

**DARKE SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

September 24, 2020

WTGR Community Ties

**Main Topics (3):**

**Lawn & Garden Soil Sampling** – Deadline to turn in soil samples, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

- \$15 for a soil analysis
- Did you garden underperform this year or is your lawn lacking, pull some soil samples to see if there is a nutrient or pH issue
- Results come with material to help understand what your soil analysis means

**Milkweed Pod Collection** – Drop off pods by October 30<sup>th</sup>

- Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative
- Disappearance of milkweed across the US has contributed to an 80% decline of the eastern monarch butterfly population
- Make sure pods are dry and grayish/brown in color
- Store pods in paper bags, not plastic so they don't collect unwanted moisture

**Education Programs** – Figuring out online activities/programs

- **Virtual Soils Contest** – October 13<sup>th</sup>
  - o Working with county FFA advisors to put together a county contest for our FFA teams to prepare for the online state contest on October 20<sup>th</sup>
  - o Challenge this year to get our education programs available online
- **Virtual Sandbox** – coming in 2021
  - o Darke County Foundation grant
  - o Excellent, hands on tool to educate on Stormwater issues, watersheds, pollution, etc.

**Quick Mention Items (4)**

- **Office Status**
  - o All staff in office working normal schedule
  - o Office is closed to the public for now, appointment only and meeting outside
  - o Focus on health and safety of employees and customers
- **Annual Supervisor Election coming in November**
- **Annual Banquet has been cancelled**
- **2020 Plat Books still available for \$25**