

# Why YardScape?



YardScaping helps build healthy soil to grow all kinds of landscapes from lawns to rain gardens and minimizes your reliance on pesticides, fertilizers, and watering.



## Benefits of YardScaping

- Creates a low-maintenance yard that saves you money, time, and effort.
- Makes your yard more functional for how you want to use it.
- Makes your yard more resistant to pests and prepared for drought.
- Puts native and native-friendly plants where they want to grow.
- Attracts more birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.
- Uses less water.
- Builds up organic matter in your soil to retain nutrients and moisture.
- Prevents erosion and drainage issues.
- Protects our water! Yard care products like fertilizers and pesticides can be carried by stormwater runoff to our local streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, and bays and make them unsafe to drink, fish, and swim in.

## Quick Tips

- **Test your soil.** Check your soil's ability to drain water with a percolation test and check its chemistry (pH, organic matter, heavy metal levels, and nutrient amounts) with a University of Maine soil test.
- **Make a site design.** Plan your landscaping based on use, infrastructure, sun exposure, soil drainage, and soil chemistry. Consider adding improvements for pollinators and other wildlife too!
- **Build your soil.** Based on your soil chemistry results, add any needed organic matter and nutrients through materials like compost and compost tea.
- **Water wisely.** Use a rain gauge to determine if you need to provide additional water to your gardens and lawn. Most plants like about an inch of water a week. Water deeply and infrequently to help your plants grow wide and deep roots.

## Just look for the duck!

We partner with local nurseries, hardware stores, and Home Depots to mark products and plants that align with YardScaping practices to help streamline your choices.

