for you!



So, a little about me...I’m originally from the mountains of NC. I have a six month old son at home who keeps me honest and humble! While my background is in livestock, my husband is a Certified Crop Advisor and is on speed dial for all of my seeding/crop questions...I’m not afraid to pull the “I cook your dinner card” when I need information for my producers on the fly! I have two bachelor degrees and a master’s degree from NCSU in agriculture. I got my start in conservation work in Southwest VA with a SWCD in 2007 before I transitioned over to NRCS in 2010. I transferred to the Warsaw service center in 2012 as a soil conservationist and accepted the district conservationist position in Fredericksburg in October of 2015. I’ve had a whirlwind career so far, but I bring with me years of experience working with various programs and learning from some of the brightest minds from both agencies across the state. Every field office is run differently so I’m still getting my feet beneath me in Fredericksburg, but as I must remind myself quite often, it’s just a transition period and I’ll be up and running at full speed soon. I appreciate everyone’s enthusiasm at my coming to the area, and look forward to working with as many of you as I can as I continue my work here.

Spring is a busy season for everyone no doubt...but please remember if you have season specific practices in any of your contracts, they’ll need to be dealt with as quickly as possible. Not sure if you have season specific practices? Call us! Lexi and I are happy to help you! It takes us less time to make sure we all stay on schedule than to modify or delete practices from a contract. I look forward to working with everyone and if you ever have any questions or suggestions, I’ve got an open door policy...just bring doughnuts (Ha-ha...just kidding)! Come see my anytime!

Lucee F. Kossler

USDA-NRCS District Conservationist
Fredericksburg Service Center
540-899-9492 ext 115
Lucia.kossler@va.usda.gov

NRCS Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Frost Seeding Clover: JUST DO IT

By
Chris D. Teutsch



Everyone is familiar with Nike's ad campaign that encourages people to "JUST DO IT". I am officially adopting this slogan for my 2016 Frost Seeding Campaign. Legumes are an essential part of a strong and healthy nitrogen cycle in grasslands. In many cases they come by themselves when we start to manage for them, but in some instances, we need to introduce them back into our pastures. Listed below are a few steps that we can take that will help to ensure that our frost seedlings are successful.

- ❖ **Control Broadleaf Weeds.** Broadleaf weeds must be controlled prior to seeding legumes. This is best accomplished by controlling weeds the season prior to renovation.
- ❖ **Soil Test and Adjust Fertility.** In order for pasture renovation to be successful proper soil fertility is required. Lime and fertilize pastures according to soil test results.
- ❖ **Suppress Sod and Decrease Residue.** The existing sod must be suppressed and plant residue reduced prior to seeding. The reduction in plant residue facilitates good soil-seed contact.
- ❖ **Ensure Good Soil-Seed Contact.** Regardless of what seeding method is chosen, good soil-seed contact is required for seed germination and emergence.
- ❖ **Seed on Proper Date.** Frost seeding or drilling legumes back into pastures is usually best accomplished in late winter or early spring (February and early March). Frost seeding is accomplished by simply broadcasting the seed on the soil surface and allowing the freezing and thawing cycles to incorporate the seed into the soil.
- ❖ **Use High-Quality Seed of an Adapted Species.** Choose forage species that are adapted to the area and end use. Use either certified or proprietary seed to ensure high germination, seed genetics, and low noxious weed content.
- ❖ **Use correct seeding rate.** Calibrate your seeder prior to planting (see box on calibrating forage seeding equipment).
- ❖ **Inoculate Legume Seed.** Always use inoculated legume seed or inoculate it with the proper strain of nitrogen fixing bacteria prior to seeding (continue on the next page)
- ❖ **Control Seeding Depth.** Small seeded forages should never be placed deeper than ½ inch. When using a drill always check seeding depth since it will vary with seedbed condition and soil moisture status. Placing small seeded forages too deep will result in stand failures.
- ❖ **Check seed distribution pattern.** When using a spinner type spreader/seeder make sure and check your spreading pattern. In many cases small seeded forages are not thrown as far as fertilizer.
- ❖ **Control Post-Seeding Competition.** Failure to control post-seeding competition is one of the most common causes of stand failures. Clip or graze the existing vegetation to a height just above the developing seedlings.
- ❖ **Pray for rain.** Lastly and most importantly pray for rain. We can do everything just right, but if it doesn't rain success will be unlikely.

For more information on frost seeding contact your local extension agent or visit Virginia Cooperative Extension's webpage at <http://www.ext.vt.edu/>.

TRI-COUNTY/CITY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORY



DIRECTORS:

Giannina Frantz, *City of Fredericksburg*
Steve Cameli, *City of Fredericksburg*
Janet Gayle Harris, *King George County*
Robert Wernsman, *King George County*
Wayne Miller, *Spotsylvania County*
Jan Massey, *Spotsylvania County*
Jeff Adams, *Stafford County*
Mike Anderson, *Stafford County*
Richard Street, *At Large*
Mike Broaddus, *VA Cooperative Extension*

DISTRICT PERSONNEL:

Kyle Haynes, *District Manager*
Etta Lucas, *Conservation Specialist*
Kim McAfee, *Administrative Professional*
Izabela Sikora, *Education Coordinator*

PARTNER AGENCIES:

Amy Walker, *Conservation Coordinator, DCR*
Lucia Kossler, *District Conservationist, NRCS*
Alexa (Lexi) Clark, *Soil Conservationist, NRCS*

TCCSWCD maintains a working relationship with each of the following agencies and organizations to reach common conservation goals:

USDA – Natural Resources
Conservation Service
USDA – Farm Services Agency
VA Department of Conservation &
Recreation
City of Fredericksburg
King George County
Spotsylvania County
Stafford County
VA Cooperative Extension
Friends of the Rappahannock
VA State Parks
VA Native Plant Society
Tree Fredericksburg
George Washington Regional Council
Potomac Watershed Roundtable
Rappahannock River Basin Council
York River & Small Coastal Basins
Roundtable
VA Department of Environmental Quality
VA Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer
Services
VA Department of Forestry
VA Department of Game & Inland
Fisheries
VA Outdoors Foundation
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
VA Soil & Water Conservation Districts

All programs and services of the Tri-County/City Soil and Water Conservation District are available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, age, marital status, disability, gender, gender identity, political affiliation or any other basis protected by law.