



MONROE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.....January 2024

TO: Media of Greater Rochester Area
CONTACT: Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District
RE: 2024 Conservation Tree & Shrub Program
QUESTIONS: mcswcd@monroecounty.gov or 585-753-7380 for details

Ring in Spring with Native Plantings

Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District Launches 2024 Conservation Tree & Shrub Program

Is this abnormally warm weather making you itch for spring already? The Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District has the perfect remedy: the release of their spring 2024 species list for their annual Conservation Tree & Shrub program. For 48 years, the District has hosted this successful program, with nearly 22,000 native and naturalized trees and shrubs being distributed to over 500 landowners last year alone for local conservation purposes!

With almost 40 different species including hardwoods, bare-root conifers, shrubs, and variety packs, the District is doing their part supporting conservation efforts, while assisting residents in beautifying their community. Order your plants now through March 1st and pick up on April 18th or 19th ready to be planted! We don't just offer trees and shrubs. In addition to plants, the District offers other products great for conservation projects including bat and bluebird houses, seed mixes, and more!

The District added **6** hardwoods and **1** new item: live stakes! Our new items are all great conservation species, providing numerous benefits from wildlife protection and food to increasing property aesthetics. New this year are Pin Oak, American Hazelnut, Northern Catalpa, Northern Bayberry, Common Serviceberry, Choke Cherry, and Streamco Willow live stakes. Popular best-sellers like Paper Birch, White Spruce, and Tulip Poplar also returned this year! By planting these native plants you can increase wildlife habitat, provide a windbreak, reduce erosion and stormwater runoff, do your part in being climate resilient, and help create pollinator habitat! Check out all the benefits of these and our other selections by visiting our catalog: <https://www.monroecountyswcd.org/page-8.html>

Due to limited supply, pre-order by March 1, 2024 by mail, email or online ordering. Pre-ordered plants can be picked up at the Monroe County ecopark on April 18th or 19th, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. We will also hold a first come, first serve overstock sale on April 20, 2024 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Please note that our tree species typically come as young, small rooted plants – we do not sell full grown trees. Once planted the small seedlings should take to the soil and grow leaves once spring arrives. This year, three of the conifers we are offering are transplants, meaning they are stronger and more mature when you plant them!

Those interested in this program can find the order form and our full color catalog on the District's website: <https://www.monroecountyswcd.org/page-8.html>. If you have any questions or you'd like a form sent to you, contact the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District at: (585) 753-7380, Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.