

# EAST TORRANCE DISTRICT NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 1

July—September 2009

EAST TORRANCE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Well Water Tested Free of Charge during the Torrance County Fair, August 15, 2009



**WATER QUALITY TESTING  
PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE**  
BY THE  
**NEW MEXICO**  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
*Sponsored by East Torrance Soil & Water  
Conservation District*



Estancia and surrounding area residents will be provided water quality testing free of charge by the New Mexico Environment Department on August 15, 2009 from 11:00 am—3:00 pm during the County Fair in the East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District Educational Complex located 701 S 10th Street. (next to the west entrance to the Torrance County Fair Grounds)

Water testing is for residents with private wells serving homes not connected to a public water utility.

How to Collect the Water Sample:

- Use a clean glass or plastic container (at least a quart)
- Do not use containers that have a strong odor, such as pickle jars
- Let the water run for a couple of minutes before collecting the sample.
- Collect the sample as close to the time of testing as possible.
- Cover the sample before any water treatment systems such as reverse osmosis, water softener, or carbon filter.

If available, please provide well depth, depth to water, well casing material (i.e., steel, pvc) and distance from well to the nearest septic tank/ leach field system.

Drinking water will be tested at the fair for the following parameters: Electrical conductivity, Nitrate, Iron, pH, Fluoride and Sulfate.

### New Board Member Appointed to the East Torrance SWCD Board

East Torrance SWCD Board of Supervisors would like to welcome Rick Lopez to the Board.

#### Meet your new Appointed Supervisor.

Rick Lopez was born and raised in New Mexico and currently lives in Tajiique, NM. While raising cattle and horses he believes in being a steward of the land. Rick served honorably in the United States Army and is a Desert

Storm Veteran. He brings with him a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, an Associate of Science Degree in Police Science, and an Associate of Science Degree in Legal Studies. Rick is the former mayor of Willard and a former Federal Agent. He strives to continue helping his community.

Rick comes to us with a wealth of information from his previous professional experi-

ence. The Board feels he will bring a great deal of wisdom and diversity and they look forward to working with him.

Please help welcome Mr. Lopez to the board.



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#### Special points of interest:

- New Board member
- Family Fun Kids Day
- Educational Building Complex
- Tree/ Seed Order Forms
- Soil Testing info

# FAMILY FUN KIDS DAY AT COUNTY FAIR



First event is to be held Tuesday August 11th, immediately after Dairy Goat Show— Corn Shuck'n



East Torrance SWCD would like to Thank everyone who has made Family Fun Kids day a success. We hope to see everyone there.

Once again East Torrance SWCD will sponsor the Family Fun Kids days at the County Fair. The first event will be held Tuesday, August 11th, immediately after the Dairy Goat show which starts at 9:00 A.M.; with the Corn Shuck'n contest.

The next event, back by popular demand, will be the stick horse races. Held on Wednesday,

August 12th, around 2:00 P.M. ( or immediately after Swine Show).

Thanks to Jim & Peggy Schwebach & family for making the stick horses for prizes. Friday, August 14h, at 1:00 P.M. will kick off the watermelon eating contest.

These events will be open for all ages.

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places will be awarded

Sign up for events will be at the East Torrance SWCD booth up to one hour prior to the event starting in the East Torrance Soil & Water Complex Center just outside of the Torrance County East entrance gate.

Events are from the youngest to the oldest (3 yrs- and above) Come and support everyone in having a good time.



**JOIN US FOR THE 2009 TORRANCE COUNTY FAIR FAMILY FUN DAY EVENTS SPONSORED BY EAST TORRANCE SWCD**

*For more information contact Cheryl at 384-2272 Ext.3*

*Come join us in the East Torrance SWCD Educational Complex for more just outside of the West gate to the Fair Grounds.*

**Corn Shuck'n contest - Tuesday**  
August 11<sup>th</sup> (immediately after Dairy Goat Show starting at 9:00 a.m)

**Stick Horse Race - Wednesday**  
August 12<sup>th</sup> (immediately after Swine Show)

**Watermelon eating contest - Friday**  
August 14<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 PM




## Need a form / Want to know more information about the District?

East Torrance Soil & Water Conservation District is on the web.

Go to EastTorranceSWCD.org to find out the Districts history, who are we, what cost share programs do we offer, and what are the hot topics at the moment, and much, much more. Watch the web Site for upcoming workshops being held.



**East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District**

EAST TORRANCE ANNOUNCES FALL TREE SALE

East Torrance SWCD will begin their fall tree program.

Orders will be taken from August 1st, 2009 through September 8th, 2009. Please see the enclosed list and price order sheet.

Please return your order form with payment to East Torrance SWCD, at PO Box 58, Estancia, NM 87016; or stop by the office located 715 S. 5th Street in Estancia at the

USDA Service Center.

**Please don't forget the deadline to place and pay for your order is 9/8/09.** As in the past TREES are LIMITED. First Come first served.

Pick up dates for trees are planned for September 24th-25th. Dates will be confirmed at the end of August, 2009.

The District still plans on having their annual tree program next spring, with

orders beginning in January 2010. If you have any requests please call the district at 384-2272 ext.3.



East Torrance Soil & Water Educational Building Complex

East Torrance Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to introduce your new Educational Building Complex located 7th and 10th Street, Estancia New Mexico (just outside of the West side Torrance County Fair Ground entrance) will be open for the 2009 Torrance County Fair August 10th—15th, 2009.

All governmental agencies

are welcome to have a booth inside the building during the week which is open to the public.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a Open House in November 2009 during the East Torrance SWCD Annual Meeting.

For more information on the Educational

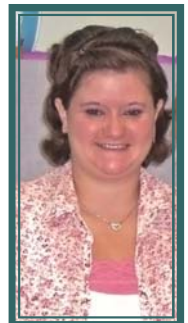


Building Complex please contact the District Manager at 505-384-2272 ext 3 or 505-980-7573.



East Torrance Welcomes new Student Worker

East Torrance SWCD has participated in the Estancia High School's School-To-Work Program for incoming Seniors. We would like to welcome our new student worker Natalie Stokes. She recently visited our nations capitol as a Government-in-Action 2009 Youth Tour recipient. Along with this she participated in a College Prep Program that is funded by the Bill Daniel's Scholarship. She will be attending a girls camp as a Leader this year. Natalie believes in the value of an education. After high school she will continue to New Mexico State University and pursue a degree in Communication Disorders. She has recently been awarded the Star Scholar for being in New Mexico's top ten percent academic oncoming Seniors. Natalie participates in National Honor Society, Student Council, Class Office, and holds the Laurel President position in her church youth group. We would like to welcome her aboard and we look forward to working with her.



## Soil Testing / NRCS web site

## NM – 2 – How to Collect Soil Samples

### Why Soil Tests are Important

#### Why Sample

Soil testing is the key to nutrient management. Without a preplant soil test, fertilizing is a

guess at best. Most soil testing is very cost effective. Many times growers put on fertilizer

as "insurance" instead of testing the soil to see if fertilizer is needed. People could save as

much as \$100/ac by spending \$20 on a soil test. NMSU has guidelines for soil sampling

(Guide A-114), <http://cahe.nmsu.edu/pubs/a/a-114.html>, and interpretations (Guide A-122),

<http://cahe.nmsu.edu/pubs/a/a-122.html>. NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 58,

<http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/tech-notes/agro/ag58.pdf>, provides instructions

for use of NMSU Fertilization Interpretation Software (NRCS 590 Job sheet),

<http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/tech-notes/agro.html>, once the user has obtained

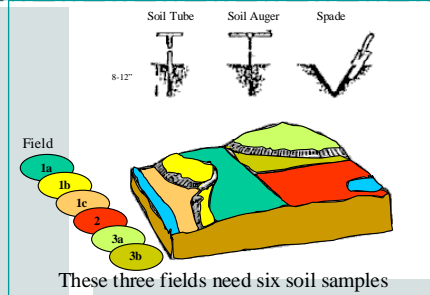
a proper soil test. For routine analysis, request pH - saturated paste, electrical conductivity

(EC): saturated paste, soil organic matter (OM): Walkley Black, nitrate nitrogen (N) (KCI

or water soluble method), phosphorus (P) (Olsen-P test if pH>6.8), potassium (K) (water

soluble (preferred) or ammonium acetate method), magnesium, calcium, and sodium (SAR).

Many soils and crops in NM also show a need for sulfur, zinc, manganese, and other micronutrients (DTPA extractable Fe, Zn, Mn, and Cu). Those listed are part of the standard/micronutrient analysis done at the NMSU Soil, Water and Agricultural Testing Laboratory in Las Cruces; other soil testing laboratories can run the same tests, but the client needs to specify which procedures to use to enable proper nutrient recommendations for NM crops.



(Usually 8-12").

Each sample should represent a uniform area. Size up the area and observe these variations:

*Differences in texture (sand, silt, clay), color, slope, degree of erosion, drainage, past management (fertilization, manure application, rotation, irrigation type, etc.).*

Take 15 to 20 subsamples from each uniform area. Mix thoroughly in a plastic container and fill a plastic bag with a pint of soil. This is the composite sample, which represents the field or area. Label each container with your name and address and the field or sample identification (ID) corresponding to the ID on the information sheet.

Avoid (or sample separately, if of interest) such areas as: Dead or back furrows, old straw piles, waterways, terraces, fencerows, and unusual or difficult spots.

3. Repeat the sampling procedure outlined on each uniform area you want tested.

4. Air-dry the samples before mailing. Do not use heat for drying. Wet samples will delay analyses up to one week.

Where to Send Soil Samples for Analysis: Following NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Standard and NMSU Fertilization Interpretation software, soil test analyses shall be performed by laboratories that are accepted in the North American Proficiency Testing Program or those laboratories whose tests are accepted by the NMSU

(listing of North American Proficiency Testing participating laboratories available at <http://www.naptprogram.org/pap/>)

For more information please contact the NRCS office at 505-384-2272 ext. 3 or go to [http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/handbooks/iwm/NM\\_IWM\\_Field\\_Manual/Section07-NutrientManagement/NM02.doc](http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/handbooks/iwm/NM_IWM_Field_Manual/Section07-NutrientManagement/NM02.doc)

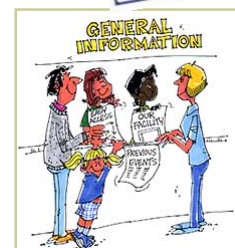
All programs and services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

## EAST TORRANCE SWCD 2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

East Torrance Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Report for this past fiscal year (2008-2009) is ready for review.

If you would like a copy please stop by the office and pick one up, or call and the District staff will be happy to mail you a copy.

Information found in the annual report includes: years of service of supervisors, projects done within the district, cost-share assistance information, various fair's district was involved in, tree program, committee's board or staff members serve on, and education programs.



## East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District

### Fall Tree Program 2009 Order Form

Anticipated delivery dates may be in mid to late September, 2009.

**All prices are subject to change because of availability.** We will advise you of any price changes.

**DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED; ORDER EARLY** to get what you want. Some selections are in short supply and we update our supply order form as we receive orders. We do not anticipate having many extra trees available this year during the tree sale.

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED ON ORDERS

<u>*CONTAINERIZED*</u>	<u>Size Available &amp; cost of Trees</u>	<u>Number ordered</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Ponderosa Pine Tree	5 gallon @ 12.50 ea		
Desert Willow	5 gallon @ 12.50 ea		
Cottonwood tree	5 gallon @ 12.50 ea		
Butterfly bush	5 gallon @ 12.50 ea		
Apache Plume	5 gallon @ 12.50 ea		
<b><u>10 cubic inch containers</u></b>	<b><u>Seedling trees</u></b>	*****	*****
Limber Pine	\$2.00 each		
Blue Spruce	\$2.00 each		
Douglas Fir	\$2.00 each		
Hybrid Cottonwood (Large seedlings)	\$4.00 each		

**Total cost of Page 1      \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Ponderosa Pine (Pinus ponderosa)** This is a large, native conifer. It is the primary commercial tree species in New Mexico. Its has a pyramidal shape when young and becomes conical with age. Squirrels clip the cones and store them in caches and extract the seeds for winter consumption. The tree grows best on well-drained soils.

**Desert Willow**: A native shrub or small tree found in washes and along roadsides. This species is tolerant of poor soils and considerable drought. This deciduous plant is classified as a phreatophyte, and is an indicator that water is not too far below the surface during part of the year. The wood is often used for fence posts. Has medium calcium carbonate tolerance and low salinity tolerance.

**Cottonwood tree**: Large, fast-growing deciduous tree valued for quick shade. Ample water is needed to grow at maximum rate.

**Butterfly bush**: Blossoms when most bushes have finished flowering for the season—late summer— for a welcome flush of color. Arching sprays of foliage frame clusters of sweetly fragrant flowers that resemble lilacs. Perfume attracts droves of butterflies—that's exactly how this beauty got its name! At 6-10 feet, it makes a supremely colorful lot line screen. Prefers full to partial sun. Potted plants.

**Apache Plume**: This native shrub occurs along the sides of dry washes and hillsides. The rose-like white flowers are showy in the early summer with feathery clusters of plume-like fruit in the fall and winter. Has high calcium carbonate tolerance and low salinity tolerance.

**Limber Pine**: The native 5—needled pine is very long-lived. It is pyramidal in shape during youth, becoming more flat-topped at maturity. The pine seeds are an excellent source of food for birds and small mammals. Had medium calcium carbonate tolerance and no salinity tolerance.

**Blue Spruce (Picea pungens)** A native conifer that has a conical shape and will require supplemental water and generally requires some shade protection when young. The color of the foliage is from green to blue and it is often used as a Christmas tree in New Mexico. It also has value to the wood products industry.

**Douglas Fir**: A large, native tree with a dense, conical crown. The wood is one of the strongest of the soft woods. It has significant value to the wood products industry and is used extensively as a Christmas tree. This species can live for hundreds of years. Has moderate calcium carbonate tolerance and no salinity tolerance

**Hybrid Cottonwood**: A fast growing tree, developing a narrow pyramidal crown, which becomes broad and open. Male variety does not produce cotton. Also called Noreaster cottonwood.

East Torrance Soil and Water Conservation District

Grass and Flower Seed & Misc. Order Form

		<u>Number</u> <u>ordered</u>		<u>Number</u> <u>ordered</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
<b>*WILDFLOWER MIX*</b>	<b>PRICE PER POUND</b>		<b>PRICE PER</b> <b>OUNCE</b>		
Rocky Mountain Mix	\$28.00		\$2.00		
Low Grow Wildflower Mix	\$28.00		\$2.00		
All Annual Wildflower Mix	\$26.00		\$2.00		
<b>*Pre-mixed GRASS</b> <b>MIXES*</b>			N/A		
Premium Irrigated Pasture Mix <b>1 lb bag</b> <b>(while supplies last)</b>	\$3.00		N/A		
Dry land Pasture Mix <b>5 lb bag</b>	\$15.00		N/A		
Native Wonder Mix <b>5 lb bag</b>	\$40.00		N/A		
Rocky Mountain Native Mix <b>5 lb bag</b>	\$20.00		N/A		
<b>*OTHER PRODUCTS*</b>					
3 oz Weed Fabric 3'x300' roll	\$55.00 ea.		NA		
3 oz Weed Fabric 4'X300' roll	\$ 73.00 ea.		NA		
3oz Weed Fabric 6'x300' roll	\$104.00 ea		NA		
3oz Weed Fabric 12'X300' roll	\$198.00 ea		NA		
4.5 oz Weed Fabric 15'X360' roll	\$475.00 ea.		NA		
4X4 sheet	\$2.00 ea.				
Anchoring Pins	.10 ea.		Bag of 100 \$9.50		

The District can order any grass seed mix that you may be looking for please call to inquiry

Total cost Page 1 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost Page 2 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME#: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL# \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

## KIDS CORNER / WHAT IS EROSION

The process known as weathering breaks up rocks so that they can be carried away by the process known as erosion. Water, wind, ice, and waves are the agents of erosion that wear away at the surface of the earth.

### Water Erosion



Water is the most important erosional agent and erodes most commonly as running water in streams. However, water in all its forms is erosional. Raindrops (especially in dry environments) create splash erosion that moves tiny particles of soil. Water collecting on the surface of the soil collects as it moves towards tiny rivulets and streams and creates sheet erosion. In streams, water is a very powerful erosional agent. The faster water moves in streams the larger objects it can pick up and transport. This is known as critical erosion velocity. Fine sand can be moved by streams flowing as slowly as three-quarters of a mile per hour. Streams erode their banks in three different ways: 1) the hydraulic action of the water itself moves the sediments, 2) water acts to corrode sediments by removing ions and dissolving them, and 3) particles in the water strike bedrock and erode it. The water of streams can erode in three different places: 1) lateral erosion erodes the sediment on the sides of the stream channel, 2) down cutting erodes the stream bed deeper, and 3) headward erosion erodes the channel upslope.

### Wind Erosion



Erosion by wind is known as aeolian (or eolian) erosion (named after Aeolus, the Greek god of winds) and occurs almost always in deserts. Aeolian erosion of sand in the desert is partially responsible for the formation of sand dunes. The power of the wind erodes rock and sand.

### Ice Erosion



The erosive power of moving ice is actually a bit greater than the power of water but since water is much more common, it is responsible for a greater amount of erosion on the earth's surface. Glaciers can perform to erosive functions - they pluck and abrade. Plucking takes place by water entering cracks under the glacier, freezing, and breaking off pieces of rock that are then transported by the glacier. Abrasion cuts into the rock under the glacier, scooping rock up like a bulldozer and smoothing and polishing the rock surface.

### Wave Erosion



Waves in oceans and other large bodies of water produce coastal erosion. The power of oceanic waves is awesome, large storm waves can produce 2000 pounds of pressure per square foot. The pure energy of waves along with the chemical content of the water is what erodes the rock of the coastline. Erosion of sand is much easier for the waves and sometimes, there's an annual cycle where sand is removed from a beach during one season, only to be returned by waves in another.



**You can prevent erosion on your own property in a few ways:**

- **Make sure that the soil on your property is vegetated.** Ground covers, for example, protect soils from surface erosion. Deep-rooted plants such as natives and acacias hold larger portions of soil together.
- **Mulch areas that are not planted to prevent surface erosion.**
- **Instruct landscape maintenance not to "blow" unplanted areas.** further eroding the topsoil there. It is best to allow leaf litter to remain in bare areas.
- **Control the water on your property.** Rain hitting roofs will come down in sheets, eroding the soil around the foundation of your house. To prevent this, install rain gutters with adequate downspouts.
- **Kick your automatic-sprinkler habit or at least manage it.** Too many homeowners are systematically watering already moist soils. Water only when needed to support your plants.
- **Make sure your sprinkler system is not eroding your soil.** When the rate of water applied exceeds the ability of your soil to absorb it, runoff occurs and so does erosion.
- **Time your sprinklers to go on and off in increments that allow water to be absorbed - not to run off the surface in sheets taking your topsoil with it.**
- **If there is "dirt" in your gutter, sweep it up and throw it back on your property.** It could add up to a hill after a hundred years or so.

ESTWCD promotes Stewardship of Natural Resources by providing Leadership, Education, Technical and Financial Assistance to the Citizens of the District.

EAST TORRANCE SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 58  
715 S. 5th Street  
Estancia, NM 87016

Phone: 505-384-2272 Ext.3  
Fax: 505-384-3043  
[www.EastTorranceSWCD.org](http://www.EastTorranceSWCD.org)

**NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
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*Member*

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*District Conservationist*

Kenneth Lujan

*Soil Conservationist*

Dean Pritchett

*SE Area Engineer*

**NMACD SUPPORT**

Lissa Dennisson

*Technical Support Provider*

**STAFF**

Cheri Lujan

*District Manager*

Natalie Stokes

*Student Clerk*

**NMDA SUPPORT**

Roy Todd

*Soil & Water Specialist*