

Contact your local Conservation District
for a FREE soil test!

Capitol	304-759-0736
Eastern Panhandle	304-263-4376
Elk	304-364-5105
Greenbrier Valley	304-645-6173
Guyan	304-528-5718
Little Kanawha	304-422-9088
Monongahela	304-296-0081
Northern Panhandle	304-238-1231
Potomac Valley	304-822-5174
Southern	304-253-0261
Tygarts Valley	304-457-3026
Upper Ohio	304-758-2512
West Fork	304-627-2160
Western	304-675-3054

West Virginia Conservation Agency
Watershed Resource Center
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305
Tel: 304-250-6597



Joe-Pye-weed



**BUCKHANNON RIVER
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, INC.**

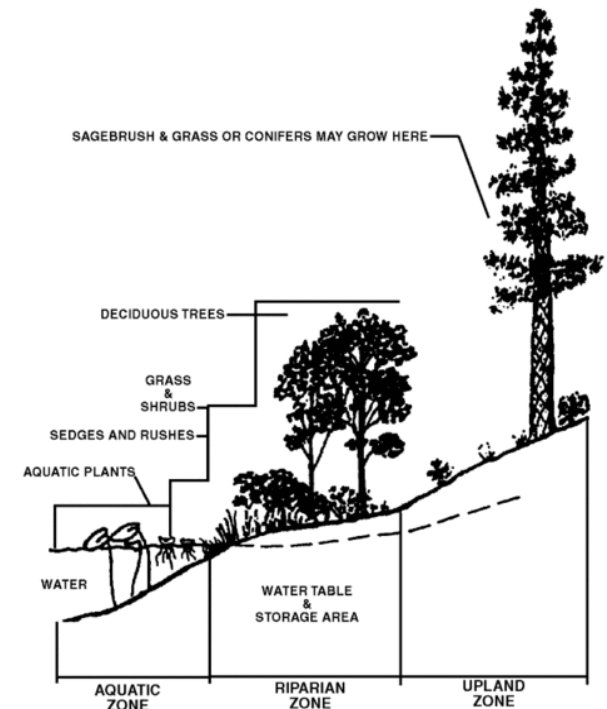
112 Fayette Street
Buckhannon, WV
Phone: 304-472-3317
E-mail: brwainc612@gmail.com

**BUCKHANNON RIVER
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, INC.**

WWW.BUCKHANNONRIVER.ORG

*Nonpoint source pollution is
everyone's problem. We ALL cause
it and we can ALL help prevent it!*

Why stuff matters: The Riverbank Edition



WHAT IS A RIPARIAN AREA?

RIPARIAN AREA /RIPARIAN BUFFERS:

A riparian area is land which is adjacent to water. Established riparian areas or riparian buffer zones are vegetated areas that provide protection to the stream. Riparian areas help create a high level of biodiversity.

Pollutants are filtered through the buffer area preventing degradation of the water.

BENEFITS PROVIDED BY RIPARIAN BUFFERS:

Aquatic Habitat - the shading provided by vegetation helps maintain cooler, even, water temperatures and provides food for aquatic life.

Streambank Stabilization - Establishment of vegetation reduces soil erosion & maintains the integrity of the streambank.

Wildlife - diverse vegetation, shelter, travel passageway.

Aesthetics - Riparian areas help beautify your backyard& surrounding areas.

Water Storage - Increase groundwater filtration.

Flooding - Riparian buffer zones slow the runoff that enters the stream, and the root system of the vegetation soaks up excess water.

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION

Non-point source pollution is water pollution that occurs from runoff of rain and snowmelt into rivers and streams.

Pollutants, such as sediment, bacteria, nutrients, and toxins from natural and man-made sources contribute to the impairment of the waters.



WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN ESTABLISHING A RIPARIAN BUFFER

Land Use / Type Consideration

- Soils
- Hydrology
- Topography
- Current and former land uses.

Soil Type

- Test soil fertility.
- Consider soil type & topography before planting.

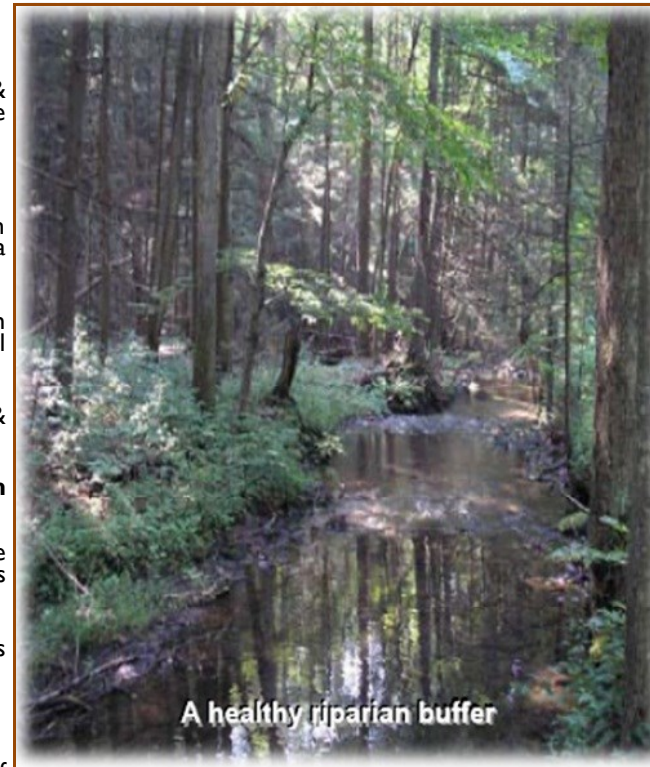
Timing

- Establish vegetation quickly after a disturbance.
- Observe growth seasons (Spring vs. Fall planting).
- Observe weather & current conditions.

Available Area / Width of Buffer

- Any vegetation on the banks of a stream is better than none!
- A 20 ft. buffer is recommended on even small streams.
- 50 - 100 ft. buffer if possible.
- The wider the buffer area, the better.

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PLANT NATIVE VEGETATION!

Native Plants are resistant to disease and insects—naturally! They help control nuisance wildlife, and limit the spread of exotic and introduced vegetation. Native species are adapted to West Virginia's climate and soil conditions, as well as our topography. Keep all of your existing native plants, and research to include more in your new riparian buffer. Native plants also provide the greatest benefits to wildlife because our native wildlife evolved with native plants. Often the food provided by native plants is the most nutritious to our native wildlife.

Examples of WV Native Plants:

Ground Cover

- Moss phlox
- Fern species (interrupted, cinnamon, sensitive)

Flowering Perennials

- Common Milkweed
- Jewelweed

Shrubs

- Witch hazel
- Rhododendron

Trees

- Sycamore
- Hemlock

Sources for Native Plants:

Enchanter's Garden, (304) 466-3154, www.enchantersgarden.com

Native Garden Design,

Day (304) 541-0184 Eves (304) 736-6219

Spaulding Landscaping and Homeview Farm, (304) 876-2096, Email: homeviewfarm@aol.com

Sunshine Farm & Gardens, (304) 497-2208, www.sunfarm.com

Virginia Winston, (304) 267-6924, virginia@winstongardens.com

West Virginia Division of Forestry, (304) 675-1820