



SPRING IS GREEN TIME ----

THINK GREENER!

Sponsored by Upland Borough Council:

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## SPRING TIPS

Large trees are great for Stormwater control. As they mature they intercept more than 1,000 gallons of rainwater each year. The springtime is the perfect time for planting. You may want to convert a corner of your property to a native warm season type of grass. Their root system enriches the soil and absorbs many times the amount of rainwater than that of turf grass. If you do plan to plant trees, be careful of large trees such as oak, poplar or sycamore near power lines or in small lawns.

You may also want to substitute porous surfaces for impervious ones. Patios, walkways and parking areas can be constructed with porous materials that reduce Stormwater runoff. Special blocks or pavers with voids can be used. They can be filled with gravel or grass that allows Stormwater to soak into the soil.

The springtime is a great time to redirect your rooftop runoff from away from the foundation of your home and direct it into a grassy area, mulch bed, garden or rain barrel. A rain barrel will retain Stormwater to be used in gardens at a later time.

Rain Gardens are a wonderful way to soak up rain water which drains from a roof or other surfaces. They can be placed either near the house to catch roof runoff or set back from the residence to collect water from the roof or the lawn. Select a sunny area and rule out locations with poorly draining soil types. Select plants that tolerate both flooding and dry conditions. Most perennials will tolerate more sun and will also do well in a rain garden.

Another idea is to plant stream buffer plants in wet areas of your garden or yard. Many native plants require less watering and without the need for chemical fertilizers or pesticides. You may want to plant Cinnamon Fern which likes full sun to shade and enjoys moist soils. Blue Vervain blooms from June to September and does well in full sun to light shade. Another favorite for our area are Coneflowers. They bloom from April to September and like moist soils and full sun to light shade.

You may also want to check websites like the Pa. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources or the Pa. Native Plant Society for their list of nature plants.

You may consider testing your soil and using phosphorus free fertilizers. This will tell you which fertilizers to purchase for your yards. Mail-in soil kits are available at many hardware stores or at the local Penn State Extension. Select fertilizers with slow release forms of nitrogen which are less likely to cause problems with your lawns. The typical lawn would require 2.5 to 3 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet, per year. Recycling your grass clippings can meet between 25% to 50% of your lawn's nitrogen needs.

The springtime is also the start of mosquito season. Look around your yard and eliminate any source of breeding areas. Remove old tires, buckets with stagnate water, kiddie pools that were not emptied over the winter months, clean out gutters and any planter trays. Bti is used to kill mosquito larvae and is widely available at many hardware stores. It is not harmful to people or pets. Bti dunks or granules are ideal treatment for birdbaths, rain barrels or planter drip trays.

You can have a healthy green lawn this summer by leaving grass clippings where they fall. It's simple. Grass clippings left on the lawn decompose and act as a natural organic fertilizer. This lets you reduce the amount of commercial fertilizer you need to apply. Your lawn will remain healthy and green. Also, never cut off more than 1/3 of the grass blade in one mowing. Keep grass mowed to two inches in early spring and gradually raise the height to three or four inches by summer.

You can use grass clippings as compost, no more than 1/3 of the compost pile. They are an excellent source of nitrogen. Mix thoroughly with brown materials such as leaves or straw and turn the pile regularly to aerate it and prevent odors. Grass clippings also make great mulch to reduce weeds and moderate soil temperature. Mulching also controls erosion, run

off and evaporation. The clippings also add nutrients and organic matter to your garden. And please do not blow the clippings into the street, as they will end up in the storm inlets and eventually into our streams. They are a major source of stream pollution and can clog culverts, storm drains and storm pipes, causing flooding. Clippings also reduce the oxygen in the streams, killing fish and other aquatic life.

If you water your grass don't forget that one inch of water will wet the soil to a depth of four to six inches. Water deeply and infrequently to encourage deep root growth. Water in the morning so less water is lost through evaporation and don't water at midday or in the evenings. If you do, the lawn will remain damp during the night and is more prone to diseases.

When the weather becomes warmer we tend to wash our cars more, which can pollute our streams. If you use a commercial car wash, the dirty water is typically filtered for reuse and ultimately is treated at a wastewater treatment plant. Soapy runoff from vehicles may enter into storm drains and flow untreated into our streams. Detergent levels as low as 0.1 ppm can harm wildlife and negatively impact drinking water supplies. Also detergents are a source of excessive nutrients which also degrade streams. You may also think about having your vehicle tuned up, which will save you 20% on your gasoline bill.

Citizens can also help report violations or problems that they notice in their area that may cause damage or pollution. Any illicit dumping into the storm sewers or drainage areas may be reported to either the Borough offices directly (610-874-7317) or to the Department of Environmental Protection, at their 24 hour hotline (484-250-5900). Thank you!

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## Grasses



*Panicum virgatum* - switchgrass  
 Light: SU, PS - Moisture: D, M, W - Height: 3'-6'  
 Adaptable warm-season grass; seeds or plants available



*Sorghastrum nutans* - Indian grass  
 Light: SU - Moisture: D, M - Height: 3'-8'  
 Warm season clump grass; apply by seed; deer resistant



*Conoclinium coelestinum* - blue mistflower  
 Light: SU, PS - Moisture: D, M, W - Height: 1'-3'  
 Adaptable; deer resistant



*Echinacea purpurea* - purple coneflower  
 Light: SU, PS - Moisture: M - Height: 3'-6'  
 Long bloom period; attracts finches, many varieties



*Lilium superbum* - turk's cap lily  
 Light: SU, PS - Moisture: M, W - Height: 4'-8'  
 Red/orange/yellow flowers; takes several years to bloom



*Lobelia cardinalis* - cardinal flower  
 Light: SU, PS - Moisture: M, W - Height: 2'-4'  
 Long bloom time; attracts butterflies & hummingbirds



*Penstemon digitalis* - foxglove beardtongue  
 Light: SU, PS - Moisture: D, M - Height: 2'-4'  
 Attracts hummingbirds; many varieties



*Monarda didyma* - scarlet bee-balm  
 Light: SU, PS - Moisture: M, W - Height: 2'-5'  
 Aromatic; attracts butterflies; needs room to spread

# S h r u b s



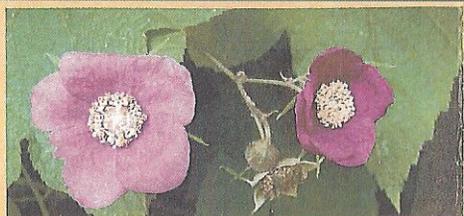
***Alder incana ssp. rugosa* - speckled alder**  
Light: SU - Moisture: M, W - Height: 10'-30'  
Tolerates flooding and drought; spreads; bank stabilizer;



***Physocarpus opulifolius* - ninebark**  
Light: SU, PS - Moisture: M, W - Height: 5'-12'  
Peeling bark; bank stabilizer; deer resistant



***Cornus amomum* - silky dogwood**  
Light: SU, PS - Moisture: M, W - Height: 6'-10'  
Spreads; bank stabilizer; high wildlife value



***Rubus odoratus* - purple flowering raspberry**  
Light: PS, SH - Moisture: M - Height: 3'-6'  
Spreads; deer resistant



***Osmunda cinnamomea* - cinnamon fern**  
Light: PS, SH - Moisture: M, W - Height: 2'-4'  
Spreads in low wet areas; deer resistant



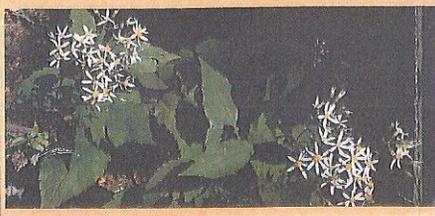
***Matteuccia struthiopteris* - ostrich fern**  
Light: PS, SH - Moisture: M, W - Height: 3'-5'  
Spreads along banks of small streams; deer resistant



***Asarum canadense* - wild ginger**  
Light: PS, SH - Moisture: M - Height: 0.5'  
Semi-evergreen ground cover



***Asclepias incarnata* - swamp milkweed**  
Light: SU, PS - Moisture: M, W - Height: 4'-6'  
Butterfly host; deer resistant



***Eurybia divaricata* - white wood aster**  
Light: PS, SH - Moisture: D, M - Height: 0.5'-2'  
August to October bloom; deer resistant



***Iris versicolor* - larger blueflag**  
Light: SU, PS - Moisture: M, W - Height: 0.5'-1.5'  
Spring bloom; adaptable; deer resistant



***Solidago rugosa* - wrinkleleaf goldenrod**  
Light: SU, PS - Moisture: M, W - Height: 1'-6'  
Tough plant; spreads; deer resistant



***Vernonia noveboracensis* - New York ironweed**  
Light: SU, PS - Moisture: M, W - Height: 3'-8'  
Erect tough plant; spreads; attracts butterflies



***Lindera benzoin* - spice bush**  
Light: PS, SH - Moisture: M, W - Height: 6'-15'  
High wildlife value; deer resistant



***Photinia pyrifolia* - red chokeberry**  
Light: SU, PS - Moisture: D, M, W - Height: 6'-12'  
Red fall color; bank stabilizer; deer resistant



***Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis* - American elderberry**  
Light: SU, PS, SH - Moisture: D, M, W - Height: 6'-12'  
Bank stabilizer; high wildlife value; edible berries



***Viburnum dentatum* - southern arrowwood**  
Light: SU, PS, SH - Moisture: D, M, W - Height: 6'-12'  
Adaptable; bank stabilizer; high wildlife value; deer resistant

# F e r n s

# H e r b a c e a l s



***Amelanchier arborea* - common serviceberry**  
Light: PS, SH - Moisture: D, M - Height: 35'-50'  
Early bloom; high wildlife value; deer resistant



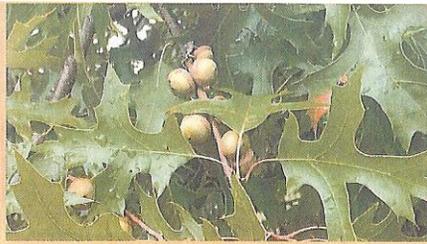
***Betula nigra* - river birch**  
Light: SU, PS - Moisture: M, W - Height: 50'-75'  
Fast growing, adaptable; streambanks & floodplains



***Gleditsia triacanthos* - honeylocust**  
Light: SU - Moisture: D, M, W - Height: 50'-75'  
Yellow fall color; adaptable; streambanks & floodplains.



***Liquidambar styraciflua* - sweetgum**  
Light: SU, PS - Moisture: M, W - Height: 60'-100'  
Scarlet fall color; adaptable; streambanks & floodplains



**Quercus palustris** - pin oak  
Light: SU - Moisture: M, W - Height: 50'-80'  
Adaptable; floodplains; high wildlife value



**Quercus bicolor** - swamp white oak  
Light: SU, PS - Moisture: M, W - Height: 60'-100'  
Peeling bark; adaptable; floodplains; high wildlife value

## Trees



**Acer rubrum** - red maple  
Light: SU, PS, SH - Moisture: D, M, W - Height: 40'-60'  
Red spring flowers; adaptable; streambanks & floodplains



**Acer saccharinum** - silver maple  
Light: SU, PS, SH - Moisture: M, W - Height: 75'-100'  
Fast growing; streambanks & floodplains



**Cornus florida** - flowering dogwood  
Light: SU, PS - Moisture: D, M - Height: 20'-40'  
Red fall color; uplands; fall migratory birds eat berries



**Fagus grandifolia** - American beech  
Light: SU, PS - Moisture: M - Height: 50'-100'  
Yellow fall color; hillsides near streams; high wildlife value



**Nyssa sylvatica** - blackgum  
Light: SU, PS - Moisture: D, M, W - Height: 30'-75'  
Early fall colors; adaptable; lowland & upland; acidic soils



**Platanus occidentalis** - American sycamore  
Light: SU, PS - Moisture: M, W - Height: 75'-100'  
Showy bark; streambanks & floodplains