



Soil Scoop!

Spencer County Soil and Water Conservation District

Upcoming Events

- December 19th:
SWCD Board Meeting 7 PM
- December 23rd:
County Offices Closed
- December 26th:
USDA Service Center Closed
- December 30th:
County Offices Closed
- January 2nd: USDA Service Center Closed
- January 23-24
IASWCD Annual Conference
- January 30th SWCD Annual Meeting , 6 PM

The Soil and Water 73rd Annual Meeting Sponsored by: Spencer County Bank

The Spencer County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold its 73rd Annual Meeting on Monday, January 30, 2017 at the Youth and Community Center in Chrisney beginning at 6:00 p.m. CST. A meal catered by the Chateau will be served. If the meeting is postponed due to severe weather, it will be held February 6, 2016 at the same time and location.

Following the meal, awards will be presented to the 2016 Conservation Farmer of the Year, Spencer County River Friendly Farmer and the 4H Soil and Water Grand Champion. An election will be held for a supervisory position on the Board of Supervisors of the Soil and water conservation district, followed by Jason Tower, the guest speaker for the evening. Please RSVP at (812) 649-9136 ext. 101 by January 13, 2017.



HAVE YOU SEEN ME?

Ailanthus altissima, most commonly called Tree-of-Heaven, stink tree and Chinese sumac is a foul smelling, invasive tree and a very big problem in our forests. Learning to identify it is the first step in controlling its spread.

LEAVES: The leaves of *Ailanthus* can grow to be one to three feet long and are compound with eleven or more pointed leaflets. That pointed shape helps to verify tree-of-heaven as versus sumac, black walnut and other native trees that grow in our area. *Also*, the leaflets have an unequal base with two to four teeth with glands that give the tree-of-heaven its unpleasant aroma.



SMELL: It can come from a snapped twig or from the glands at the base of the leaves so it helps in identification year round. The smell is most often described as rancid peanut butter.

BARK: During the winter months, the bark and leaf scars are the best ways to identify tree-of-heaven. The bark can be light brown to gray and smooth in young trees. The bark turns a darker grey and becomes rough as the tree matures. The large, heart-shaped leaf scars result from the tree dropping its leaves and are located where large leaves attach to the branches.

SEEDS: *Ailanthus* is a very prolific seed producer as a mature female can produce between 300,000 and 350,000 fertile seeds each year. The seeds are twisted, wing-shaped like the helicopter seeds one sees on a maple tree. They turn a reddish as they mature and are clustered in large groups. The seeds disperse during winter months, so they are a very good way to identify female *Ailanthus* tree shortly after it has lost its leaves.

As this tree is so prolific, once introduced it can take over our native forest ecosystems in just a couple of years. Controlling the spread and damage of *Ailanthus* is needed today and is feasible if it's identified and addressed.

Rita Becker Forler

Also Invasive:



Burning Bush



Japanese Stilt Grass



Callery Pear

Exotic animal and plant pests are invading Indiana and multiplying, causing economic and visual damage. Fight back by learning the signs, reporting sightings and taking precautions.

Telephone: Call 1-866 NO EXOTIC (1-866-663-9684). You will be asked for your name, address, phone number, what species you think you have seen, what county it is in and what you have seen. If you call after hours, please leave a message or contact us by email.

E-mail: If the species is a land species, send email to depp@dnr.IN.gov. Please include your name, address, phone number, what species you have seen, what county you have seen it in and what you have seen.

USDA and the SWCD are equal opportunity providers and employers

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812-649-9136 ext 3

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