

Fall Weather Safety Tips

Fall is a wonderful time of year. The leaves are changing, the kids are back to school, there's football to watch, apples to pick (and eat!), pumpkins to carve, and the weather is especially pleasant — lower humidity, fewer bugs, and better sleeping temperatures. What's not to love?

But fall is not without its share of hazards. Here are some tips to be prepared for whatever weather challenges may come your way this season:

Floodwaters

In short, never drive through floodwaters! Fall can often times bring with it rainy weather, and heavy rains can be a common occurrence as September and October are still part of hurricane season. So if you encounter fast moving water or a flooded roadway as you are driving or walking, it's best to turn around and find another route. Abide by the "Turn Around, Don't Drown" adage. You do not know the conditions under the water. All it takes is 6 inches of moving water to make you fall. And keep children and pets from playing in floodwater.

Leaf Hazards

Leaves, while pretty, can pose hazards for motorists. Fallen leaves can gather on roadways and when they become wet, they can create very slick conditions. Add freezing temperatures to the mix and your vehicle will have zero tracking, similar to driving on an icy road. In addition, leaves can cover important road markings (double yellow lines, for example) or deep pot holes. So it's important to slow down when driving on a leaf-covered roadway. And always give yourself plenty of room between you and the cars around you in case anyone has to stop short.

Children often play in leaf piles so be alert! Never drive through a pile of leaves.

Many "leaf peepers" are out on the roadways and many can be distracted by foliage vistas. Be alert to what other motorists are doing.

Keep your windshield free of leaves so as to not obstruct your view. And if you see dried leaves peeking out from under the hood of your car, take a moment to pop it and clear them away before you take your trip as they can obstruct ventilation holes and overheat your vehicle.



Fall Weather Safety Tips (article continued from page 1)

Reduced Visibility

With the days getting shorter, visibility when driving in the fall can be a challenge. Many people walk along the side of the road at dusk with dogs, on horses or riding bicycles, and they can be difficult to see. School is also in session so kids are out playing. Mornings tend to be foggy. Additionally, fall is a time when wildlife is more active and on the move. Slow down when driving, especially on curvy or narrow roads where visibility around corners is difficult, and pay attention to postings for animal crossings, and obey school zone speed limits.

Weather Changes

Fall foliage hikes are fabulous. If you take a hike, be prepared for weather changes as you increase elevation. It may be sunny at the base of the mountain but it could be cold and rainy or even snowy at the summit. Dress in layers, and bring a wind breaker or waterproof shell, plenty of water, and never hike alone.

Water Safety

Many people like to take fall boat rides to see peak foliage. Even if things seem calm on the water, everyone on board should wear a life jacket. Being submerged in water of any temperature for any length of time can cause hypothermia and even the strongest swimmer can be weakened.

Here are a few more maintenance items to do this fall for safety:

1. **Get your furnace serviced.** Before winter arrives, it's a good idea to call a professional to do your annual furnace servicing now. Your furnace is by far the most important appliance in your home. Have the filters cleaned or replaced. Check to see if you have an annual service contract, which will greatly bring down costs on this important maintenance step.
2. **Fire Safety.** When we "fall back" is the time when everyone should replace the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. It's also a good idea to have a working fire extinguisher in the house, and everyone who lives there should be familiar with how it works. Hold a Fire Safety Meeting with family members and go over the steps. Do not do any outdoor burning when fire dangers are high. Flying embers can travel and start fires. Never leave candles unattended, especially in Jack-O-Lanterns or on table centerpieces.
3. **Fireplaces.** Get your chimney inspected every fall. Hire a chimney sweep to clean out your chimney of debris, nests, etc. before you light your first fire. Use the fireplace screens to protect from flying sparks and embers. Never pour lighter fluid, kerosene or gasoline on a fireplace, and never leave a fireplace unattended.

<https://www.farmersalmanac.com/fall-weather-safety-tips-19118>



Stephenson SWCD Accepting Nominations

The members of the present nominating committee: John Phillips and Richard Holmes will be seeking nominations for two of the five director's positions for a two-year term of office beginning in 2021 on the Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors.

The Governing body of the SWCD consists of five elected directors, who shall be owners or occupiers of lands within the district. Their purpose is to carry-out in the public's interest the control/prevention of soil erosion, conservation of resources, and prevention of air/water pollution. The Directors willingly give their time to decide what natural resource and agriculture issues in Stephenson county need to be addressed, what action will be taken, and who is responsible for getting the work done. It is their duty to approve the budget for all funds, approve all payments made by the District, and provide for an annual audit. They have the responsibility for personnel management including job descriptions, performance standards, policies, and benefits while providing direction, motivation and guidance.

A director will serve a minimum of a two-year term on the SWCD board, attend monthly board meetings, participate and serve on committees.

SWCD Directors also review, monitor, and supervise the finances, office personnel, and workload of the SWCD; represent the SWCD as time allows, at local, regional, state and national conservation affiliated events and meetings; participate, as time allows in regional and state affiliated organizations.

If you are a landowner or occupy land in Stephenson County, of legal voting age, and would like to make a difference in the future of the county's natural resources, a Director/Associate Director seat may be waiting for you.

If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, stop by the office at 1620 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport IL for a form.

The SWCD is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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Vegetative Filter Strips Eligible For Reduced Property Tax Assessment

Did you know that if you have a qualifying vegetative filter strip on your farm that you may be eligible for a reduced property tax assessment on those acres?

Per a standing Illinois state law, any land that is located between a farm field and an area to be protected, including but not limited to surface water, a stream, a river, or a sinkhole and that meets all requirements shall be considered a "vegetative filter strip" and valued at 1/6th of its productivity index equalized assessed value as cropland. Vegetative filter strips must be at least 66 feet in width and contain vegetation that has a dense top growth, forms a uniform ground cover, has a heavy fibrous root system, and tolerates field pesticides.

Interested landowners should visit the Stephenson County SWCD office to complete an application form. Landowners should bring the property tax ID numbers for each filter strip area. SWCD staff will determine eligibility of the filter strip(s). Once eligibility has been determined, it is the landowner's responsibility to file said form with the County Tax Assessor's office for processing.

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Greg Cross

New Online Resources to Conduct USDA Business

Champaign, IL, September 8, 2020 -- It's more important than ever to have a quick, secure way to get important business done with your local USDA team. That's why the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has partnered with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to deliver Box and OneSpan, new tools to help farmers get important documents signed and shared with USDA service center staff. These are often the quickest, simplest options for both USDA employees and customers. Why? "Because you don't have to create or sign into a secondary account and you can electronically sign papers and forms using your computer or your smart phone. Basically, you can do what you need to with just a few clicks," explains NRCS State Conservationist Ivan Dozier. The tools can save time and offer convenience to Illinois farmers.

By using Box or OneSpan, producers can digitally complete most business transactions with USDA without ever leaving their homes or agricultural operations. Dozier and Graff both noted that Box and OneSpan do not replace existing systems that use e-Authentication for digital signature. Instead, they provide additional efficient, customer-friendly resources for conducting business with USDA.

Box is a secure, cloud-based site where FSA or NRCS documents can be managed and shared. Producers who choose to use Box can create a username and password to access their secure Box account, where documents can be downloaded, printed, manually signed, scanned, uploaded, and shared digitally with Service Center staff. **OneSpan** is a secure eSignature solution. Like Box, no software downloads or eAuthentication are required. Producers interested in eSignature through OneSpan can quickly confirm their identity through two-factor authentication, which includes a text message with verification code sent to their mobile device or a personalized question and answer. Once identity is confirmed, documents can be reviewed and e-signed through OneSpan via the producer's personal email address and, once signed, immediately become available to the appropriate Service Center staff. These new tools are available to any USDA customer with access to a mobile device or computer with printer connectivity.

"Another thing to note is that when you use OneSpan, the email you receive will come from "OneSpan Sign," **not** from any USDA email address or staff member," Graff explain. So, look for that and just in case, be sure to check your spam or 'junk' mail folder. "And always keep in communication with your USDA Service Center," Graff added.

Neither of these options are mandatory—farmers who prefer to hand deliver signed documents or mail them in or just drop them off—can still get their USDA business taken care of that way as well. "It's just another option USDA is offering Illinois farmers to be safe and save time," stated Dozier and Graff.

Both Box and OneSpan perform most effectively in Chrome. Visit farmers.gov/mydocs for current information or for help getting started with these secure solutions for signing and sharing USDA documents.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Name or Address Changes

Please contact Stephenson County SWCD if your name or address is incorrect or if you have moved so we can make the necessary changes in our label data base for newsletter and other office mailings.

If you no longer wish to receive a mailed copy of our newsletter, please contact our office. This would help us save some cost as postal rates continue to rise. As a reminder you can always get the current edition on our website: www.stephensonswcd.org

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Plantskydd Fall Season Tips

Protect Trees & Shrubs Over-winter with Plantskydd liquid:

- Spray shrubs and trees (including root flare/collar) liberally to prevent over-winter deer browsing and girdling by rabbits, voles, squirrels etc.
- Apply extra product along known deer paths and bedding areas.
- Apply when temperatures are above freezing and allow 24 hours to dry.



Protect Trees Against "Buck-Rub" with Plantskydd Liquid:

- Spray trees liberally including bark, to prevent damage caused by bucks rubbing antlers against trees to remove velvet and mark territory.
- Apply before the rut season begins to prevent deer from establishing territories.
- Apply when temperatures are above freezing and allow 24 hours to dry.

Protect Bulbs with Plantskydd Liquid or Granular:

- Place bulbs on the ground or on newspaper and spray liberally, completely coating the bulbs. Allow the bulbs to dry before planting. Once planted, spray the soil surface for extra protection.
- To discourage squirrels, voles and other critters from digging up freshly planted bulbs, sprinkle granules liberally on and around bulbs when planting. Cover bulbs with soil and sprinkle granules liberally on the soil surface.

Protecting turf and garden beds from vole damage with Plantskydd Liquid or Granular:

- Spray entire area to be protected at a rate of 500 square feet per quart. Apply when temperatures are above freezing and allow 24 hours to dry. Apply prior to mulching.
- Sprinkle granules at a rate of 500 square feet per pound, before snow is expected. Apply prior to mulching.

You can pick up your Plantskydd products at the Stephenson SWCD office!

The Water in Your Pond

With the exception of Lake Michigan, the surface waters of Illinois are classified as "warm water". These are waters that have a midsummer surface temperature of 70° F or higher. Temperature is one of the key factors which governs the lives of fish and regulates the kinds of species which can live in our ponds. The amount of dissolved gases that water holds varies with the temperature. The warm water of summer holds much less oxygen than cold winter water. Temperature affects fish in many ways, including feeding, growth, and spawning. Most warmwater fishes grow faster at temperatures above 70° F and dissolved oxygen content of 5 to 8 parts per million (ppm).

Temperature is also one of the principle factors influencing the pond cycle through the year. At 39° F, water reaches its greatest density and weight. Water warmer or colder than 39° F is lighter. **If not for this fact, life on earth would not exist. If water just kept on getting denser as it got colder until it froze, ice would sink and all bodies of water, including the oceans, would be permanently frozen solid! Fortunately for us, the lightest water of all is ice and it floats.**

Let us look at the annual temperature cycle of a typical pond. In the spring, just after the ice thaws, the coldest water is on top at 32° F and the warmest water is on the bottom, at about 39° F. As the warm breezes of spring begin to blow, the cold surface layers of water begin to warm. As they get warmer, they get heavier and sink into the depths of the impoundment, replacing the lighter, colder layers beneath. Eventually, all the water reaches 39° F. Up to this point, there have been layers of water at different temperatures and densities in the pond, making them difficult to mix. Now that the water is all the same temperature and density, it mixes easily bringing the water which has been on the bottom all winter to the surface. This is called the **spring turnover**.

Ponds can be thought of as breathing twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall, breathing out the waste products of respiration produced by aquatic life. These waste products include carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, and other gases. At the same time, the pond is breathing in new oxygen from the air to replace what was used up. So the pond starts the year with its water freshened and a new supply of oxygen from top to bottom.

During the summer period, a layering effect called thermal stratification sets up, separating the impoundment into 3 zones of differing temperature and density called the epilimnion, the thermocline, and the hypolimnion. These terms simply mean the upper lake, the transition zone, and the lower lake. The thermocline is a layer in which the temperature drops rapidly, at a rate of 0.5° F or greater per foot of increasing depth. Most people diving into a pond or lake experience the thermocline. Often, they come to the surface thinking they dove into a spring!

The thermocline ends where the temperature ceases to drop rapidly. Once these layers set up in the summer, they are almost as difficult to mix as oil and water and tend to remain stable throughout the warm weather. The upper 2 layers then effectively seal the lower lake off from contact with the atmosphere.

In a deep lake (50-60 feet or more), the temperature of the lower layer may remain in the low 40's during the hottest of summer weather. During this time, the aquatic life gradually uses up the dissolved oxygen present in the lower lake. In about mid-July, the oxygen is used up entirely. This is why you cannot have trout in your lake over the summer, even though the temperatures on the bottom are plenty cold enough for them.

As fall comes, the warm surface waters of the pond begin to cool off. Being cooler than the layers below them, they are also denser. This cooler, denser water sinks, displacing the lighter, warmer water below. This process breaks up the thermal stratification which has been so stable all summer, and the pond takes its second breath of the year, the **fall turnover**. The deoxygenated water of the lower layer is brought to the surface, where its oxygen supply is renewed, and all the waste product gases which accumulated in the lower layer during the summer are expelled to the atmosphere. The process is complete when all the water in the pond is once again at 39° F.

So, the pond begins the winter period as it began the summer period, with its water freshened and oxygen from top to bottom. As the air temperatures continue to cool, water colder than 39° F floats on the warmer water below it. This provides a relatively warm refuge for the fish, frogs, and turtles of the impoundment to survive the winter. Believe it or not, our fish would die of what we would call exposure, if they were at temperatures below about 35° F for very long during the winter.

Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources

S.T.A.R. (Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources) is a FREE state-wide tool, created by Champaign Soil and Water Conservation district, to raise awareness among farmers about the need for and benefits from environmentally sensitive and sustainable farming practices. S.T.A.R. assists farm operators and land- owners in evaluating their nutrient and soil loss management practices on individual fields. The ultimate goal is to meet the goals of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS).

The S.T.A.R. evaluation program assigns points for each cropping, tillage, nutrient application, and soil conservation activity on individual fields. The S.T.A.R. Science Committee, made up of experts and university researchers, reviews practices to determine the points and ranking system. Higher point values are assigned to those practices that align best with the NLRS science assessment/goals and will be updated annually to reflect the most current research. The star rating for a field can be anywhere from 1 to 5 stars.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) has endorsed the S.T.A.R. program. They recognize that the S.T.A.R. program enhances the proper stewardship of our land and water resources, including crop production inputs like nutrients, and can make a positive difference to producers as they struggle to add value to their farming operations. S.T.A.R. inspires farmers and farmland owners to enhance their farming practices that produce food, fiber, and fuel with minimal impact on the environment.

Beginning with FY20 CPP funds; all SWCD CPP cost-share projects must utilize the S.T.A.R. program to evaluate their nutrient and soil loss management practices on individual fields, to be eligible for CPP financial assistance.



Stephenson County Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Tree Sale

Stephenson SWCD annual tree sale is underway for 2021. Each year the District sells bare root tree, evergreen, and shrub seedlings to increase efforts to provide energy, conservation and/or habitat cover for wildlife. Deadline to order is Wednesday, March 10, 2021. No orders can be accepted after the March 10th deadline.

Several new species have been added to our sale this year; they include Douglas Fir, Persimmon, Chinkapin Oak, Black Maple, and Black Elderberry.

Evergreens available include Douglas Fir, White Pine, Norway Spruce, White Spruce, Colorado Blue Spruce and American Arborvitae (White Cedar).

Deciduous Trees include Persimmon, Black Walnut, Quaking Aspen, Shagbark Hickory, White Oak, Burr Oak, Chinkapin Oak, Swamp White Oak and Black Maple.

Shrubs available include Black Elderberry, Red osier Dogwood, and Highbush Cranberry.

Additional items for sale include marking flags, Plantskydd Animal Repellent, tree mats, tree tubes, tree stakes, along with bat houses, bluebird houses and wood duck houses.

Tree Order pick-up is scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2021, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Stephenson County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Road, Freeport. IL

Order form is included in this newsletter or can be picked up at the District office in the entryway or printed from the SWCD website; www.stephensonswcd.org

Order and payment must be mailed or dropped off in the box in the entryway of the Stephenson SWCD office; 1620 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport IL.

Prepare for fall harvest with 10 tips on safety, wellness

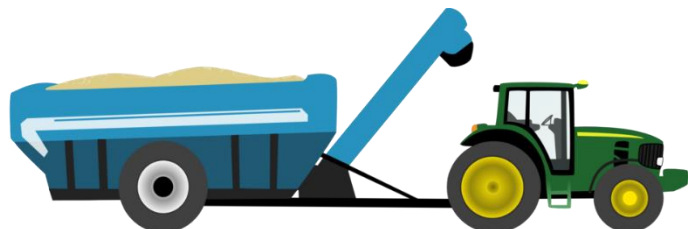
- 1. Get equipment ready.** Unfortunately, many farmers use older equipment during harvest season that does not have recommended safety features, such as tractors without a rollover protective structure. Always use a tractor equipped with a ROPS when possible. Keep your equipment in good condition and make sure all guards are properly positioned. Check to make sure that you have the recommended lighting on your tractor and implements, especially when traveling in the early mornings or at night.
- 2. Turn off the machine.** Everyone is rushing to get that last field harvested and then the corn harvester gets plugged. Even though you are in a hurry to get done, you must always turn off the tractor before you get off the tractor to check or unclog any piece of equipment.
- 3. Get plenty of rest and breaks.** During harvest it is very easy to not get adequate rest, take breaks or even eat meals. For you to remain alert during harvest, you cannot sacrifice rest and nutrition. When doing field work, take short breaks throughout the day to stretch. Stay hydrated and pack nutritious snacks or meals so that you have energy to complete the day's work.
- 4. Provide proper training.** When it is crunch time during harvest, a person may sometimes accept help from a neighbor, family member or a friend. However, it is important for you to provide that person with proper safety training related to the task that they will be helping with on the farm.
- 5. Protect young workers.** If you have youths — either your own children, hired help or volunteers — working for you during harvest season, evaluate the job they are doing to ensure they are not taking on more responsibility than they can handle. Always provide training for youth workers and check on them regularly to see their progress and safety.
- 6. Remember proper lifting.** Not all harvesting is done with tractors and combines. Some fall crops require hand harvesting and heavy lifting.
- 7. Get plenty of sleep.** Do not ignore your health during harvest. As hard as it might be, try to get adequate sleep, which will help you rejuvenate from a hard day and prepare you for the next day.
- 8. Use a hitching system.** During chopping, a person can get on and off the tractor numerous times to hitch and unhitch wagons. Consider using a hitching system to reduce the number of times you need to get on and off the tractor. If it is unavoidable, maintain three points of contact when getting on or off the tractor, and avoid jumping off the tractor or tractor steps. This will improve your safety and protect your joints over time.
- 9. Have personal protective equipment.** Use personal protective equipment such as ear plugs, gloves, and safety glasses when appropriate.
- 10. Be safe on roads.** Check to make sure you have the recommended lighting on your tractor and implements, especially when traveling in the early mornings or at night. When possible, avoid traveling on roadways during the busy morning and evening commute times. Use an escort vehicle when necessary.

<https://www.farmprogress.com/farm-life/prepare-fall-harvest-10-tips-safety-wellness>






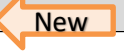
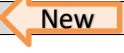
LaVerne Weber
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847-489-7457

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Rock City, Illinois 61070
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2021 TREE ORDER FORM

Please print.


| Name _____ | | | Cell Phone _____ | | | |
|--|--------|-------------|----------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Address _____ | | | City/State/Zip _____ | | | |
| Description | Size | 10 Trees | 25 Trees | 100 Trees | Quantity | Amount |
| EVERGREENS | | | | | | |
| Douglas Fir  | 10-20" | \$22.50 | \$56.25 | \$225.00 | | |
| White Pine | 18-30" | \$35.00 | \$87.50 | \$350.00 | | |
| Norway Spruce | 24-36" | \$25.00 | \$62.50 | \$250.00 | | |
| White Spruce | 20-30" | \$33.60 | \$84.00 | \$336.00 | | |
| Colorado Blue Spruce | 18-30" | \$35.00 | \$87.50 | \$350.00 | | |
| American Arborvitae (White Cedar) | 24-36" | \$36.50 | \$91.25 | \$365.00 | | |
| DECIDUOUS TREES | | | | | | |
| Persimmon  | 2-3' | \$30.00 | \$75.00 | \$300.00 | | |
| Black Walnut | 2-3' | \$27.00 | \$67.50 | \$270.00 | | |
| Quaking Aspen | 2-3' | \$27.00 | \$67.50 | \$270.00 | | |
| Shagbark Hickory | 18-24" | \$30.00 | \$75.00 | \$300.00 | | |
| White Oak | 2-3' | \$35.00 | \$87.50 | \$350.00 | | |
| Burr Oak | 2-3' | \$30.00 | \$75.00 | \$300.00 | | |
| Chinkapin Oak  | 18-24" | \$20.00 | \$50.00 | \$200.00 | | |
| Swamp White Oak | 2-3' | \$30.00 | \$75.00 | \$300.00 | | |
| Black Maple  | 2-3' | \$40.00 | \$100.00 | \$400.00 | | |
| SHRUBS | | | | | | |
| Black Elderberry  | 2-3' | \$30.00 | \$75.00 | \$300.00 | | |
| Redosier Dogwood | 2-3' | \$27.00 | \$67.50 | \$270.00 | | |
| Highbush Cranberry | 2-3' | \$32.00 | \$80.00 | \$320.00 | | |
| ADDITIONAL ITEMS | | | | | | |
| Marking Flags (bundles of 100) | | Each | \$10.00 | | | |
| Bat House | | Each | \$30.00 | | | |
| Bluebird House (Peterson style) | | Each | \$30.00 | | | |
| Wood Duck House | | Each | \$55.00 | | | |
| Tree Mats (includes 4 wire staples) | | Each | \$1.50 | | | |
| 48" Tree Tubes | | Each | \$3.00 | | | |
| 60" Tree Tubes | | Each | \$4.00 | | | |
| White Oak Tree Stakes are ordered upon request | | 48" \$1.25@ | 60" \$1.50@ | | | |
| TOTAL PAYMENT | | | | | | \$ |

All Stock are Bareroot Seedlings. The District gives no warranty as to growth or survival. We reserve the right to refund all or part of payments made. Quantities are limited-- please place your order early. *These plants are for conservation purposes only and shall not be used as ornamentals or for landscaping.*

Payment must accompany order. Make checks payable to **Stephenson SWCD**. Mail or bring to **Stephenson SWCD, 1620 South Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032.**
Sorry NO CREDIT CARDS accepted!



Order pick-up: Thursday, April 15, 2021 , 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tree Pick-Up location: Stephenson Co. Fairgrounds; Fairgrounds Rd. Freeport, IL.



Order Deadline Wednesday, MARCH 10, 2021
(No Orders Will Be Accepted After March 10th)

Large quantity orders (500 trees of one species) will receive special rates.

Call the office (815-235-2141 ext. 3) for more information. Reminder cards will be mailed.

The sale proceeds are an important fundraiser for the District and support the local conservation efforts of SWCD.

If for any reason the pickup is delayed, you will be notified.

| EVERGREEN TREES | | NATIVE DECIDUOUS TREES | |
|---|--|--|--|
| DOUGLAS FIR (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>) – One of the most popular choices for Christmas trees and landscaping. A fast growing fir, it's medium, flat, bluish green needles give off a wonderful evergreen aroma. Douglas firs prefer moist, well drained soils. Average height 40 - 80 feet. This fir makes great wildlife cover and works well in windbreaks. | | BLACK MAPLE (<i>Acer nigrum</i>) - Medium sized to large tree, up to 85 feet tall. Trunk diameter up to 2 1/2 feet; crown broad, with several upright branches. Bark dark brown to black, smooth when young, soon becoming furrowed and scaly. Habitat: Moderately well-drained to somewhat poorly drained bottomland forests; but also thrives on rich upland forest sites. Autumn color yellow. | |
| WHITE PINE (<i>Pinus strobus</i>) - A large, picturesque native tree with long soft needles widely used in reforestation, windbreaks. Moderate to fast grower which thrives in a wide range of soils. Average maximum height to 80 feet. | | WHITE OAK (<i>Quercus alba</i>) - The Illinois State Tree. Known for its majestic beauty and longevity, the White Oak prefers moist, well drained upland soils. This is a sensitive tree which cannot tolerate urban conditions. Acorns are loved by wildlife, produces valuable wood. | |
| NORWAY SPRUCE (<i>Picea abies</i>) - One of the fastest growing spruce trees; it can grow to 5 ft. within 5 to 7 years. Grows well in a wide range of soils. Norway spruce is a large, pyramidal tree with long, cylindrical cones that hang like ornaments from the weeping branches against the dark green foliage. This sun-loving, 50 to 80 foot high tree is often used as windbreaks, screens, or hedges in large-scale landscapes. | | SWAMP WHITE OAK: (<i>Quercus bicolor</i>) –Large tree, up to 100 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 4 feet; crown rounded and broad. Distinguished by leaves which are coarsely round-toothed; softly white and hairy on the undersurface and it's long stemmed acorns. Habitat: Moderately well-drained to poorly drained bottomland forests. | |
| COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE (<i>Picea pungens</i>) - Very hardy, pyramidal shaped tree with stiff branches; blue green needles providing excellent nesting, roosting, and winter cover for birds; great in windbreaks. Mature height in Illinois is 30-60' with a spread of 10-20'. Likes ordinary soil, average moisture, full sun. Does not like wet soil. | | BURR OAK (<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>) – Large tree, up to 120 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 5 feet; crown rounded with stout branches, trunk straight, stout, sometimes slightly buttressed at the base. Habitat: Prefers rich, well-drained bottomland forests; thrives in upland forests that range in drainage & fertility. | |
| WHITE SPRUCE (<i>Picea glauca</i>) - A very hardy evergreen tree that can tolerate heat and drought, and will grow rapidly if planted in a well drained location. With short soft, silver-green needles, it makes a beautiful Christmas tree or ornamental tree and works great in windbreaks. Mature height of 60-70 ft. | | CHINKAPIN OAK (<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>) -Large tree, up to 100 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 4 feet; crown oblong or rounded, with many branches; trunk straight; columnar, buttressed at the base. Acorn borne singly or paired, usually on a short stalk. Habitat: Well-drained to moderately well drained upland forests; prefers alkaline, deep, moist upland sites. | |
| AMERICAN ARBORVITAE (<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>) – Pyramidal in habit. Leaves are frond-like on flat branches varying from dark green to light green during the growing season. Grows best in loamy, moist soil. May be planted as an ornamental, hedge or windbreak. It is also a good source for wildlife food, shelter from enemies and elements and nesting cover. | | SHAGBARK HICKORY (<i>Carya ovata</i>) - Large tree, up to 100 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 3 1/2 feet; crown rounded, with some of the branches often hanging. Distinguished by its shaggy bark, its usually five large leaflets, and its large winter buds. Habitat: Well-drained to moderately well-drained upland forests; occasionally found on terraced bottomland forests with excellent drainage. | |
| SHRUBS | | PERSIMMON (<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>) – Medium sized tree, up to 80 feet tall; trunk diameter 2 feet; crown broad and rounded or flattened. Bark dark gray to black, broken at maturity into squarish blocks. Berry; fleshy, spherical, with greenish calyx present at one end, yellow-orange to orange, up to 2 inches in diameter, sweet when ripe, few seeded. Habitat: Moderately well-drained to poorly drained bottomland forests; attains best development on deep, fertile, well-drained alluvial soils; also grows in upland forests that range in fertility and moisture. | |
| HIGHBUSH CRANBERRY (<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>) – Broadleaf Shrub; yellow to red purple fall color. New foliage has reddish color. Bears extremely handsome whiter flowers and bright red fruit. | | QUAKING ASPEN (<i>Populus tremuloides</i>) – medium sized tree up to 60 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 1 1/2 feet; crown rounded or occasionally spreading. The whitish trunk and the ovate, trembling leaves distinguish this species. Habitat: Favorable to a wide variety of forested sites; pioneer species after disturbance. | |
| REDOSIER DOGWOOD (<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>) – Native shrub, very distinctive red branches highly recommended for windbreaks. Produces small, flat clusters of whitish flowers in late May followed by white berries that are a favorite food of song birds. Adapted for wet soils but will also do well upland when established. | | BLACK WALNUT (<i>Juglans nigra</i>) - Large tree, up to 120 feet tall; trunk diameter up to 5 feet; crown broadly rounded; trunk straight, columnar, not buttressed at the base. Nut borne singly or in pairs, spherical up to 2 inches in diameter. Habitat: Moderately well drained to somewhat poorly drained bottomland forests; attains it's best development on deep, fertile, well-drained alluvial soils; also thrives in rich, well-drained upland forests. Illinois most valuable hardwood species | |
| BLACK ELDERBERRY (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>) – Elderberry is a deciduous shrub or small tree growing 20 ft tall and wide. The bark, light grey when young, changes to a coarse grey outer bark with lengthwise furrowing, lenticels prominent. The leaves are arranged in opposite pairs, 10–30 cm long, pinnate with five to seven (rarely nine) leaflets, the leaflets 5–12 cm long and 3–5 cm broad, with a serrated margin. The fruit is a glossy, dark purple to black berry 3–5 mm diameter, produced in drooping clusters in late autumn; they are an important food for many fruit-eating birds. It grows in a variety of conditions including both wet and dry fertile soils, primarily in sunny locations. | | | |
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