



Peconic Estuary Program

The Peconic Estuary Program, an innovative partnership of federal, state, county, and local governments, citizen and environmental groups, businesses and industries, and academic institutions, is the managing body charged with protecting and restoring Long Island's Peconic Bays.

For more information, please visit the Peconic Estuary Program website at: www.PeconicEstuary.org

Please let us know about your chemical free and bay-friendly yard, and receive a free PEP goody bag (while supplies last)! Contact the PEP office at: info@peconicestuary.org (631) 852-5750

This project was printed with funding provided to the Peconic Estuary Program by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under assistance agreements no. CE992002 to the Suffolk County Department of Health Services.

Printed on recycled paper.

Estuary: a semi-enclosed coastal body of water, where saltwater mixes with freshwater creating important nursery and spawning habitats for a variety of marine animals including finfish and shellfish.

PECONIC ESTUARY PROGRAM
SCDHS - OFFICE OF ECOLOGY
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PESTICIDES NEAR THE BAY

ALTERNATIVES FOR A CHEMICAL FREE HOME

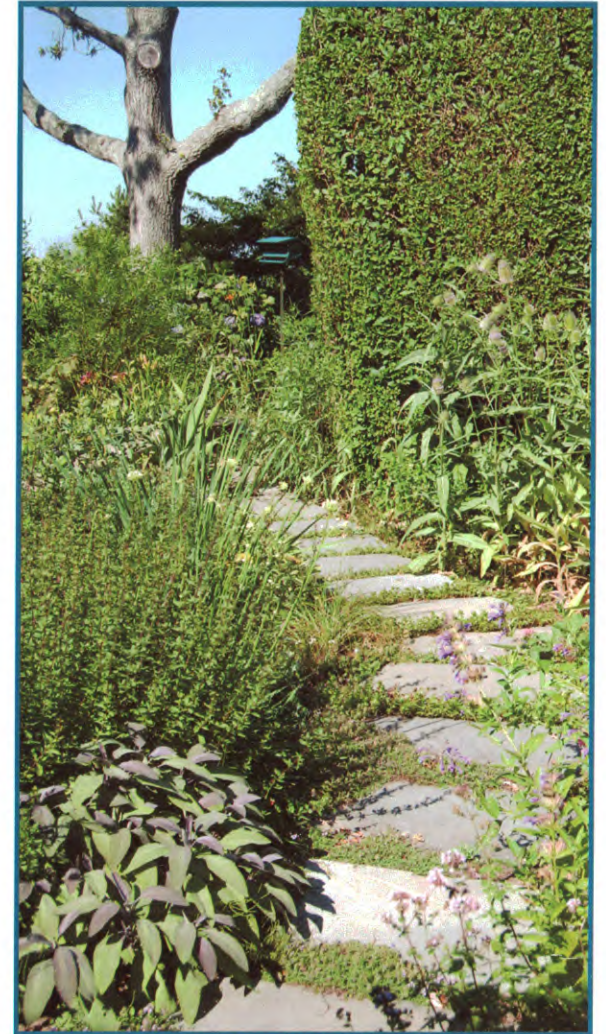


Photo: Diane Hewett

Join numerous East End residents in protecting our natural environment by maintaining beautiful low-maintenance pesticide free yards and gardens!



Photo: Diane Hewett

Pesticide Use Near the Bay

Conventional pesticides, including herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and rodenticides, are made up of chemicals which are designed to be toxic to certain organisms. By adopting chemical free yard and home maintenance practices, you minimize your exposure and maximize environmental protection.

The Peconic Estuary, which includes all bodies of water between the north and south forks on the east end of Long Island, is a productive natural resource that provides the community with wonderful recreational, educational, and economic opportunities.

The Peconic Estuary Program and its partners have spent enormous amounts of time and effort to help protect and restore this unique resource. As a precautionary measure, we recommend avoiding pesticide use, and creating a chemical free home and yard environment for your family, your pets, and your community.



Photo: Diane Hewett

Alternatives to Chemicals

Here are some ideas for chemical free yard maintenance:

- Use native plants as much as possible. They can survive native pest attacks better than most non-natives.
- Try to learn to live with pests and weeds. Many of them do some beneficial things for our environment.
- Look for USDA certified organic products to help manage pest issues, including ingredients such as mint, rosemary, thyme, and garlic.
- Consider biological alternatives, such as releasing ladybugs in the yard to manage pests, or hand pull weeds instead of broadcasting pesticides.
- Research at-home-remedies to pest issues as well. Ideas such as tying tape sticky-side out around trees infested with leaf eating worms will trap the worms as they climb up the tree, helping to control the pest issue.
- If you are worried about bug bites, apply organic bug spray, wear long pants, long sleeves, closed toe shoes, and a hat when necessary. Also remember to check yourself for ticks every time you come inside!



Photo: Joel Milton

These alternative techniques can save you money and effort, and eliminate potential risks to the local environment, including impacts on ground-water and the Peconic Estuary!



Careful Use

If you decide to continue to use some pesticides, it is critically important that you follow the label directions exactly. If you have any questions regarding label instructions please contact the manufacturer before use.

Storage

By buying only as much as you need, you eliminate the need to store excess pesticides. When storing pesticides and other chemicals, it is important to make sure that they are completely sealed and there are no leaks in the containers. Secondary storage within a container or a tray with sides is a good idea, in case packaging does leak at some time, the spill will be contained.

Disposal

When you decide to get rid of unused, unwanted, or unneeded pesticides please dispose of them properly on a designated S.T.O.P. (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) day. If thrown out with the regular trash these chemicals can make their way into our local waters. Please contact your local town hall for a list of S.T.O.P. dates, or visit the PEP website at: www.PeconicEstuary.org.