

Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.pwsxcd.org

OUR MISSION...

The mission of the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District is to provide leadership in the conservation of soil, water, and related resources to all Prince William County citizens, through technical assistance information and education.

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PRINCE WILLIAM AT BAY



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Funding Available for "Model" Farms

The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District (PWSWCD) has received a grant to cooperate with the horse community to address the challenges of pasture, mud, and manure management, along with waterway protection—in innovative and cost-effective ways. PWSWCD has been granted more than \$121,000 from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Water Quality Incentive Fund. An equal amount was raised by PWSWCD through partnerships to invest in site selection, research, implementation, and education.

PWSWCD is now seeking two horse farms that will become "models" using management practices such as bluestone dust confinement/exercise paddocks, manure composting structures, pasture seeding and renovation, rotational grazing systems with multiple water troughs, and stream protection through fencing and engineered crossings. Practices will be implemented on a site-specific basis. Cooperating farms will receive all necessary financial and technical assistance to implement these practices. Interested horse farms must be located in Prince William County, present a water quality problem to be addressed, and demonstrate a willingness to adopt new practices on their farm. For more information or to request that your horse farm be considered for this project contact Kate Norris, District Manager with Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District at (703) 594-3621 or email katenorris@pwsxcd.org



Healthy and happy horses enjoy grazing on a picturesque, small-acreage and environmentally-savvy horse farm in Gainesville. Is your farm equally as "Green" or are you green with envy?

Results will be shared locally and state-wide so that all horse farm owners can become models of environmental stewardship, maximizing land use while protecting valuable natural resources.

Tree Seedling Time!

The Prince William SWCD is having a Fall 2007 tree and shrub seedling sale! We will be selling a different variety of seedlings than we did last spring. These seedlings include, but are not limited to: Bald Cypress, Sugar Maple, Tulip Poplar, Loblolly Pine, Sassafras, and Winter Red Winterberry Holly. We will also be selling popular seedlings from last year, including Willow Oak, Persimmon, and Virginia Pine.

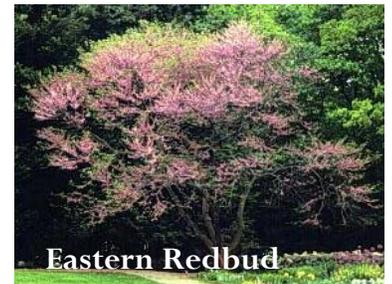
With thousands of different known tree species existing in the world, what tree seedling would be good for your property? Many areas in Prince William County have very wet soils with standing water. **Bald Cypresses** love these wet soils. They are fast growing trees that provide shade and screening. As long as they have lots of water, they can grow in full sun or in partial shade. All of the tree seedlings we are selling are native, except for the **Chinese Dogwood**. This seedling has beautiful white flowers in the spring and



Chinese Dogwood

can tolerate moist and well-drained soils. What makes this tree special from other dogwoods is that it is resistant to the blight, a disease that has infected many dogwoods, including the American, or White Flowering, Dogwood, the state tree of Virginia. Perhaps you have been curious about those trees that have magenta flowers in the spring time. This tree is the **Eastern Redbud**. The Eastern Redbud, a native tree to Virginia, is not only pretty in the spring, but it also attracts wildlife and is not too difficult to transplant. Ever thought of having

your own Christmas trees in your yard? We are selling them as well! The **Virginia Pine** is used as a Christmas tree in the southeastern part of the U.S. Virginia Pines are evergreens that prefer full sun and love clay or sandy loam soils.



Eastern Redbud



Winter Red Winterberry Holly

If trees do not interest you, we also have a variety of bushes. The **Winter Red Winterberry Holly** is an evergreen bush that has bright red berries. It is the same as the Winterberry Holly, only it self-pollinates and produces many more berries. Winter Red Winterberry Hollies can also be used as a natural fence and tends to be deer resistant. **Sweetbay Magnolia** is a bush that likes wet, acidic soils and produces white flowers, as well as a red fruit. Though this seedling does prefer to have full sun, it does not like areas where it is cold and windswept during the winter.



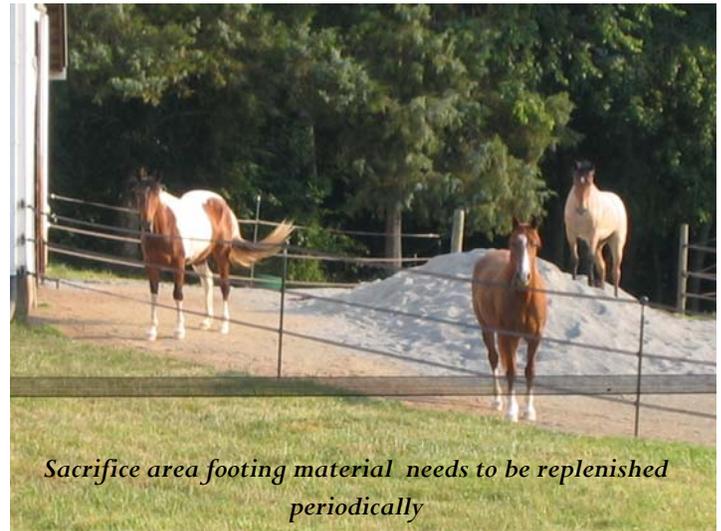
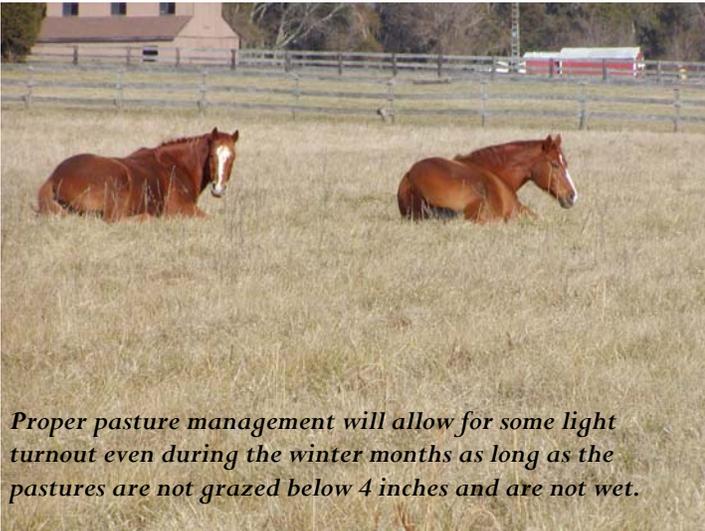
Sweetbay Magnolia

Most of our seedlings this year will come in trays. However, a few of our seedlings, the Bald Cypress, Red/Sugar Maples, Winter Red Winterberry Hollies, and Tulip Poplars are bare-root. A bare-root seedling means exactly as it sounds, a trunk with roots. Because bare-root seedlings are not in soil, their roots need to stay wet so they do not dry out. It is better to plant bare-root seedlings in soil as soon as possible.

Seedlings are scheduled to arrive in **early December**. Please visit our website at www.pwsxcd.org under the News section for more information, pricing, and order forms. If you have any questions, you can contact Nicole Ethier at 703-594-3621 or e-mail at nicoleethier@pwsxcd.org. **The deadline for ordering is Nov. 14.** If you miss the deadline, please contact us as we will have limited quantities still available!

Pasture Management for Drought-Stressed Pastures

1. If you haven't already done so, dedicate one area of your pasture system as your "sacrifice area." Use this area to confine livestock when pastures aren't growing and during wet conditions.
2. Stop rotating livestock to any pasture that has been grazed below 4 inches. Grazing below 4 inches will add further stress to plants recovering from drought by depleting energy reserves stored in the base of the plant.
3. Add all-weather footing to your sacrifice area such as bluestone dust, "pit fines," or large wood chips (no Black Walnut – it's toxic).
4. Treat other high-traffic areas such as gates, trough sites, and travel lanes with footing material.
5. Repair or install guttering on barns and run-in sheds. Direct run-off away from high-traffic and manure storage areas and into well vegetated "buffer" areas. "Keep Clean Water Clean"



6. Consider replacing the water hydrant in your winter pasture/sacrifice area with an automatic freeze-proof trough.
7. Stop spreading manure. Stockpile manure December through February. Manure that is spread when the ground is frozen or saturated won't be utilized and may run off. Save manure for application when plants are actively growing and apply according to a nutrient management plan.
8. If pastures contain less than 25% clover, you may want to overseed 2-3 lbs. per acre in late winter.
9. Get a jump on spring pasture management. Take soil samples now and arrange for application of any needed lime during the farm service business' slow season. Plan for spring application of any other nutrients.

Contact our office if you'd like more information on implementing any of the above suggestions. Conservation Specialists are also available if you'd like to schedule a site visit to your farm for more personalized recommendations.

Become a Master Naturalist

The **Virginia Master Naturalist Program** is a statewide corps of volunteers providing education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities. Interested Virginians become Master Naturalists through training and volunteer service. The Virginia Master Naturalist Program is jointly sponsored by [Virginia Cooperative Extension](#), [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation](#), [Virginia Department of Forestry](#), [Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries](#), and [Virginia Museum of Natural History](#). There is not currently a chapter in Prince William County, but the program will be accepting new applications for chapters later this fall. Starting a new chapter requires a dedicated team of volunteer leaders who are willing to develop and coordinate the chapter and its activities. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Michelle Prysby, masternaturalist@vt.edu, 434-872-4580. For more information and for a list of current chapters, visit <http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org>.

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