



New Jersey Audubon Habitat Stewards Program



Special Habitats

Teacher Naturalist (Lorrimer Sanctuary)



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- Ecology and Evolution
- Environmental Education
- Naturalist

What do we mean by special habitats?

Shade

Drought

Limited
space

Shore and
salt-tolerant

Wet

Container Gardening

- Great for small spaces such as balconies and patios
- Can be utilized in large spaces to add even more plants
- Easy access for little kids or folks with mobility issues
- Less weeding!
- Perfect for plants that need to be contained so they don't overrun a garden (mint family)





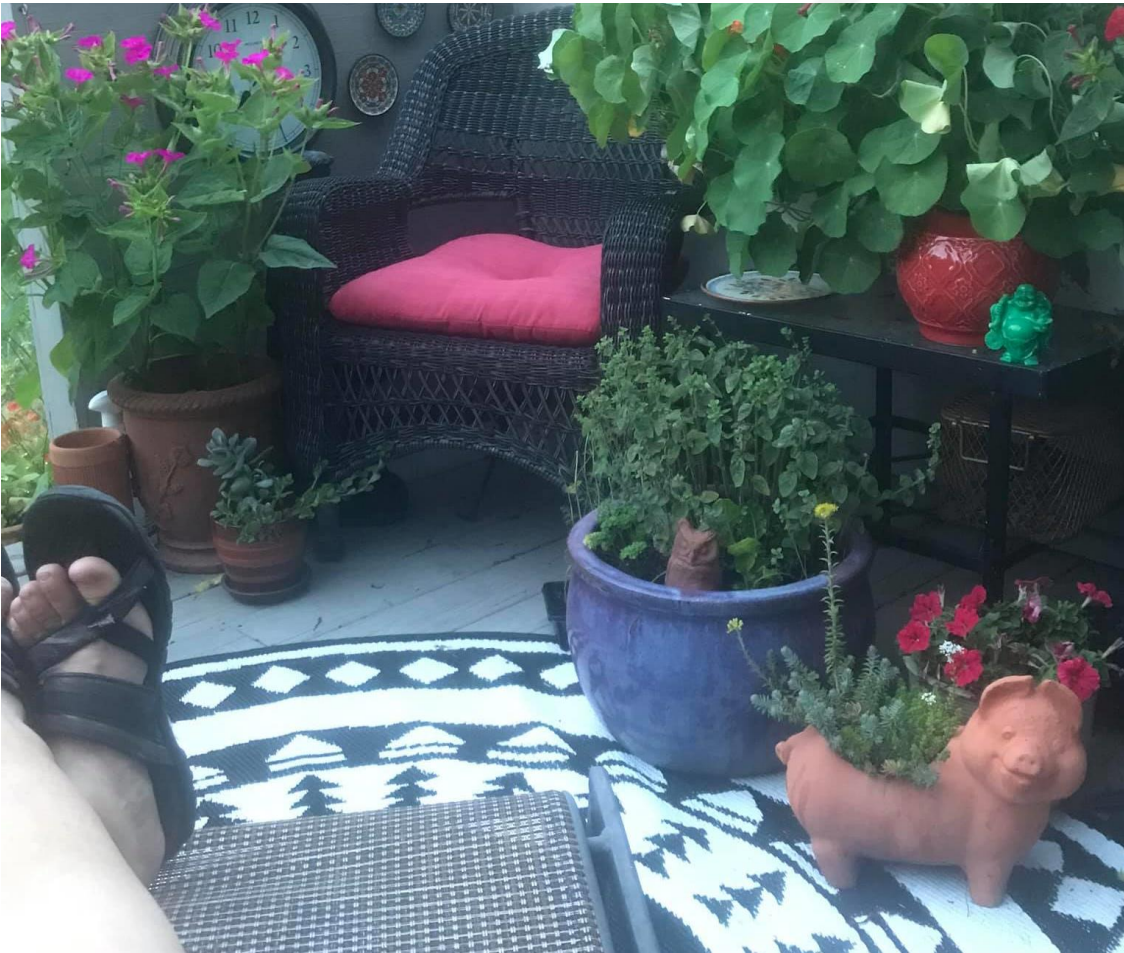




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Greening Your Balcony



Vertical Garden





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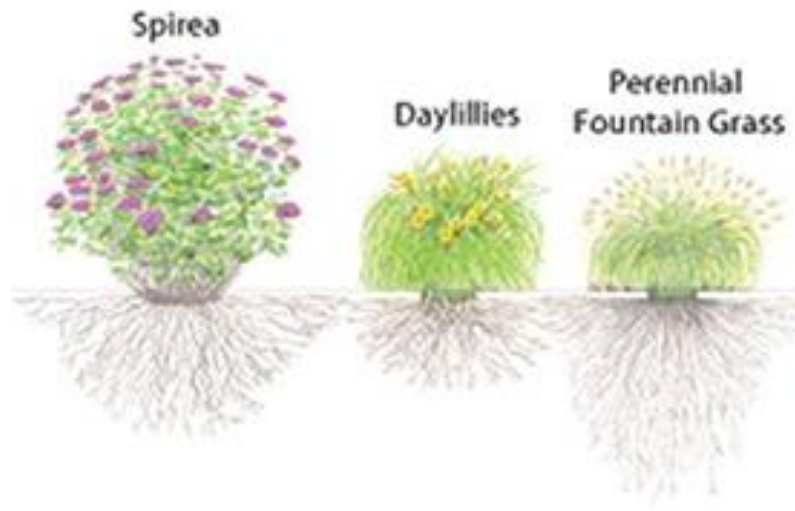


Drought-resistant gardening

- Natives are naturally drought-resistant and tolerant of poor soils
- Dry shade vs. dry sun
- Grasses, trees, shrubs
 - Deep root systems



Non-Natives



Fescue
Turf

Buffalo
Grass

Prairie
Dropseed

Black-eyed
Susan

Common
Ninebark

Natives



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
root depth in feet

Full Sun



- My site is full sun all the time – what can I plant?
- Dependent on soil type and how dry site is.

Grasses



Great for dry or meadow areas

Good backdrop plants for garden borders

Easy care plants

Good wildlife benefit

Gardening with New Jersey's Only Native Cactus

- Prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*)
- Yellow flowers bloom June to July
 - Each flower is diurnal and only bloom for one day
- Cactus pads shrivel during winter and plump up during spring
- Optimal conditions:
 - Sandy soil
 - Dry
 - High Drought Tolerance
 - Slightly acidic
 - Full sun to partial shade







Shade Gardening



- Know your shade
 - Partial (sun blocked for part of the day)
 - Dappled (below a tree)
 - Full (little or no direct sunlight – the north side of a building or under an overhang)

Chanticleer Shade Garden

Native shade garden

- Early spring blooms
- Ferns
- Understory trees and shrubs
 - Flowering dogwood
 - Eastern redbud
 - Viburnums
 - Pinxter Azalea
 - Northern Spicebush



Spring Ephemerals





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Salt-tolerant Gardening

Gardening at the shore

Road salt



Salt-tolerant plants in NJ

- Plenty of great options!
- Look to natural environments for examples of plants that do well in salty environments
- Use salt-tolerant shrubs as a buffer to protect gardens closer to the road
- Use restraint when putting out salt on sidewalks near garden areas



Wet Sites

Rain
gardens

Floodplains

Pond/bog
gardens



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Rain Gardens

- Utilize rocks to help water flow
- Absorb runoff
- Great place for plants that normally require too much water





Questions?

