



Gardening For Wildlife Program

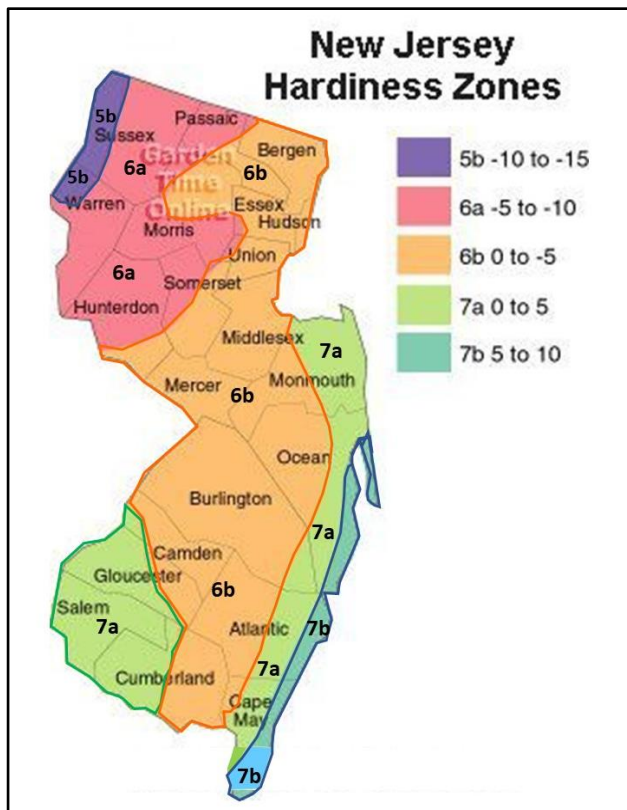
Understanding Your Outdoor Space and Preparing to Design



YOUR GOALS

What's the Goal for your outdoor space and what are you seeking to achieve? *Check off the three biggest benefits related to your gardening for wildlife.*

- ☐ It provides food, water, shelter for animals
- ☐ It gives me time outdoors
- ☐ It provides me with a way to talk about gardening for wildlife with others
- ☐ It makes my property beautiful
- ☐ It reduces the amount of yard maintenance I have to do
- ☐ It reduces the amount of herbicides/pesticides being used
- ☐ It helps reduce stress



HARDINESS ZONE

Using this map, which hardiness zone does your planting space fall within?

- ☐ 5b
- ☐ 6a
- ☐ 6b
- ☐ 7a
- ☐ 7b



YOUR SPACE – EXISTING CONDITIONS

How would you describe your outdoor planting space? *This is not necessarily the size of your entire yard. This represents the total square footage you could dedicate toward planting.*

- ☐ Zero sq. ft. (Container Planting Only)
- ☐ Up to 45 sq. ft. (approximately the size of a King Size bed)
- ☐ Up to 400 sq. ft. (approximately size of 2 parking spaces)
- ☐ Up to 1,000 sq. ft (approximately the size of 5 parking spaces)
- ☐ Up to 5,000 sq. ft (approximately the size of a basketball court)
- ☐ More than 5,000 sq. ft

If you do plan to dedicate our entire yard to gardening for wildlife, we suggest creating a basic plan using a simple sketch of our property. A survey plan is a wonderful base map or even a aerial photograph from Google Earth or Google Maps is a great way to start. Assign each section of the yard a name (*ex. Front of the house, side yard, shady side of garage*)

Quick planning sketch of existing yard and features (include all structures, pathways, driveways, know landscape features) Give each section an identifying name.

Section Name (ex. Front of the house): _____



SOIL TYPE

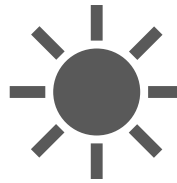
Which of the descriptions below most accurately

describes your soil? *You may have more than one.*

- ☐ Well-drained (dry most of the time)
- ☐ Medium-drained (periodically wet or moist)
- ☐ Wet (wet most of the time)



☐ Other considerations: _____



LIGHTING

How much sun does your space get? If there are areas that

get differing amounts of light you can divide your yard into as many sections as you need.

- ☐ Less than 3 hours (Shade or filtered light only)
- ☐ 3-6 hours (Partial Shade)
- ☐ 6+ hours (Full Sun)

Section Name (ex. Front of the house): _____



SOIL TYPE

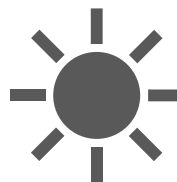
Which of the descriptions below most accurately

describes your soil? *You may have more than one.*

- ☐ Well-drained (dry most of the time)
- ☐ Medium-drained (periodically wet or moist)
- ☐ Wet (wet most of the time)



☐ Other considerations: _____



LIGHTING

How much sun does your space get? If there are areas that

get differing amounts of light you can divide your yard into as many sections as you need.

- ☐ Less than 3 hours (Shade or filtered light only)
- ☐ 3-6 hours (Partial Shade)
- ☐ 6+ hours (Full Sun)

Section Name (ex. Front of the house): _____



SOIL TYPE

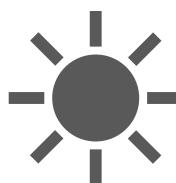
Which of the descriptions below most accurately

describes your soil? *You may have more than one.*

- ☐ Well-drained (dry most of the time)
- ☐ Medium-drained (periodically wet or moist)
- ☐ Wet (wet most of the time)



☐ Other considerations: _____



LIGHTING

How much sun does your space get? If there are areas that

get differing amounts of light you can divide your yard into as many sections as you need.

- ☐ Less than 3 hours (Shade or filtered light only)
- ☐ 3-6 hours (Partial Shade)
- ☐ 6+ hours (Full Sun)

Section Name (ex. Front of the house): _____



SOIL TYPE

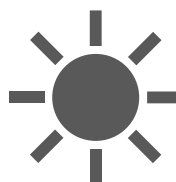
Which of the descriptions below most accurately

describes your soil? *You may have more than one.*

- ☐ Well-drained (dry most of the time)
- ☐ Medium-drained (periodically wet or moist)
- ☐ Wet (wet most of the time)



☐ Other considerations: _____



LIGHTING

How much sun does your space get? If there are areas that

get differing amounts of light you can divide your yard into as many sections as you need.

- ☐ Less than 3 hours (Shade or filtered light only)
- ☐ 3-6 hours (Partial Shade)
- ☐ 6+ hours (Full Sun)



Food

Would like to add:

Have:

Would like to add:

Have:

Would like to add:

Have:

Would like to add:

YOUR SPACE – EVALUATION OF NEEDS



This is your habitat too! It's important to reflect upon how you and your family member (and pets too) will be using the space. Answer the following questions and then review when you are ready to begin designing your landscape.

- ☐ What uses do you currently make of your yard and landscape?
- ☐ What do you most like about your site?
- ☐ What don't you like about the existing landscape?
- ☐ For what specific uses do you want to plan?
- ☐ If you have children, what specific uses will they be growing into and out of?
- ☐ If you have pets, do they have any specific requirements that will influence your design?
For example, do you want to shut them out of specific areas or let them in?
- ☐ If the various sections of your yard were seen as outdoor rooms or extensions of your indoor spaces, what would you call them? Kitchen? Storage space? Living Space?
- ☐ If you want your space to be private or protect from the wind, is special screening necessary?
- ☐ How much time will you personally have on creating the project?
- ☐ How much time will you have for maintenance?
- ☐ Are there any easements, setbacks or zoning or homeowner association restrictions that will affect your decisions?
- ☐ Are there any underground utility lines or irrigation lines? Can you locate them?
- ☐ Are there any special plants species you want to use? Special foliage or flower colors or types?



MORE BEFORE.....You put pen to paper and begin your design

- ☐ Spend time in nature and visit gardens which emphasize the use of native plants and eco-friendly gardening practices.
- ☐ Attend guided nature hikes with a naturalist or garden tours with a master gardener familiar with plant identification. Ask questions.
- ☐ Locate a survey of our property. Don't have one? Call your municipal or County clerk or tax office to see if one is on file.
- ☐ Search your property of Google Earth or Google Maps and print out a copy.
- ☐ Take photographs of the area you want to transform.