

Pesticide Reduction and Alternatives

- Compaction is an invitation for weeds because it diminishes soil fertility. Aerate your lawn twice a year in order to maximize healthy root growth and reduce overall lawn treatment. A manual fork or a power aerifier can be used to aerate your lawn, or, if you're feeling creative, wear golf shoes while mowing your property.
- Mowing to a low height- 1 ½ to 1 ¾ inches, can kill root systems by preventing photosynthesis. Mow your lawn to about 3-3 ½ inches to keep your grass healthy.
- Reduce lawn coverage and spot treat problem areas where possible- replace areas of lawn with attractive native plants for lower maintenance lawn care. This also reduces fuel costs used for mowing and helps prevent water run off caused by grass coverage.
- Warren soil tends to have high clay content. Seek plants that thrive in clay soils.

Additional Resources and Links

- Books on Pollination- The Xerces Society Guide to Attracting Native Pollinators, website- <http://www.xerces.org/>
 - Guides to maintaining healthy soil- <http://www.soildistrict.org/healthy-soil-resources/to-10-resources/>
 - Somerset County Soil Conservation District:
Manager – Frank Calo
Milltown Road Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807 Phone: [908-526-2701](tel:908-526-2701)/Fax: [908-526-7017](tel:908-526-7017)
E-mail: soilconsrv@co.somerset.nj.us
 - More information on pollinators- <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/> (National Resource Conservation Service Website)
 - NJ contact- Barbara Phillips, Barbara.Phillips@nj.usda.gov
 - The Pollinator Partnership- <http://www.pollinator.org/> (largest organization dedicated exclusively to the protection of pollinators and their environment)
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Natural Landscaping

The benefits of increased pollination and reduced pesticide use



(Real warren pollinators at work!)

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1/3 of Our Food Requires Pollination

- One-third of the foods we eat, including many of our favorite fruits and vegetables, exist due to pollination by animals such as bees, and butterflies
- These animal pollinators fulfill a crucial role in plant reproduction, however due to habitat loss, harmful pesticide use and other environmental changes, pollinators are in decline
- Not only do these pollinators need to flourish in order to benefit commercial agricultural production, but if you are tending a personal garden increased pollination will benefit your crop yield
- To increase pollination keep a variety of plants that will flower at different times, emphasize native plants in your garden, and reduce or stop pesticide use

How to Attract Pollinators with Native Plants

- You can increase pollination with native plants. While non-native plants displace native plants and their pollinators, native plants help to attract pollinators that recognize flora and fauna indigenous to this area
- There are so many plants native to NJ, more than enough to serve any desired purpose or appearance. Milkweed is a common native plant that has many beautiful varieties-



Purple Milkweed and butterfly milkweed

- You can also visit a native plant nursery nearby or ask your local nursery about native plants. A list of Native Plant Nurseries in NJ can be found on The Native Plant Society of New Jersey website- <http://npsnj.org/>
- Native plants should be placed nearby your fruit and vegetable crops as a border, marginal production area, or hedgerow. in order to most benefit your crops

Pesticide Use

- Because pesticides are designed to kill pests, a groups of living organisms, they can also have adverse effects on human health
- If you are using pesticides on your lawn, be sure to use biologically based pesticides, which are safer than chemical pesticides. Avoid **Neonicotinoids** (Active Ingredients: Imacloprid, Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Thiamethoxam). This class of pesticides has been banned in Europe due to their adverse effects on pollinators and other organisms.
- Be sure that you are treating the correct problem; take your soil to the Soil Testing Laboratory of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES): <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/soiltestnlab/>. This service unit offers a chemical and mechanical analysis of soils for the residents of New Jersey. Pesticides may not be the best route for improving your lawn.