

# Water Savings with Native Plants



Native Plants are beautiful and perfect for the home garden and are more beneficial to the environment than non-native species. Having evolved to the environmental conditions in our area, they have adapted to our local soil and climate. These adaptations allowed them to build resistance to native pests and diseases and require less water and fertilizers. Their roots hold



soil in place preventing erosion, and create deep channels in the soil which increases stormwater infiltration and helps filter pollutants from it. Native plants provide homes, food and nesting sites for native pollinators, wildlife and beneficial insects which maintains the biodiversity of the region.

By using native plants, you help our local water resources. Since they require less water than non-native species,



you're conserving water and helping to maintain our water supplies. By using less fertilizers and pesticides and helping prevent erosion, you are reducing the amount of pollutants entering local waterways such as the Metedeconk River and Barnegat Bay. The result is improved water quality for fisheries, recreational uses, potable water supply and ecological resources.



[www.JerseyYards.org](http://www.JerseyYards.org)

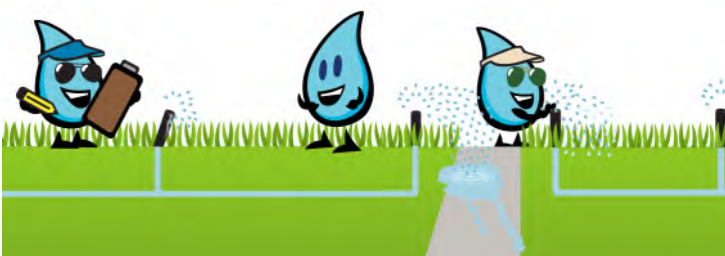
and Metedeconk Watershed!

Learn more about the benefits of native plants by visiting Jersey-Friendly Yards. [Jersey-Friendly Yards](#) is packed with information and resources to guide you through steps to a healthier landscape. Learn how to maintain healthy soil, reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides, conserve water, and create habitat for wildlife. A healthy yard means a healthier environment and a healthier Barnegat Bay

Applying too much fertilizer is not good for your plants and harms our water supplies. Know how much fertilizer your yard and gardens need by testing your soil. Rutgers Soil Testing Laboratory has information on how to take a soil sample and can analyze it for a fee. Learn more at <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/soil-testing-lab/>.



## While Planting and Maintaining Gardens don't forget the Sprinklers



Spring is time to "Spruce Up" the sprinkler system. Check to make sure sprinkler heads are working properly and water the yard, not hard surfaces. Check for any wet spots in the yard which may indicate a leak in the subsurface supply lines. Hire a certified WaterSense irrigation pro to inspect the system if you are not comfortable doing it. To learn more visit <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/sprinkler-spruce-up>.

