

Green Arbor sale of Conservation Plants and Fish Stocking Program have started

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SCHUYLER COUNTY, Jan. 12 -- Every year the Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District offers a Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale, also known as the Green Arbor Program, and 2016 will be the second year of the revived Fish Stocking Program.

The Green Arbor Program allows landowners to purchase plants that not only encourage wildlife, prevent erosion, and protect water quality, but beautify property. The fish stocking program helps pond owners enhance species diversity.

The Conservation District Green Arbor program offers a wide selection of evergreen trees, deciduous trees, shrubs, small fruits (including apple, cherry, pear, plum, and peach trees, blueberries, blackberries, and raspberries, strawberries and grapes), and groundcovers.

The trees are bare root seedlings and transplants.

The evergreen seedlings are sold in bundles of 25 trees while the evergreen transplants and the deciduous trees and shrubs are sold in bundles of 10 (except fruit trees, which are sold individually, and small fruit species in bundles of 3.)

Also offered are fertilizer tablets, rain barrels, bluebird houses, weed mats and tree tubes. The order deadline for trees and shrubs is March 11, 2016 and orders should be placed as early as possible to ensure availability.

The six species of fish available to order in the spring are largemouth bass, channel catfish, fathead minnows, rainbow trout, hybrid bluegill and triploid grass carp. A minimum of 10 fish must be purchased except for the grass carp, and grass carp require a NYS permit before stocking is allowed.

Also available for purchase are fish food, and materials to help clear ponds of algae such as beneficial bacteria, barley pellets and pond colorant. Three species of fish will be available in the fall stocking program -- yellow perch, black crappie and fathead

minnows.

Fish will be delivered in boxes with oxygen injected water, and buyers do not need to bring a container when picking up the fish.

The deadline for the Spring Fish Stocking Program is May 2, 2016 and the Fall Stocking Program order deadline is October 3, 2016.

Tree and fish order forms are available at various public places in the county or on line at www.schuylerswcd.com.