

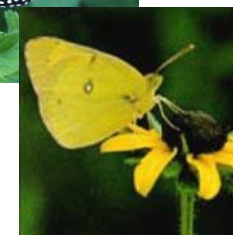


# Louisiana Friendly Landscaping



## Why the emphasis on Landscaping?

- Help filter harmful pollutants from entering our water supply
- Attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife
- Increases aesthetic value of your property
- Reduces maintenance costs
- Prevents soil erosion and sediment pollution from entering lakes and streams
- Invite beneficial insects to control unwanted bugs



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## NONPOINT & PLANTS

Nonpoint source pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from various sources. Nonpoint source pollution is caused by rain moving over and through the ground. Rainfall carries soil, pesticides, chemicals and other material into our lakes, bayous, streams, and river. These pollutants include:

- Excessive herbicides, fertilizers, pesticides from residential areas.
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban areas.
- Sediment from poorly managed construction sites, agricultural land, and eroding stream banks.
- Bacteria and nutrients from pet waste, livestock, and faulty septic tanks and package treatment plants.



Landscaping not only adds splendor and value to your property, but also helps reduce surface runoff by reducing the quantity and velocity of runoff. Plants intercept rainfall and are one of the best controls in decreasing runoff. These incorporate any plant material, with emphasis on native plant species that covers the ground surface and reduces the impact of rain on bare soil surfaces.



## USE OF NATIVE PLANTS

Louisiana has an array of native plants for landscaping purposes. Native plants are defined as plants originating in a particular location. Non-native species have been brought into an area and naturalized. Native plants are often a wiser choice than ornamental species because they are hardy and more likely to withstand extreme weather conditions. When carefully selected, natives can provide just as many benefits, such as, natural color and beauty, food and shelter for wildlife, shade, erosion control and increased property value.

Because of the biodiversity in Louisiana, native species are plentiful. Native trees, shrubs, grasses, ground covers, and flowers provide food and shelter for wildlife. Natives can be planted strategically to attract butterflies and other beneficial insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, and other wildlife.

Native species may be hardier, less invasive and less prone to disease and insect problems. Selecting a plant that fits the moisture and light conditions of a location is a critical part to a successful landscape.



## WHY LANDSCAPE?

Sediment from construction sites, nutrients from lawns, bacteria, grit and hydrocarbons from streets and parking lots are primary pollutants of urban runoff. When these materials are washed or blown into our neighborhood streets, driveways, or parking lots, they quickly flow into the nearest storm water drain along the street. These pollutants are then carried through the underground pipes of the storm sewer system and are emptied directly into our lakes.

Rain gardens are a good example of what homeowners can do on his or her property to manage runoff.



The plants in a landscape absorb water from driveways and lawns and are landscaped with deep-rooted native flowers and foliage that are adapted to wet conditions, example, duck potato.

Landscaping is a contribution a homeowner can make to reduce urban pollution by storing runoff on their property and beautifying their yard at the same time.