

Pollinators in Peril: How You Can Help With Native Plants and Other Easy Efforts

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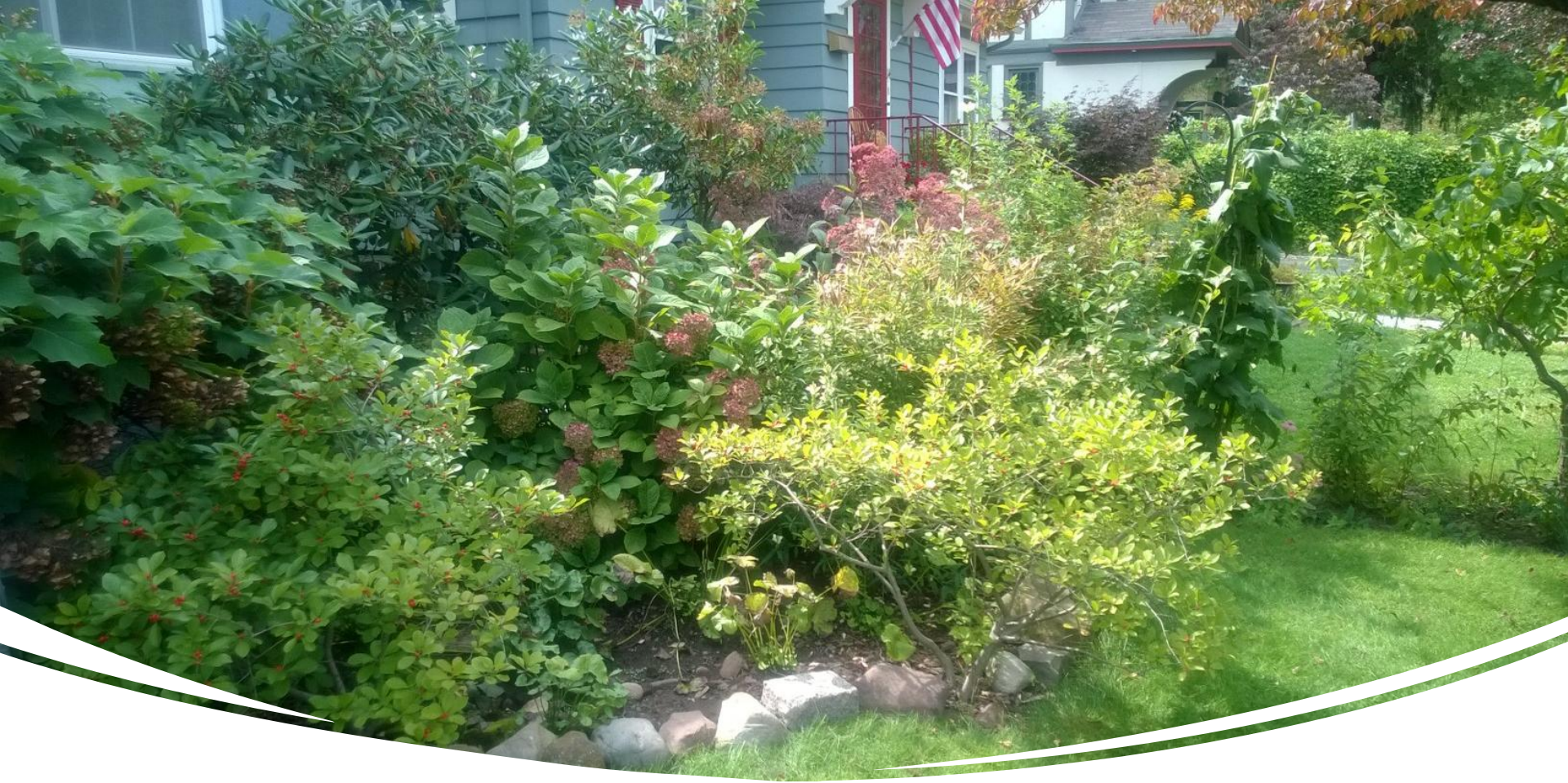




WHY SHOULD WE CARE? 6TH EXTINCTION

**Biodiversity is declining faster than any time
in human history**

- **3 billion decline of birds** in North America from 1970-2019 – *Science*, Sept. 2019
- **Insect apocalypse:** extinction risk for 25% of North America's 47 bumble bee species
- **80% of Monarchs** have disappeared in last 20 years



**We can be part
of the solution!**

Six Steps to Helping Pollinators

Start small!

1. **Don't use pesticides, even organic** – they poison insects and birds
2. **Turn off outdoor lights at night**; use motion sensors or yellow bug lights.
3. **Don't buy invasive plants**
4. **Modernize lawn care.**
5. **Start incorporating native plants.** Plant 8 or more species of natives that bloom from April –Oct.
6. **Modernize fall “clean-up”** by doing less
 - Leave the Leaves! Leaves = free fertilizer and home for insects
 - Don't use leaf blowers, especially gas-powered ones.

Pollinator Quiz

True or False?

A garden with native plants is better because insects won't eat the plants.

The majority of life exists on land.

If you want monarchs, you need to have milkweed plants.

Queen Anne's Lace is a native plant.

Many people are allergic to goldenrod.

Deer don't eat native plants.



Definitions

Native: evolved here.
Perennials. Ex: violets

**Introduced but not
invasive.** Ex: daffodils

Invasive: Introduced
species that invade
natural areas, crowding
out native plants. Ex:
English Ivy, Barberry Bush

But maybe you don't *want* insects in your yard?

CATERPILLARS FUEL THE FOOD WEB

Caterpillars become butterflies AND songbirds

Most land birds feed insects to their young
1 nest of chickadees needs 6,000-9,000 **caterpillars!**
(390-570 caterpillars each day x 17days)





**Easiest Steps
to Help
Pollinators**

**Don't use pesticides, even
organic – they kill butterflies
too!**



What about unwanted insects?

Mosquitoes: fan, incense

**Ticks: remove barberry
bushes**

Birds and bats eat insects.



Are you still
dressed like this?

*Then why does your
yard still look like this?*

18th century style yards are no longer environmentally sustainable.
It is time to adjust the aesthetics of our yards! www.healthyyards.org

teunny.co

Yards in U.S. = 3 Texas!

Modernize lawn care

**Grass doesn't need
fertilizer, pesticides,
or watering.**

**What we put into
our lawn goes to our
water.**



Start Incorporating Native Flowers!

Help the pollinators! Provide pollen and nectar from spring through fall.

Use some host plants.

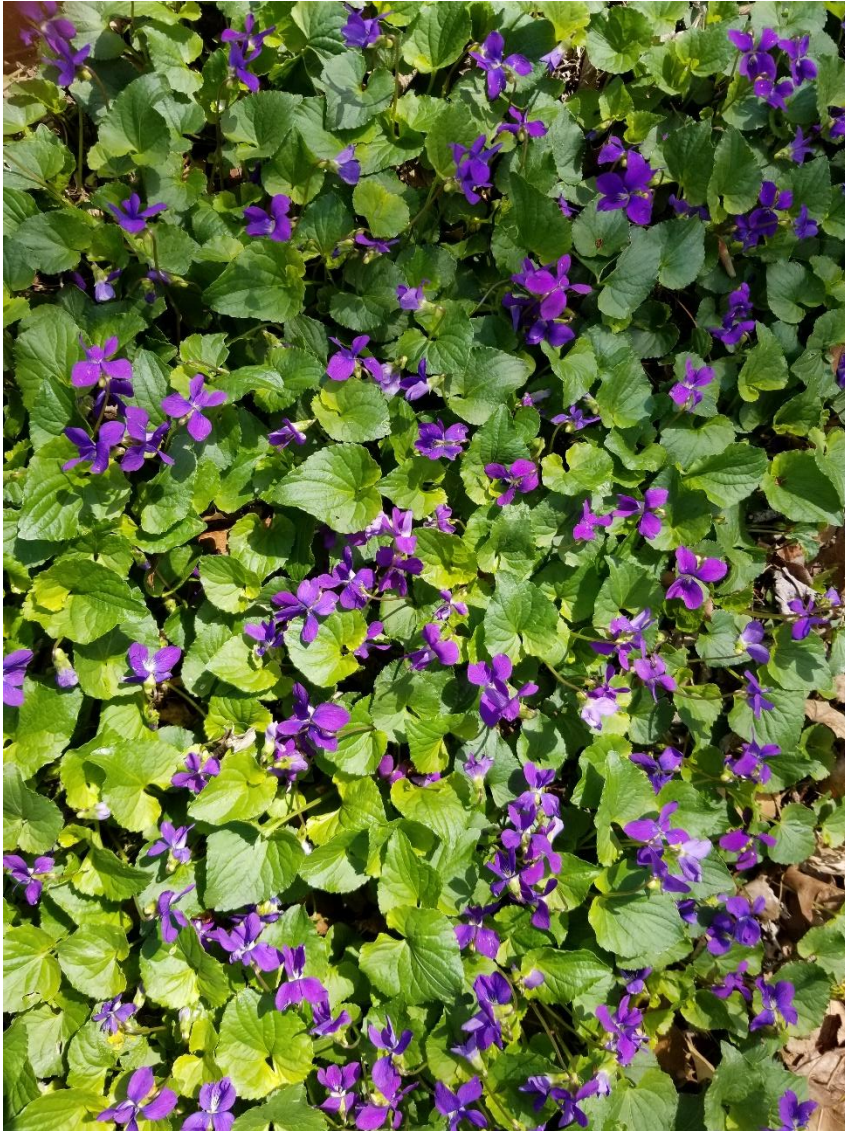
Early Spring: Golden Alexander, Violets

Late spring: Foxglove Beardtongue

Summer: Purple Coneflower, Milkweeds

Fall: Asters, goldenrod

Feed early pollinators with spring bloomers.
Violet, NJ State Flower, and Golden Alexanders



You don't need a meadow! There's a native for any space

Foxglove Beardtongue, *Penstemon Digitalis*



Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*



“What’s in it for us? Less work, time
and money when we work *with*
Mother Nature

Photo by Janet Markham



Butterfly Milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*
Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*

Help the Monarchs! They
only lay eggs on milkweeds.



In the fall, help insects prepare for winter or migrate with Goldenrod and Aster



Consider Bushes!

Many grow in part shade

1. Virginia Sweetspire
Itea virginica
2. Coral Honeysuckle,
Lonicera semipervirens



Eco-Design Tips

- Use layers: trees, shrubs, perennials, ground covers, both for biodiversity and for interest
- Plant at least 3 of each type -- more chance of one surviving, and helps to have a group
- Nice to have at least 3 plants blooming in spring, summer, and fall.

6. Modernize fall clean-up by leaving the Leaves --

They decompose into rich soil and free fertilizer and provide homes for creatures in winter

Comma Butterfly March 3. Phaedra Singelis



Resources

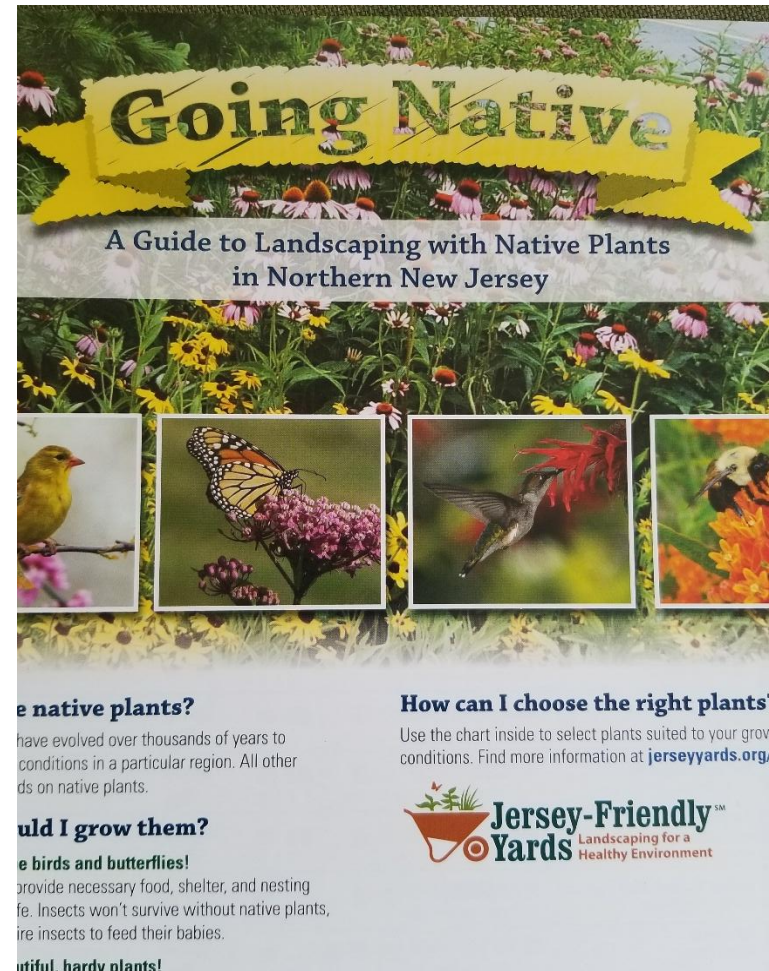
Jersey-Friendly Yards

Jerseyyards.org

The Interactive Yard

The Interactive Yard is a tool to help learn about the basic concepts behind transforming your yard into a Jersey-Friendly Yard.

npsnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Going-Native-Northern.pdf



Native Plant Sales

Happening Now:

Laurelwood Arboretum, Order by March 7,
laurelwoodarboretum.org

Verona Order by 4/11, pick-up 4/26. Visit Veronanj.org/events to download order form.

Happening Later:

3/31 – 4/18. Great Swamp Watershed Association, convenient kits or individual species. Online order with local pick-up Sat., May 3.

WHERE TO BUY?

<https://npsnj.org/native-plants/where-to-buy-natives/>

Consider plugs – great roots and easier to transplant

Local: Wildstead, East Hanover. Closed for winter.

Exclusively Native, mostly mail order:

Izel Native Plants – large selection of plugs

The Pollen Nation – plugs only

Pinelands Direct – plugs and more

Toadshade Wildflower Farm

Wild Ridge Plants - mail order and pick-up

Exclusively Native nurseries, no mail order:

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve—New Hope, PA

Gino's Nursery, Newton, PA – Great variety incl. trees & shrubs



Collective Steps to Help Pollinators

1. Volunteer in local efforts – Summit Tiny Forest
2. Start a pollinator garden in a business area
3. Advocate for deer culling efforts
4. Join with others to learn and collaborate
Homegrown National Park
Pollinator Pathway
Native Plant Society of NJ – Union Chapter
5. Magnify impact with signs

What about “no mow May”?



How about
“no mow”
areas?



Will you join us?





**TOGETHER,
WE CAN HEAL
MOTHER EARTH,
ONE GARDEN
AT A TIME.**

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