



# Six Goals of an Eco-Friendly Landscape



1. Create healthy soils without pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, fertilizers
2. Be climate-wise: minimize carbon emissions and other forms of pollution
3. Provide healthy habitat for pollinators and other wildlife
4. Control stormwater on the site and allow it to soak in slowly
5. Conserve water and treat it like the important natural resource it is
6. Be a good steward of your piece of Cape Cod for a healthier environment for all of us

## TIPS for an Eco-Friendly, Sustainable Landscape

**Minimize lawn area:** Lawns are a huge time and energy suck. Plant lawn just where you need it for recreation and/or pet use. Use drought-tolerant fescues or low mow grass mixes.

**Go chem-free:** Pollinators and other wildlife will be healthier for it and so will you and your pets and our groundwater.

**Plant native plants, shrubs and trees:** Shoot for mostly native species, like 80% native species, 20% non-native.

- Native species provide biodiversity with value to pollinators, birds and other wildlife, and they're attractive!
- Landscapes planted with native species require no fertilizers and many are drought tolerant.

**Kick the wood mulch habit:** It's a waste of energy. Design your yard to include more plants to fill in the bare spots. There are many native species choices that will help cover the ground. Using wood mulch is passé and can be a fire hazard!

**Leave the leaves:** Leave the leaves where they fall, or at least most of them. Leaf litter provides overwintering habitat for butterflies and bumble bees and provides a layer of nutrients and moisture for the emerging plants next spring.

**Leave dead flowers standing:** The seed heads provide food for birds, flowers for next year, and are important for beneficial insects that might overwinter in the stems. And they're pretty when the snow falls on them.

**Preserve wild areas:** Leave any wild areas of native vegetation – it's great habitat for beneficial insects.

**Control invasive species:** Learn to identify and properly control Bittersweet, Autumn Olive, Shrub Honeysuckle and other invasives so they don't get out of control.

**Create a rain garden** with native plants that will capture rainwater from a downspout.

**Create a vegetable garden and compost!** Compost vegetable kitchen scraps and recycle into your vegetable garden. Growing your own food helps reduce carbon emissions.



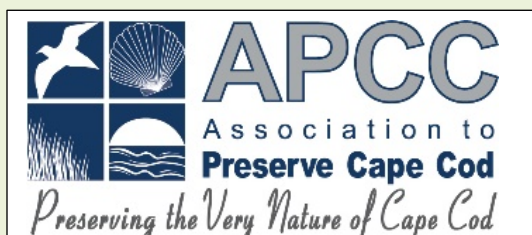
**Plant more trees for today and tomorrow.** Trees offer home energy savings through shade from hot summer sun and buffering of winter winds; native trees support a myriad of species of important insects and other wildlife; trees sequester carbon; trees help clean the air of pollution; trees have health benefits by lowering our blood pressure and calming our psyche.

**Garden tools:** Avoid gas-powered tools that pollute the air and contribute to noise pollution. Leaf blowers are noisy and stir up pollutants into the air we all breathe. Use a rake instead. For whatever lawn you have, use a battery-operated pushmower – it's great exercise!

**Rain Barrels:** Catch rainwater from your roof gutter in rain barrels or a cistern. Rain barrels typically hold 55 gallons and can be hooked up in a series for storing water. Use for watering plants, vegetable gardens or maybe washing your car. Use a watering can or get creative and set up a solar-powered submersible pump to power a hose.



**Minimize hardened surfaces:** Instead of the traditional asphalt and mortared stone surfaces, consider alternatives like porous pave<sup>®</sup> made of recycled tires; percrete<sup>®</sup> - a permeable concrete; permeable pavers; porous asphalt; and grasspave<sup>®</sup> - a grid system that allows grass to grow while providing stable surface for vehicles. These new methods allow water to soak in where it falls, whereas the traditional means was to convey the water away as wastewater. We need to take care of our water!



**More info:** [www.APCC.org](http://www.APCC.org) and [www.ecolandscaping.org](http://www.ecolandscaping.org); *Climate-Wise Landscaping*, by Sue Reed and Ginny Stibolt (2018)

Visit APCC's Living Landscape, 482 Main St (Rt 6A) Dennis, MA 02638  
Call ahead: Kristin Andres, Education & Outreach at (508)619-3185