

Orchard View Intermediate



5th Graders Collect, Plant, and Grow Native Oak Trees at School

Three hundred 5th grade students at Orchard View Intermediate School, Martinsburg, WV, participated in PHLOW Growing



Native at their school this fall. The program began during the spring of 2015. In 4th grade, students learned about watersheds, erosion, pollution, and benthic macroinvertebrates. The fall 5th grade education focused on trees. Students identified the internal and external structure of a trees, learned how to identify native trees species, and the role riparian forest buffers have on keeping our river systems clean.

Students collected acorns outside of class and brought them to school to plant on October 9th.

Planting supplies included: a plastic cup with a hole pre-drilled in the bottom for drainage, acorn seeds, and soil. In order to check the seed viability, students performed a float test. The seeds were placed in a bucket of water and the floating seeds were discarded leaving the sinkers to be planted. Students worked in pairs to plant their seed in the cup provided and place it in the grow-out station.

Orchard View Intermediate has a fenced grow-out station installed at the school. This station serves as an area for immature trees to grow in a protected environment with an automated watering system. The station was installed during the spring 2015 program. Students planted two-year-old tree seedlings during their 4th grade program and now have seeds growing in their station.



This station serves as a community growing station for schools throughout the county and neighboring counties. When the trees outgrow the station they will be released to the community for planting.

