

Toolbook for Sustainable Landscaping Conversations

Discussion points for you to share with your landscaper

Go Native. Beauty and fitness wrapped up into one.

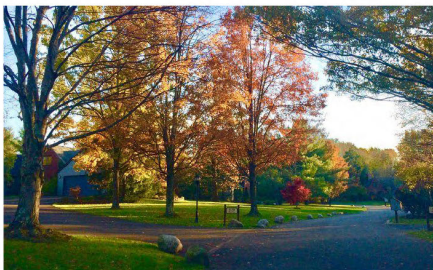


I want to add native plants to my property. Native plants filter water, attract butterflies, and reduce the need for fertilizers.



I want to remove invasive plants from my property. Invasive plants outcompete native species and create "food deserts" for local birds.

Plant a Tree. Add a native tree and you'll get so many benefits for free.



I want to plant a native tree or bush. Check Princeton's Native Tree list and avoid trees and bushes on the Do Not Plant list.



I don't want mulch volcanoes. Mulch should not be piled up like a volcano. It should be spread around a tree like a donut.

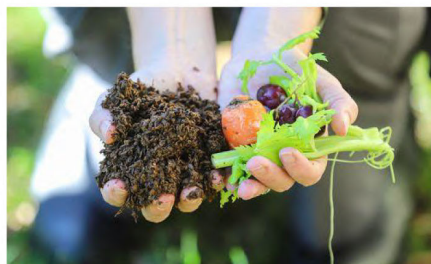


I want to leave my leaves. Instead of piling them by the curb, create a compost pile, use them as mulch, or mulch them with a mower.

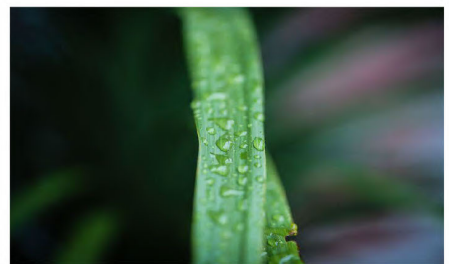
Green Your Lawn. Your yard is a part of the local ecosystem.



I want to reduce the use of fertilizers on my lawn. Synthetic fertilizers contribute to algal blooms, threaten wildlife, and pose a health risk to workers.



I want to use more natural products to treat my lawn. Compost reduces fertilizer run-off and feeds plants naturally.



I want to support a healthy & sustainable lawn. For example, mow at 3-4", overseed, and water both infrequently & deeply.

Soak Up Some Stormwater. Don't let it wash away.



- I want to investigate a rain garden.** A shallow depression with native plants can add beauty and filter stormwater.



- I want to capture water.** Use a rain barrel or downspout planters to collect water for use on lawns or cars.



- I want to explore permeable options.** Use gravel or pervious pavement for driveways or sidewalks.

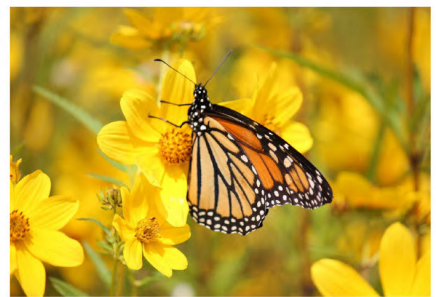
Consider Equipment Alternatives. So we can all breathe a little easier.



- I want to discuss electric options.** Battery-powered machines are quieter, reduce air pollution, and improve conditions for lawn workers.



- Can we skip the blower?** To protect your health and mine, let's grind our leaves with a mulching mower, rake them, or just leave them.



- I want to convert some lawn to a meadow.** A field of native flowers reduces mowing, soaks up water, and attracts pollinators.

Questions to ask your landscaper:

- Do your workers use gloves, masks, goggles, and ear protection? Please protect them.
- Are you registered with the Municipality? All landscapers are required to register.

<https://www.somaaction.org/climate>

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