

## Educator Newsletter

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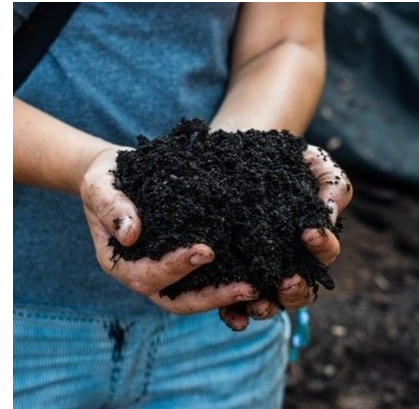
### Program Highlight: Soil Sampling

Our Soil Sampling program is a unique experience for students to learn about soil!

In this program, students get hands-on experience learning about both the physical and chemical aspects of soil. Students handle soil samples as they learn about the physical properties of soil, such as texture and structure. We discuss how the different soil texture types hold onto nutrients and water and how this can impact plant growth and health. We also do a brief introduction to the soil texture triangle.

For older students (6th grade and up), we also investigate the chemical properties of soil with hands on experiments. In groups, students extract the nutrients from their soil sample, test the pH of their soil and test the levels of Phosphorus, Potassium, and Nitrate in their soil. As a group, we discuss how the levels of these different nutrients can impact the soil's ability to support healthy plants.

If you are interested in scheduling a Soil Sampling program for your students, please complete a [Program Request](#) or contact Deirdre Wise at [DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com).



### Celebrate World Soils Day With a Soil Program

Join us in celebrating World Soil Day this December! World Soil Day occurs on December 5th every year to help raise awareness of the importance of soils and sustainable soil management practices.

Soil is a vital part of our ecosystem. It is estimated that 95% of our food is either directly or indirectly produced in our soils. Soil is also the foundation upon which we build our infrastructure. Soil is kind of a big deal!

If we do not treat it properly though, our soils can be eroded or become degraded to the point where they are no longer able to support crops. Schedule a program now to help your students learn about the importance of soil for World Soils Day!

- [Soil Soup](#) - an introduction to the components of soil and soil's importance
- [Soil Sampling](#) - a dive into the physical and chemical aspects of soil
- [Erosion Simulator](#) - an introduction (or review) of the basic concepts of soil erosion with an interactive demonstration to predict and observe the effects of soil erosion

To schedule a soil program, please complete a [Program Request](#) or contact Deirdre Wise at [DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com).

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## Start an Envirothon Team at your Middle or High School!



The Envirothon is a high school competition designed to stimulate, reinforce, and enhance interest in the environment and natural resources. Students are tested on their knowledge of soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatic ecology, and current environmental issues. The Envirothon encourages cooperative decision-making and team building and looks excellent on a college application!

Every spring, there is a Tri-County and Area Envirothon competition for students in Licking County. The Tri-County Envirothon is a practice competition for high schoolers with middle schoolers welcome to join. The Area 3 Envirothon is a high school competition for eastern Ohio schools, with the top 4 teams advancing to the State Envirothon competition.

We will have more information on this year's Envirothon competitions in the next newsletter but if you are interested in starting a team, now is the time to begin! Licking Soil & Water has Envirothon study material available upon request. More information about the Envirothon can be found on our [Education Page](#), on the [National Envirothon Website](#), or by contacting Soil & Water.

If you have any questions about the Envirothon or are interested in starting a team, please contact Deirdre Wise at [DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com) or 740-670-5333.

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## Stormwater Tip: Plant a Tree!

Trees are essential to our ecosystems. Not only do they provide habitat and food sources for our wildlife, but they also cool the Earth, take in CO<sub>2</sub>, and help to prevent flooding! Trees have a vast root system that spreads deep and wide. The roots help absorb water after a rain event which prevents flooding and also helps to remove pollutants. Planting trees is a great way to help the environment, lower cooling costs, and even increase property value!

Consider planting a tree on your property. Fall is a great time to plant trees because of the cool temperatures and fall rain which allow the tree to establish its roots and make it more tolerant of drought in the summer.

Spring is another great time to plant trees as it is their growing season. If you want to plant a tree in the spring, our Tree Sale and Free Trees for Students orders will open in January 2025. There

will be more information in the January Educator Newsletter. If you have any questions before then, please reach out to Deirdre Wise at [DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com](mailto:DeirdreWise@LickingSWCD.com) or 740-670-5333.

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## Important Dates

Nov 10-16: Soil Health Week

Nov 21: World Fisheries Day

Dec 4: Wildlife Conservation Day

Dec 5: World Soil Day

Jan 5: National Bird Day

Feb 2: World Wetlands Day

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[Visit our calendar for all upcoming events!](#)

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