

## What do you like about summer?

I love the sound of the birds.

Did you know that they need our help NOW!??

## Your Garden and Town Landscapes Are the Change that

### Birds & Pollinators Need Please read on

Native plants are?-----plants that have lived and interacted in the region for many centuries.

They have complex and supportive relationships with the surrounding plants and animals.

They have a timing for each other to support food and reproduction.

Did you know that monarch butterflies will only eat and reproduce on milkweed.

Don't we all love butterflies? I want to draw them to my garden. I bet you do too. What about Joe Pye weed and Ruby Tiger Moth, black eyed susans and Checkerspot, Wild bergamot and hermit sphinx? All of these and so many more are specific and necessary for their survival.

Native plants ---support approx **29 times more insects and animals** than non-native

They look great and once established require less watering and less care.

You can--- Start to introduce natives into your yard.---- You do not have to change everything!! ----- **Start this season.**---- Check out <https://capecodnativeplants.org/find-plants/> to see what they could look like in your yard.

**One baby bird eats from 390 -520 insects a day!!** What can you do now to help them thrive?

Did you know?

**Native Oaks** ----are host to over 557 different insects including moths and butterflies

Did you know?

We have lost---- 50% of our bird species in the last 50 years.

**We need to create a chain of food supply for migrating birds and butterflies. That could be your yard!!**

Did you know?

**Most cultivars are not sustainable for food of birds and insects.**

Many plants are bred sterile or low seed output and are poorly recognized by insects

**Only 25% plants sold are native.** Let's ask nurseries for more native plants and then purchase them.

Did you Know about these research facts?

Cultivars that change the height of a plant did not have a significant negative effect for insects.

Cultivars changing the color of leaf or flower definitely changed the insect interaction.

MORE ON THE BACK-->

**Jumping worms are now more common ? What?** Inspect the pot soil before planting. These worms are very large and move a lot. Look them up on You Tube. Don't just start killing all worms

**Want to see a NATIVE GARDEN IN ACTION? Stop by Thompsons Field** and see the wonderful work Nancy Hipp (Garden Club of Harwich) has been doing for the last 5 years.

**What to ask for at the nurseries?**

Look for open pollinators. Were pesticides used on this plant?

Nursery tags give misleading or limited information. Growers fault, not nursery.

**Local nurseries that are growing their native sales incl'd**

Country Gardens Hy, Agway, The Farm Orleans ,Cape Coastal Dennis, and more

**Best NE sustainable trees** Oak, Cherry, Elm, Maple

**Best locations in NE for native purchase**

Nasami Farm Whately MA,,Full Circle Gardens Essex VT,Edge of the Woods, Hehigh Valley PA,Bagley Pond Perennials NH

**Information sources—Education. What are natives?**

APCC--Assn for the Preservation of Cape Cod---<https://capecodnativeplants.org/find-plants/>

A wonderful interactive link with pictures and suggestions

National Wildlife Federation.org--native plant finder

Growing Native Mass.org/videos

Doug Tallemey-author of many books The Nature of Oaks, Natures Best Hope,

Beyond Pesticides.org

Pollinator Pathways.org

**Every gardener—every yard-- can make a difference. Including you!**

**The Tipping Point for the future of the Earth---- is Now----There is no Planet B**

**Also Remember.....**

**Leave your leaves on the beds** until you see small bees and other insects flying in the day.

They hibernate in the soil and may die if they come out too soon.

**Leaves are an important fertilizer and mulch for the soil**—consider leaving some LOL and covering with other mulches in the spring if you want a different look.

**Leave the seed heads on your plants** in the winter for birds to eat.