



About this Site

JerseyYards.org was developed by the Barnegat Bay Partnership with a grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.



The [Barnegat Bay Partnership](#) (BBP) is the National Estuary Program for the Barnegat Bay. More than 30 partners – government agencies, academic institutions, businesses, non-profit organizations, and citizen groups – are all working together for cleaner water and a healthier ecosystem in the bay. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides funding for the program, which also receives local funding support from Ocean County College and the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

A critical part of the BBP's efforts involves reducing the "people" pollution carried from yards by storm water runoff into our waterways. BBP partners have spearheaded numerous initiatives to reduce this type of pollution, from educating about responsible fertilizer use and the benefits of native plants to developing healthy soil standards and installing rain gardens.



The challenge was to make this information more easily accessible to the people who can make the biggest difference for clean water – the residents of the watershed. With funding from the [New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection \(NJDEP\)](#), the [Ocean County Soil Conservation District \(OCSCD\)](#) published [Low Maintenance Landscaping for the Barnegat Bay Watershed](#) in 2000. This comprehensive guidebook provides simple and effective landscaping techniques for an environmentally friendly, low-maintenance yard. In 2008, the [American Littoral Society](#), another BBP partner, started its [Bayscape for Barnegat Bay](#) program to encourage residents of the watershed to reduce polluted runoff by reducing lawn areas and planting native gardens. To complement these partner efforts, the BBP published [Going Native: A Guide to Landscaping with Native Plants in the Barnegat Bay Watershed](#) in 2012. This colorful guide provides information about the benefits of using native plants for home landscaping and offers a list of native plants adapted to the area.



In 2013, the BBP funded a major research and education project by the OCSCD and its partners called the [Soil Health Improvement Project](#). The project provided property owners with information about simple, low-cost, and practical soil restoration techniques and also created five public native plant gardens demonstrating choices for different environmental conditions a homeowner or landscaper may encounter.

Try 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.

Search the Plant Database



Search the Plant Database for New Jersey native plants and Jersey-Friendly non-native plants.



Resources for Homeowners

A variety of resources to help home and property owners learn about environmentally sound landscaping techniques.



Jersey-Friendly Yards Success Stories

Read how some landscapers and homeowners are putting Jersey-Friendly Landscaping into practice.

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