



For More Information...

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Lobby & Telephone

Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

www.SCWA.com

Waterwise Gardening

Warminster Broom -
Cytisus praecox 'Allgold'



Lamb's ears -
Stachys byzantina

Did you know?

The water we drink on Long Island comes from aquifers below the surface. It is important to protect the quality of this resource for future generations. These gardening tips provide you with ways to conserve the water we drink.

Soil preparation

Improve the structure of your soil by adding organic matter like compost or manure, and should be 18" deep, in new beds. Test Ph levels and apply lime if needed for plants to best utilize nutrients already available in the soil.

Mulch can reduce evaporation and hold down soil temperature, which can conserve water. It also insulates plant roots from extreme heat and cold and helps control weeds that are competing for moisture.

Watering Basics

While our lawns generally require only an inch of water a week, your amount may vary depending on the time of year. Our lawns and plants are healthier with fewer, longer soakings. This supports root development.

You can target the needs of specific plants through manual watering. While automatic sprinkler systems make this process easier, it can waste your water. Monitor rainfall to limit the use of automatic systems. Rain sensors, or other irrigation management systems are also helpful in keeping a healthy lawn.

Adopt an odd/even watering policy to conserve water and keep your lawn healthy! Odd-numbered addresses water their lawns on odd-numbered days of the month and even-numbered addresses water their lawns on even-numbered days of the month.

Box Elder - *Acer negundo*



Be green, not greedy

Sustainable lawns start with mowing at 3 inches high and the use of mulching lawn mowers. Leave some clippings on the lawn as a source of recycled nitrogen. You should also avoid shallow and excess watering when possible. To reduce nitrogen leaching into ground and surface water, Suffolk County bans any fertilizer being applied between November 1st - April 1st.

Don't apply more than 1 lb. of nitrogen/1,000 square feet of lawn fertilizer per application. Most homes on Long Island require less than 2-3 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet every year. This mitigates the environmental impact and harm to water quality. It will also provide you with sufficient nitrogen to preserve the turf density. Avoid potential contaminants like herbicides, weed killers, and pesticides. Organic products can also be considered.

Right plants for the right places

When selecting plant material for a landscape, consider shade, drainage and sun exposure. Plants with similar water habits should be grouped together. There are many drought-tolerant plant species that may be attractive alternatives.

Drought-tolerant plants in the northeast are considered any plant that makes it through a ten-day period with no signs of outward stress visible. For Long Island, native plants are good choices. This brochure lists plants that suit a waterwise garden.



Madagascar periwinkle - *Catharanthus roseus*

These plants are ornamentals with drought-tolerant attributes we recommend as landscape plants on Long Island. They are good additions to any waterwise gardens.

Trees

American holly - *Ilex opaca*
Box Elder - *Acer negundo*
Eastern Red Cedar - *Juniperus virginiana*
Ginkgo Tree - *Ginkgo biloba*
Goldenrain Tree - *Koelreuteria paniculata*
Hawthorn - *Crataegus virdis* 'Winter King'
Hedge Maple - *Acer campestre*
Honey Locust - *Gleditsia riacanthos*
Japanese Zelkova - *Zelkova serrata*
Osage orange - *Maclura pomiera*
Pitch Pine - *Pinus rigida*

Shrubs

Bearberry - *Arctostaphylos urva-ursi*
Butterfly Bush - *Buddleia davidii* 'Nanho Purple'
Chaste Tree - *Vitex* 'Silver Spire'
Crimson Pygmy Barberry - *B.thunbergii* 'Crimson Pygmy'
Hollywood Juniper - *Juniperus chinensis* 'Torulosa'
Kerria - *Kerria Japonica*
Nannyberry - *Viburnum lentago*
Quince - *Chaenomeles speciosa*
Rose-of-Sharon - *Hibiscus syriacus* 'Diana'
Siberian Pea Shrub - *Caragana arborescens*
Smoke Tree - *Cotinus coggygria* 'Royal Purple'
Tamarix - *Tamarix ramosissima* 'Summer Glow'
Warminster Broom - *Cytisus praecox* 'Allgold'
Winterberry - *Ilex verticillata*
Witch Hazel - *Hamamelis virginia*



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Herbaceous Perennials

Beebalm - *Monarda didyma*
Butterfly weed - *Asclepia tuberosa*
Coreopsis - *Coreopsis verticillate* 'Moonbeam'
Daylily - *Hemerocallis* sp. & var.
False Indigo - *Baptisia australis*
Blanket Flower - *Gaillardia puchella*
Goldenrod - *Solidago x hybrida* 'Crown of Rays'
Lamb's ears - *Stachys byzantina*
Lavender - *Lavendula* 'Hidcote Blue'
Montauk Daisy - *Chrysanthemum pacificum*
New England Aster - *AsterNovae-angliae*
Purple Coneflower - *Echinacea purpurea*
Russian Sage - *Pervoskia atriplicifolia*
Stonecrop - *Sedum spectabile* 'Autumn Joy'
Yarrow - *Achillea* 'The pearl,' 'Summer Pastels'
Yucca - *Yucca filamentosa* 'Gold Sword'

Annuals

Cleome - *Cleome* spp.
Creeping Zinnia - *Sanvitalia procumbens*
Dusty Miller - *Cineraria* spp.
Gazania - *Gazania* sp.
Gomphrena - 'Strawberry Fields,' 'Gnome White'
Lantana
Madagascar periwinkle - *Catharanthus* sp.
Melampodium - *Melampodium* 'Medallion'
Mexican Sunflower - *Tithonia* 'Sundance'
Nasturtium
Portulaca
Swan River Daisy - *Brachycome*
Sweet Alyssum - 'Wonderland Pastel Pink'