

FIELD ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

If you are interested in receiving Wood Ash, eligible field(s) must meet the following guidelines:

1. **Active** – Fields must be pastureland or actively being farmed.
2. **Current Soil Sample Report with a pH level of 7.1 or below** – Report must not be older than 1 year at the time of permitting and not older than 3 years at the time of ash delivery.
3. **Access** – Fields must have reasonable road access to accommodate a semi-truck.
4. **Size** – Minimum field size is 15 acres. Wood Ash delivery causes a 1–2-acre compaction area; making sites under 15 acres difficult to manage. Contact the SWCD for more information.
5. **Winter Storage** – If wood ash will be hauled during winter months, landowners must be able to provide a plowed staging area to store wood ash until spreading occurs.
6. **Setback** – Fields must meet the following setback requirements: 200’ from a Residence; 600’ from Residential Developments; 600’ from Recreational Areas (including Cemeteries); 200’ from a Private Well; 1000’ from a Public Well.
7. **Waste applications** – Fields that have previously received municipal sludge are **NOT** eligible to receive Wood Ash.
8. **Ownership** – If you wish to receive wood ash on property that you operate but do not own, you must obtain the property owner’s signature on an “**Authorization to Apply Wood Ash**” form (available from the SWCD).

Koochiching SWCD
501 3rd Street, Suite 100
International Falls, MN

COOPERATIVE WOOD ASH PROGRAM

A Partnership between
Packaging Corporation of America
(PCA),
D.H. Contracting, LLC,
the Koochiching SWCD,
and Landowners



LANDOWNER'S GUIDE FOR WOOD ASH SPREADING

Updated June 2023

This informational guide is designed for landowners who receive wood ash on their farm fields and either elect to or are responsible for spreading the wood ash themselves.

Spreading Requirements for Landowners:

1. Application rates shall be based on recent soil test results.

Application rates are based on soil test recommendations using buffer pH (on fields with straight pH levels of 7.1 and below) or using potassium. The SWCD will provide you with the application rate(s) for your field(s) upon completion of hauling.

2. During the winter wood ash shall not be applied on greater than 2% slopes.

To prevent run-off from sloping fields from contaminating water resources, avoid spreading wood ash when the ground is snow covered or frozen.

3. Wood ash should not be applied to excessively drained nor poorly drained soils.

To prevent ground water contamination, avoid spreading wood ash on soils that are extremely sandy, saturated, or have standing water.

4. Separation distances shall be maintained from the following features when applying wood ash:

- **Residence** 200ft
- **Residential Area** 600ft
- **Recreational Area** 600ft
- **Private Well** 200ft
- **Public Well** 1000ft

5. The following separation distances shall be maintained from intermittent streams, drainage ways, road ditches, and surface tile inlets.

- **100ft Surface Application**
- **25ft Surface Application followed by incorporation within 48 hours**

These distances will help ensure the protection of surface water resources. Maintaining a vegetative buffer strip will provide additional protection measures.

6. The following separation distances shall be maintained from surface waters:

<u>Surface</u>	<u>May to Sept.</u>	<u>Nov. to April</u>
Course Soil	200 ft	400ft
Medium Soil	300 ft	600ft
Fine Soil	300 ft	600ft

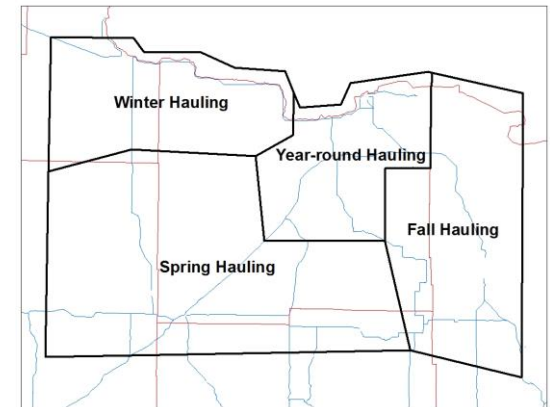
These distances will help ensure the protection of surface water resources. Maintaining a vegetative buffer of trees and/or grasses will provide additional protection measures.

7. Ash must be spread within a year from the time of delivery. Failure to follow this or other guidelines above will disqualify you from future participation in the wood ash program.

PCA asked for and received special permission from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to allow landowners the opportunity to spread wood ash on their own farm fields. The main stipulation was the agreement that landowners would complete the spreading

within one year of delivery. In order to keep this option for farmers, everyone requesting to spread wood ash themselves must do so within **one year** of receiving the wood ash. The SWCD will follow up with farmers prior to the end of one year to ensure this requirement is met.

We hope you found this informational guide helpful. For questions regarding the Cooperative Wood Ash Program, please contact the SWCD office Monday – Friday at 218-283-1175.



Wood Ash Hauling Area Map

Wood Ash Program Contacts

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