



ANDOVER TOWNSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION SUSSEX COUNTY NEW JERSEY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: A BETTER FUTURE FOR LAND, PEOPLE, AND WILDLIFE

Sustainable plantings are crucial for the entire community because they help protect the environment, save money, and improve quality of life for all. They play a key role in tackling important issues like climate change, resource depletion, and the loss of natural eco-serving habitats. By choosing plants that are good for the environment, sustainable plantings strike a clear balance between protecting nature and meeting the needs of our community.

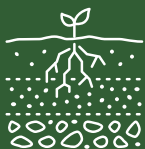


Environmental Commission Members

- Eric Olsen, Chair
- Pete Byron
- Gisela Ferrer
- Suzanne Howell
- Brenda Izzo
- David Kolstad
- Danny Power
- Ray Wexler



Sustainable plantings prioritize drought-tolerant, native, or low-water-use plants that reduce reliance on irrigation. This is particularly important in areas experiencing water scarcity, as it helps conserve water and reduces the need for extensive watering systems.



Sustainable plantings often focus on plants with deep root systems that improve soil structure and prevent erosion. It also helps to maintain and increase biodiversity by including plant species that support local wildlife, such as pollinators. Biodiversity is key to ecosystem resilience and long-term sustainability.

Native plants: The flora that existed in the ecoregion before the arrival of European explorers. Those plants that are part of the natural heritage and ancestral homeland of the Lenape Northern NJ Nation provide an intricate web of benefits to both the climate and the soil. Their ability to capture and store carbon helps mitigate climate change, while their roots and organic matter protect and improve soil quality.

Role: Native plants have an essential role in water regulation, biodiversity, and air purification, and when we plant more trees and protect existing native trees and forests, we're not only addressing climate change but also fostering healthier, more resilient ecosystems that can support future generations. So, the role of trees in climate and soil care is truly invaluable!

Invasive non-native plants: Known to outcompete native plants for resources like sunlight, water, and nutrients, disrupting ecosystems. They may also reduce biodiversity, alter soil composition, and negatively affect wildlife, especially if native species lose their habitat or food sources. In some cases, invasive plants can even cause direct economic damage, such as by affecting agriculture or requiring costly control measures.



Sustainable plantings also involve selecting plants that require minimal upkeep, reducing the need for frequent mowing, pruning, or applying fertilizers and pesticides. Low-maintenance gardens.

Invasive Plants in Northeast Landscapes

Many popular landscaping plants commonly used in the Northeast are invasive aggressive species that outcompete native vegetation, reduce biodiversity, and offer little to no benefit to wildlife. This guide identifies a few of the most problematic species, explains their ecological impact, and offers native alternatives that provide beauty, ecological value, and support for pollinators and birds.

Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)



Why It's a Problem: Spreads aggressively, displaces natives, low wildlife value.



Native Alternatives: *Chokeberry (Aronia arbutifolia)*, *Mapleleaf Viburnum (Viburnum acerifolium)*

Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)



Why It's a Problem: Harbors ticks, forms dense thickets, and outcompetes natives.

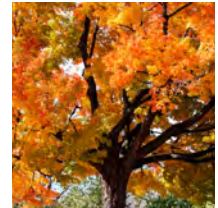
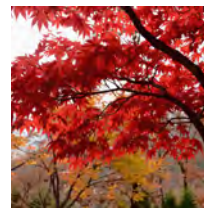


Native Alternatives: *New Jersey Tea (Ceanothus americanus)*, *Spicebush (Lindera benzoin)*

Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)



Why It's a Problem: Suppresses other plants, invasive seedlings, poor wildlife value.

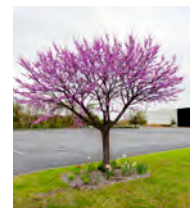
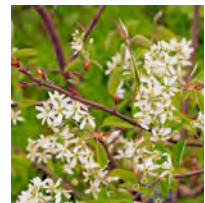


Native Alternatives: *Red Maple (Acer rubrum)*, *Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum)*

Callery Pear (Bradford Pear) (*Pyrus calleryana*)



Why It's a Problem: Spreads rapidly, brittle branches, outcompetes natives.

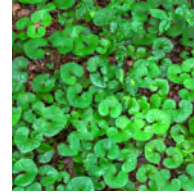


Native Alternatives: *Serviceberry (Amelanchier canadensis)*, *Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis)*

English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)



Why It's a Problem: Smothers trees and understory, harbors pests, poor biodiversity.



Native Alternatives: *Wild Ginger (Asarum canadense)*, *Virginia Creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia)*

Japanese Wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*)



Why It's a Problem: Chokes trees, spreads by root and seed, very aggressive.



Native Alternatives: *American Wisteria (Wisteria frutescens)*, *Trumpet Honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens)*

Butterfly Bush (*Buddleja davidii*)



Why It's a Problem: Not a host plant, displaces natives, invasive in wild areas.

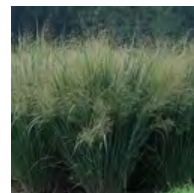


Native Alternatives: *Buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis)*, *Summersweet (Clethra alnifolia)*

Miscanthus (Chinese Silver Grass) (*Miscanthus sinensis*)



Why It's a Problem: Self-seeds, invades fields and roadsides, fire hazard.



Native Alternatives: *Switchgrass (Panicum virgatum)*, *Little Bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium)*

Japanese Spurge (*Pachysandra*) (*Pachysandra terminalis*)



Why It's a Problem: Forms dense mats, invades forests, displaces native flora.



Native Alternatives: *Allegheny Spurge (Pachysandra procumbens)*, *Golden Groundsel (Packera aurea)*

Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)



Why It's a Problem: Creeping vine, escapes gardens, overtakes forest floor.

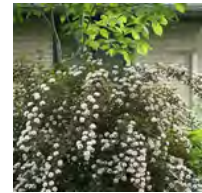


Native Alternatives: *Foamflower (Tiarella cordifolia)*, *Wild Blue Phlox (Phlox divaricata)*

Privet (*Ligustrum* spp.)



Why It's a Problem: Forms thickets, alters habitat structure, non-native.



Native Alternatives: *Arrowwood Viburnum (Viburnum dentatum)*, *Ninebark (Physocarpus opulifolius)*



This guide features native perennials, shrubs, trees, grasses, and ferns that support the local ecology in Andover Township, NJ. Each entry includes information on deer resistance, butterfly host value, and seasonal bloom time to assist with planning and planting. Please note that this booklet serves as a starting point; many more native plant species are suitable for consideration.

Important Note on Deer Resistance:

Deer resistance can vary based on region, season, and the availability of natural food sources. No plant is entirely deer-proof. Plants labeled as 'deer resistant' may still be browsed when food is scarce or the local deer population is high. To protect young or vulnerable plants, consider strategies such as fencing or incorporating unpalatable companion plants during the establishment phase.

Native Plants of the Northeast

Ferns

Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (PS/S) | Host Plant: X

Cinnamon Fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (PS/S) | Host Plant:

Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (PS/S) | Host Plant:

Marginal Wood Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (PS/S) | Host Plant:

New York Fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (PS/S) | Host Plant:

Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (PS/S) | Host Plant:

Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (PS/S) | Host Plant:

Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (PS/S) | Host Plant: X



Grass/Sedges

Bottlebrush Grass (*Elymus hystrix*) Deer Resistant: No | Light: (PS) | Host Plant:

Broomsedge Bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F) | Host Plant:

Fox Sedge (*Carex vulpinoidea*)

Deer Resistant: No | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant:

Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F) | Host Plant:

June Grass (*Koeleria macrantha*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F) | Host Plant:

Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F) | Host Plant:

Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (PS/S) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Appalachian Brown | Bloom: Spring

Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F) | Host Plant:

Purple Lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F) | Host Plant:

Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F) | Host Plant:

Tussock Sedge (*Carex stricta*)

Deer Resistant: No | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant:



Perennials

Asters (*Symphotrichum* spp.)

Deer Resistant: No | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Pearl Crescent | Bloom: Fall

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F) | Host Plant:

Blue False Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F) | Host Plant:

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Monarch | Bloom: Summer

Eastern Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (PS/S) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Columbine Duskywing | Bloom: Spring

Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (PS/S) | Host Plant:

Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Black Swallowtail | Bloom: Spring

Goldenrods (*Solidago* spp.)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Wavy-lined Emerald | Bloom: Fall

Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*)

Deer Resistant: No | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Joe Pye Weed Moth | Bloom: Summer

Nodding Onion (*Allium cernuum*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant:

Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Deer Resistant: No | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant:

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

Deer Resistant: No | Light: (F) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Monarch | Bloom: Summer

Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

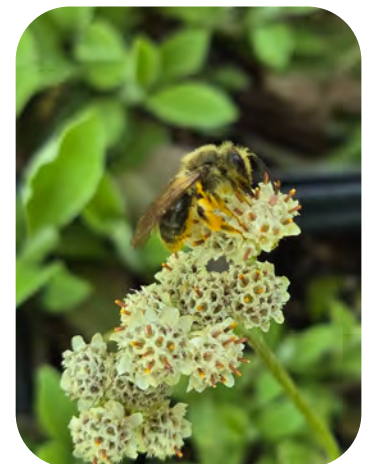
Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Skippers, Clouded Sulphur | Bloom: Summer

Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (PS/S) | Host Plant:

Woodland Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (PS) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Butterflies | Bloom: Spring



Shrubs

American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Polyphemus Moth | Bloom: Spring

Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*)

Deer Resistant: No | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant:

Lowbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant:

Mapleleaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (PS) | Host Plant:

New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Azure Blue | Bloom: Summer

Northern Bayberry (*Morella pensylvanica*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant:

Redosier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

Deer Resistant: No | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant:

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)

Deer Resistant: No | Light: (PS) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Spicebush Swallowtail | Bloom: Spring

Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (PS) | Host Plant:

Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant:



Trees

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Deer Resistant: No | Light: (F) | Host Plant: X |
Butterfly: Red-spotted Purple | Bloom: Spring

Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Over 500 species | Bloom: Spring

Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)

Deer Resistant: No | Light: (S) | Host Plant:

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Deer Resistant: No | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant:

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

Deer Resistant: No | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant:

Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Spicebush Swallowtail | Bloom: Spring

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)

Deer Resistant: No | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Tiger Swallowtail | Bloom: Spring

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

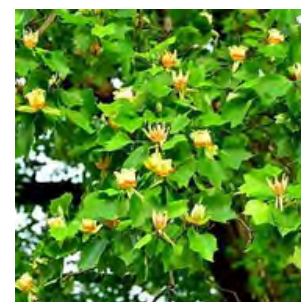
Deer Resistant: No | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant:

Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Deer Resistant: No | Light: (F/PS) | Host Plant:

White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

Deer Resistant: Yes | Light: (F) | Host Plant: X | Butterfly: Over 500 species | Bloom: Spring



Note: While the identified “Yes, Deer Resistant” plants are less appealing to deer, no plant is completely deer-proof. Local conditions and food availability may influence browsing. It is best to check with your local native plant nursery.

Resources for Native Plants in New Jersey



Homegrown National Park

Website: <https://homegrownnationalpark.org>

A grassroots movement co-founded by entomologist Doug Tallamy. The goal, to improve biodiversity by encouraging individuals to plant native species in their own yards and communities. It offers a national directory of native plant resources.

Jersey-Friendly Yards

Website: <https://www.jerseyyards.org>

Provides a comprehensive, searchable plant database tailored to New Jersey's diverse growing conditions. Offers guides like Going Native, specific to different regions of the state, helping you select plants suited to your local environment.

Native Plant Society of New Jersey (NPSNJ)

Website: <https://npsnj.org>

A nonprofit organization dedicated to the appreciation, protection, and study of New Jersey's native flora. Offers extensive plant lists, educational events, webinars, and local chapters throughout the state.

New Jersey Department of Agriculture

Website: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/md/prog/nativeplants.html>

Provides information on native plant programs and regulations, supporting efforts to promote native species and manage invasive ones. New Jersey State Website

Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES)

Website: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs1140/>

Offers practical guidance on incorporating native plants into residential landscapes, covering topics such as reducing maintenance, conserving water, and enhancing biodiversity in your yard.

Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes

Website: <https://wildones.org>

A national nonprofit organization promoting environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity. Offers three regional chapters in New Jersey, providing educational resources, native garden designs, and a community of native plant enthusiasts.



“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”

— Aldo Leopold