

# Why Use Native Plants?



## The Peconic Estuary Program (PEP)

is an innovative partnership of local, state, and federal governments, citizen and environmental groups, businesses and industries, and academic institutions that aim to protect and restore habitat diversity, water quality, and ecological communities of the Peconic Estuary and its watershed.

### Some of PEP's priority management topics:

Harmful Algal Blooms • Nutrients (mainly nitrogen)  
Habitat & Living Resources • Pathogens • Toxic Pollutants  
Critical Land Protection

For more information about the Peconic Estuary Program please visit [PeconicEstuary.org](http://PeconicEstuary.org)



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## Native Plants Are a Great Addition to ANY Yard Because They:

- **Absorb and filter** rain and polluted stormwater runoff to help keep our waterways clean
- **Provide habitat and food** for wildlife, including many essential pollinators
- **Reduce soil erosion** with their deep roots
- **Require less** water, need no pesticides and fertilizers, and less pruning
- **Demand less** of your time and money – mow and water less often, and no money spent on fertilizers

## Native Plants vs. Invasive, Non-native Plants:

Native plants are naturally found in a particular geographic region and have been growing in that area for thousands of years. They are naturally adapted to the type of climate, soil, rainfall and availability of pollinators, like bees and butterflies.

Invasive, non-native plants are not naturally found in this region. Once they arrive, they threaten native plant species because they grow quickly and aggressively.

## Before Purchasing Native Plants...

### Ask yourself:

- Does my soil have sand, clay, gravel, or silt? What's the general size of the particles in the soil? Smaller particles don't drain well, larger particles, such as sand, drain quickly.
- Is there a lot of sun or shade in my yard?

### Ask your local nursery:

- Are the native plants locally grown or shipped in? Locally grown plants are best suited for your yard.
- Which native plants grow well together?

## Why Install a Rain Barrel?

Rain barrels are an excellent way to collect and store water from rooftops for use in gardens when there is no rain.

