



Township News

Fall 2020 Edition

97 N. PENRYN ROAD MANHEIM, PA 17545

717-665-4508 (p) ♦ 717-665-4105 (f)

www.penntwplanco.org

TOWNSHIP OFFICE FALL CLOSINGS

September 7: Labor Day

October 12: Columbus Day

November 3: Election Day

November 26 & 27: Thanksgiving

Penn Township Offices

Hours: Mon-Thurs...7am-5:30pm

Municipal Office 717-665-4508

Water & Sewer Billing..... 717-665-4508

Building/Zoning 717-665-4508

Sewage Enforcement..... 717-989-8439

Police Dept. (NLCRPD) .. 717-733-0965

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Soil Health Practices Increasingly Helping Farmers Hit Pay Dirt

Relatively quiet and driven by farmers themselves, a revolution of sorts is happening in agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay region: soil health. It's a way of improving the soil that reduces runoff pollution in the Bay region while helping farmers turn a profit.

Mother Nature made soil work, then with tillage we destroyed it. In tilled soil, without air spaces, the water is running off into the Bay. One example is when a Pennsylvania farmer dropped two clods of soil into beakers of water—one from a no-tilled, cover-cropped field and from a conventionally tilled field. The conventionally tilled field quickly dissolved and fell to the bottom, showing how easily it would be whisked away in a rainstorm. The no-tilled clump stayed together even as holes from worms, bugs and air passages soaked up some of the water.

Instead of constantly pumping fertilizers and pesticides into worn-out soil, a more hands-off approach encourages an underground living ecosystem of bugs, worms, fungi, microbes and bacteria to make the soil healthier and less threatening to the environment.

The result, over time, is a soil with a rich, intertwined web of living matter. You may have heard it called soil health, regenerative agriculture or carbon farming.

Farmers can cut costs, and we can clean up the water," said Franklin Egan, of the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture. Though each farm is different, farmers generally see benefits within a couple of years, and soil fertility increases each year for up to 20 years or so without drop-offs in crop yields from cutting back on commercial fertilizer.

(continued on page 3)



Agriculture Department Warns Consumers to Report Unsolicited, Mislabeled Seeds Received by Mail

Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding today warned consumers to properly discard and report unordered and mislabeled seeds shipped from overseas. Consumers nationwide have received seeds in packages labeled as jewelry. These seeds may contain plant diseases, weeds or invasive plants that could harm Pennsylvania's agriculture industry and ecosystem.

"Seeds sold in Pennsylvania are rigorously tested to ensure that they are genetically pure and regulated to ensure that what's on the label is what's in the package," Secretary Redding said. "Planting seeds without knowing what they are can wreak havoc with our environment, destroy agricultural crops and incur costly control efforts for years to come."

Seeds labelled as jewelry are likely a scam known as "brushing." Companies boost online sales by purchasing their own products through fake buyer accounts created by the company. The products are shipped to a real address, to someone who didn't order the item. The seller writes a positive review of their items from the fake buyer account.

Township and Authority To Save \$769,270 By Refinancing \$9,406,000 of Debt.

The refinancing of existing public water, public sewer, and roadway improvement debt at about 2.71 percent interest is to be reduced to 1.26 percent, over ten years; the same term as now.

\$720,000 of the refinancing is to help pay for the \$1.3 million Fruitville Pike, Temperance Hill Road, and Holly Tree Road intersection and capped public sewer projects.

In the past, scammers have sent empty packages. Recent packages have been filled with unlabeled seeds.

Consumers who receive unsolicited seeds are asked to retain the seeds and packaging. If opened, double bag and seal the seeds. Do not plant them or discard loose seeds.

Report the package to the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) confidential Antismuggling Hotline, 800-877-3835 or email SITC.Mail@aphis.usda.gov. USDA will provide further instructions.

Do I need a Permit?

The answer is "YES" if you are:

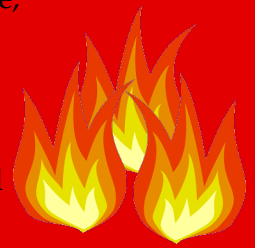
- Adding a bedroom
- Installing or replacing an above-ground or in-ground pool
- Installing or replacing a fence, including fencing for animals or pools
- Changing use of a structure or land
- Installing a retaining wall, deck, patio or sidewalk
- Installing or enlarging a greenhouse
- Repaving or adding to your driveway
- Finishing a basement
- Changing office, attic or storage space to a bedroom or living space

The list above is not all-inclusive. If you have ANY questions about permitting, please call the office at 717-665-4508.

Burn Permits

Burn Permits are required for most fires within the Township and are available free of charge at the Township office.

It is illegal to burn trash, household garbage, rubbish, rags, old clothes, leather, rubber, carpets, furniture, crockery, masonry, construction materials, Styrofoam, aerosol cans, by-products of manufacturing and processing operations, recyclable items and construction debris or building materials.



Stop for Buses

Schools are back in session, and children will be running to catch the bus.

You MUST STOP when you meet or overtake a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, including at an intersection.



Stop at least 10 feet away from the bus.

Wait until the red lights have stopped flashing, the stop arm has been withdrawn, and all children have reached a place of safety.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Motor Vehicles

Soil Health Practices Increasingly Helping Farmers Hit Pay Dirt (cont'd from page 1)

There's other benefits too. Not only are farmers not spending time tilling the field, the protective layer of cover crops hinders weeds, reduces the need for fertilizer, and organic matter in the soil discourages plant diseases and beneficial insects that attack crop pests reducing the need for herbicide. Cover crops can also be used as feed for livestock or grazed, saving farmers more money.

Over time, soil improves too. Farmers call it weatherproofing their fields: A single acre can hold 25,000 gallons more water than one that is tilled. For consumers, crops grown in fields with healthier soil have more nutrition and essential oils that aid immune systems and bodily functions.

For the Chesapeake Bay, the movement toward no-till crop farming, will also benefit the Bay by reducing significant amounts of runoff of sediment and nutrients. Even today, the movement grows primarily through field demonstrations by farmers hoping to convert their

neighbors. These events are sponsored by companies and organizations across the state including The Stroud Water Research Center, General Mills, Tyson Foods, Pepsi, Walmart, Monsanto and others.

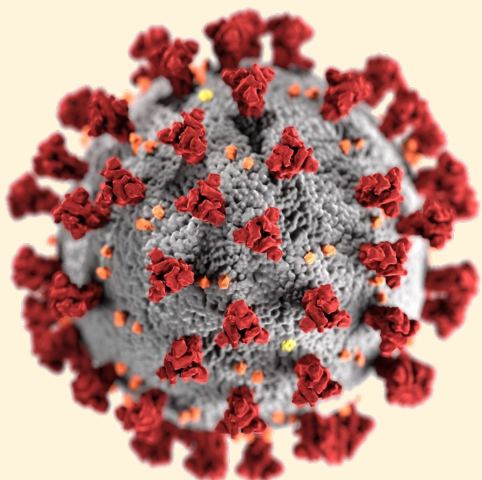
No-till without cover crops is still dead soil. It's not providing any nutrients to the soil biology and microbes to keep that soil alive, healthy, productive and able to recycle nutrients.

What will it take to make soil health mainstream and the most common method of farming? More peer-to-peer mentoring, reinforcing scientific research, nudging agri-business and consumer demand, experts say. Also needed is finding ways to reward farmers who use soil health practices, such as getting more for their products or discounts on federal farm insurance premiums.

Exerpts from: https://www.bayjournal.com/news/pollution/soil-health-practices-increasingly-helping-farmers-hit-pay-dirt/article_d350a37c-a98f-11ea-ab1f-b70614502d8b.html?utm_source=Bay+Journal+Weekly+News&utm_campaign=d3e4e83111-Newsltr_2020_June15&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bde9036159-d3e4e83111-126607553



Mississippi State University Extension Service



We can help protect ourselves and others from viral load by:

1. Wearing a cloth mask when you are near others.
2. Keeping six feet away from others.
3. Avoiding touching your face.
4. Washing your hands often.
5. Covering your coughs and sneezes.
6. Cleaning surfaces.

Yard Care for Water Quality

Autumn leaves are beautiful but they can also cause problems if they aren't collected and properly disposed of. When leaves and yard clippings are raked into the street or ditches, the vegetative debris can clog storm drains or run into creeks and streams polluting our waterways. During heavy rains, blocked storm drains and ditches can cause flooding. Leaves and grass clippings that make their way to local streams and rivers release nutrients that contribute to the accelerated growth of algae. This can be harmful to fish and other aquatic wildlife. By taking the following steps we can reduce the threat of flooding and nutrient loading to local waterbodies.

Autumn Leaves

Mulch: An easy and beneficial way to deal with leaves is by mulching them back onto your lawn. Simply mow the leaves and leave them on the lawn. The mower will chop the leaves into small pieces that will decompose and provide valuable nutrients to the soil.

Compost: Add autumn leaves to a compost pile or place them in planting beds or gardens to provide an inexpensive and nutrient rich fertilizer for your garden. Composting is nature's truest form of recycling.

Rake: At this time, Penn Township does not collect leaves and brush. Check with your contracted waste hauler to find out if a leaf collection service is available. Leaves should never be placed in the storm drain, gutter or street.

******Penn Township does not have a yard waste disposal site, however Manheim Township and West Earl Township allows non-residents to bring yard waste to their facilities. Contact the Township office before bringing items to the facility. Fees apply.***

PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL. DO NOT BRING TRASH OR ITEMS NOT PERMITTED TO THE COMPOST PARK or YARD WASTE FACILITY.

Manheim Township Compost Park

2775 Oregon Pike, Lititz, PA

Ph. 717-569-6406 ext. 1129

Website: www.manheimtownship.org/1009/compostpark

West Earl Township

161 Locust Street, Talmage, PA

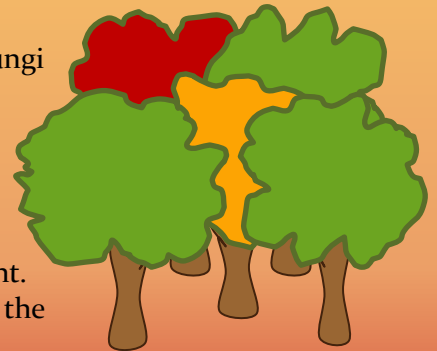
Ph. 717-859-3201

Website: <https://www.westearltwp.org/pages/compost.html>

Fall is a Great Time for Planting – Native Trees, Shrubs and Perennials

It's easy to forget that fall is the best time for planting – planting in the spring seems so much more appealing after being cooped up during the long winter months. However, here are some reasons why fall is the best time for planting:

- The soil is warm and the air is cool - Our native plants love warm soil and moderate temperatures that occur during fall.
- Less insect pest and disease pressure – Many insect species, bacteria and fungi are most active in spring and can easily stress-out new plantings.
- Less water stress- It's easier to keep new plants watered when temperatures are lower and when plants are not growing as fast.
- Plants will be ready for next spring – Your new plants will spend the fall and winter rooting into the soil. By next spring, they will be ready to get growing - deeper root systems make plants better able to withstand drought.
- You can pay less - Many local garden centers put their inventory on sale in the fall to reduce inventory.



Don't Forget these Seasonal Tips to Protect Water Quality

- Leaf Collection – Never dump leaves or yard waste into a stormwater management facility such as storm inlets, swales, or detention basins. The leaves and debris can prevent stormwater flows from moving downstream and cause localized flooding. Also, if you have a storm inlet near your property, please keep the top grates cleared of trash, leaves and debris.
- Fertilizer – Fall is a great time to fertilize your yard and landscape but only if it needs it! Before applying fertilizer, take a soil sample to see if your soil needs more nutrients to support plant health. Excess fertilizer can travel into the stormwater system and pollute our streams.

Home Composting

The Basics of Home Composting

Composting is a natural process. Organic materials such as leaves, grass, and vegetable scraps are broken down by microorganisms, forming a rich soil-like substance called compost or humus.

What Do you Need to Home Compost?

All you need to compost is enthusiasm, yard or food waste (except meat or dairy products), and some space. Compost piles don't need to be enclosed, although many people use a bin or similar enclosure. Compost bins can be purchased or you can easily construct one with common materials such as chicken wire, snow fencing, lumber or used pallets. Other tools that come in handy for composing are a garden hose, wheel barrow and common garden tools.

Getting Started

A 4x4x4-foot area out of direct sunlight is ideal for your compost pile. Choose an easily accessible spot on a grass or soil base. Composting can begin any time of the year, but many people start in the fall when leaves are abundant. As a note, trimmings from bushes and shrubs are usually not suitable for composting.

Organic materials should be mixed, adding water as needed so that the materials feel like a moist, wrung-out sponge. The compost pile should be turned after a few weeks so that the outside layers are exchanged with the center of the pile. Turn compost piles about once a month, except in cold winter conditions. Water can be added during turning, if necessary.

Using Compost

Compost is ready to be used when it looks dark and crumbly and none of the starting ingredients are visible. One way to test if your compost is finished is to seal a small sample in a plastic bag for 24 to 48 hours. If no strong odors are released when you open the bag, the compost is done.

Compost can be applied directly around the base of trees and shrubs to serve as a mulch. It also can be worked into the top six to eight inches of the soil to provide increased water retention and valuable nutrients.

The following link will take you to a very informational and detailed website that provides information on the different types of compost methods, the affects various materials would have on the composting process, and how to use compost: <http://www.compostguide.com/>.



Keys to Home Composting

Organic Materials: A good mix consists of three parts "browns" (materials such as dead leaves that are high in carbon) and one part "greens" (such as fresh grass clippings and garden prunings that are high in nitrogen).

Moisture: Composting materials should feel moist but not overly soggy.

Temperature: Compost should feel warm to the touch except in the cold winter months.

Air: To prevent unpleasant odors that can occur when materials decompose without oxygen, compost should be turned regularly to ensure that air is reaching the center of the pile.

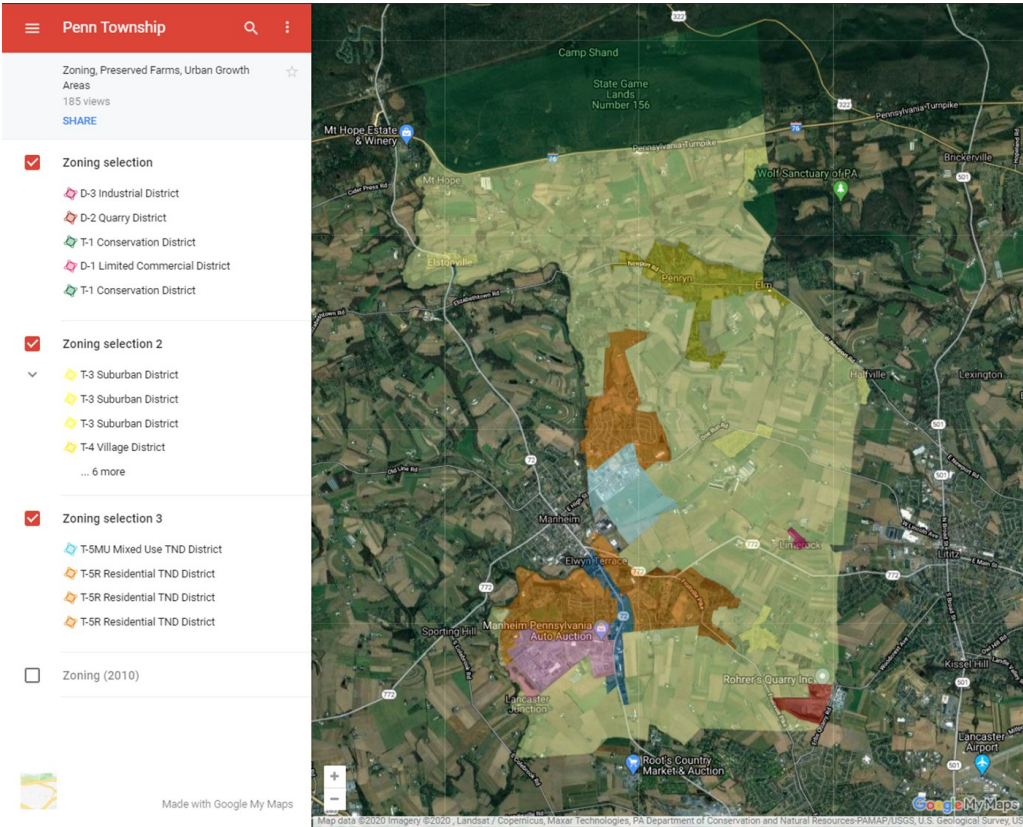
High Carbon "Brown" material	High Nitrogen "Green" material	Sources of Composting Organisms
Leaves	Grass	Old Compost
Dead Plants	Green Weeds	Soil
Straw	Manure	Cow Manure
Shredded Paper	Alfalfa or Clover	Chicken Manure
Shredded Twigs	Seaweed or Pond Algae	Horse Manure
Pine Needles	Non-meat and Non-Dairy Kitchen Scraps	Commercially Available Composting "Starters"
Sawdust from Untreated Wood		Old Compost

Zoning Map Tool

Penn Township has created a new tool to help you find the Zoning District for your property or a property that you have interest in. Follow the steps below:

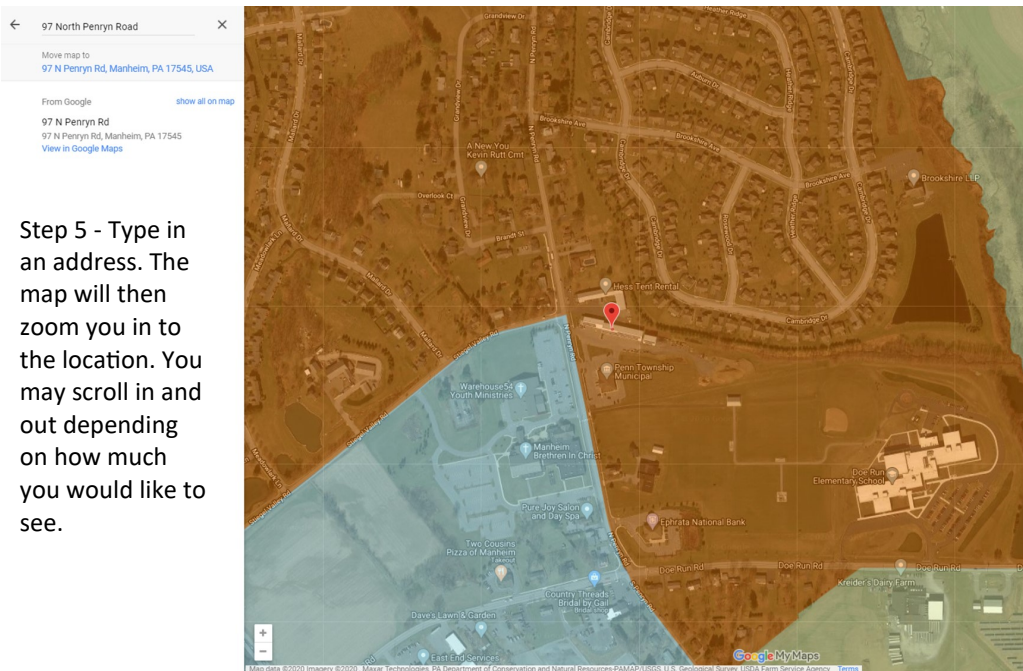
Step 1 – type into a web browser: www.penntwplanco.org

Step 2 – Use the search bar “Official Zoning Map” (this will take you to Google)



Step 3 - This is what the Google map will look like. You may toggle street view on/off in the bottom left corner or use the satellite imagery

Step 4 - Click on the magnifying glass in the red heading. This will open a search bar where you can type in an address



Step 5 - Type in an address. The map will then zoom you in to the location. You may scroll in and out depending on how much you would like to see.

CHECK OUT
THIS NEW
TOOL

**Election
Day
Scheduled for
November 3,
2020**

**Poll Hours: 7:00 a.m.
to 8:00 p.m.**

Last day to register:
October 19, 2020

Last day to apply for
a mail-in or
absentee ballot:
October 27, 2020

You can now register to vote through the Pennsylvania Department of State's online application. Before you begin, be sure to have your Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT ID card handy. If you don't have either of these, there are other options. Once you submit your online application, it will be forwarded to the appropriate county voter registration office for processing. Visit www.votespa.com for more information.



VOTE



GYM SWIM PLAY

All year.
Any day.



Penn Township Residents Save \$ on Memberships at Lititz recCenter and recROC!
Www.lititzrec.com 717.626.5096 www.lititzrecROC.com 717.874.3281



Rain Gardens 101

A rain garden is a depressed area in the landscape that collects water from roof downspouts, asphalt or sump pump discharge and allows it to soak into the ground rather than enter the storm sewer system. Less runoff from your home means less channel erosion and fewer suspended solids and pollution in the waterways.

When planted with native grasses and flowering perennials, rain gardens can be a cost effective, low maintenance and beautiful way to reduce and filter runoff from your property.

The picture to the left is of the Sustainability Park rain garden in bloom in July. An example of beauty and stormwater management.

Northwest EMS, Inc. is proud to serve Penn Township and the Manheim Community, striving to provide the highest level of pre-hospital emergency services available. We believe in *Serving Our Community - One Patient at a Time*, doing so by giving each patient the kind of care and treatment we would want for our own loved ones. Beginning in October, we will accept 2021 Subscription Memberships payments. As a Subscribed Member, we are able to offer you significant reductions in any out-of-pocket expenses you may incur from a 911 ambulance call, and in many cases, we can adjust the unpaid balance to \$0.00 after your insurance pays. If you do not receive a Subscription Membership



letter in the mail from us by October 15, 2020, please contact our Community Outreach Manager, Lori Shenk, at 717-371-8282 or email lschenk@nwems86.org. Once you return your membership card to us with your payment, we will show you as a paid member for the remainder of 2020 and throughout 2021.

We are much more than your 911 emergency ambulance service! We are a resource to you, your family or your business for CPR and first aid training, Hands Only CPR® training and Stop the Bleed hemorrhage control training, as well as for a variety of other safety and prevention education. Contact our Outreach Manager to learn more!



PENN
TOWNSHIP
LANCASTER COUNTY, PA

97 N Penryn Rd, Manheim, PA 17545

WHY is the census important for rural areas? Rural communities benefit when you participate in the U.S. Census. Our population count determines the funding communities receive for transportation (roads), healthcare, and education—as well as through programs like Medicaid, Rural Business and Industry Loans, and more.

RESPOND to the census! Online: <https://my2020census.gov/> By Phone: 844-330-2020

**Shape
your future
START HERE >**

United States®
**Census
2020**

***NOTE: Want to receive the quarterly newsletter? Send your e-mail address to secretary@penntwplanco.org with the subject "Newsletter"



SAVE THE DATE:

Trick or Treat will be held
Friday, October 30, 2020
6pm-8pm

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

Chairperson-Ben Bruckhart
Vice Chairperson-Richard
Landis
Treasurer-Ronald Krause
Supervisor-Thomas Walsh
Supervisor-Gary Stevens
Secretary-Mark Hiester

**PLANNING
COMMISSION**

Chairperson-Linda Brown

Vice Chairperson-Stephen
Engle
Secretary-Fred Hammond
Member-Mark Compton
Member-Leroy Stoltzfus
Alternate-Cullen Ketcham

**ZONING HEARING
BOARD**

Chairperson-Gerald Wolfe
Vice Chairperson-Dale Rohrer
Member-Steven Bushey

Member-Aaron Kopp
Member-Bill Postel

**NORTHWESTERN
LANCASTER
COUNTY AUTHORITY**

Chairperson-Herbert Mattern
Vice-Chairperson-Barbara
Horst

Treasurer-Robert Kurtz
Member-Phil Donmoyer
Member-Cullen Ketcham

**NORTHERN
LANCASTER COUNTY
REGIONAL POLICE**

Chief-David Steffen

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Manager-Mark Hiester
Planner-Jennifer Brady
Zoning Officer-Matt Reeser
Finance-Connie Weidle
Receptionist-Barbara Grable
Public Works Director-Daryl

Lefever
Foreman-Neil Fittery
Maintenance Worker-Keith
Iehle
Maintenance Worker-Shannon
Martin
Maintenance Worker-Dave
Newcomer

**SEWAGE
ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER**

Len Spencer, III, SEO