Peconic Estuary Friendly Lawn Care

Every yard plays a role in the health of our estuary. Incorporating sustainable lawn care practices at your home can help reduce polluted runoff, conserve water, support pollinators, and improve water quality. Taking these easy actions can help make a real impact for our environment, wildlife, and human health.

Peconic Estuary Partnership

Sustainable Lawn Care Practices

Install a Rain Barrel

Rain barrels capture rain water and store it for later use such as on lawns, gardens or indoor plants. Collecting rainwater prevents stormwater runoff pollution. Stormwater runoff is rain or snowmelt that flows over impermeable surfaces, picking up pollutants like oil, trash, and dirt as it goes, and eventually discharging into rivers, lakes and steams.

Plant Native Species

Native plants are adapted to our local environment. They can thrive without excess watering, pesticides, or fertilizers. They provide a benefit to the environment by supporting biodiversity, providing essential habitat and food for local wildlife, improving soil health, filtering stormwater, and reducing runoff.

Choose a "No-Mow" Area

Leave an area of your lawn unmowed. This provides habitat for wildlife like fireflies and birds, encouraging biodiversity. Additional benefits include conserving water, improving soil health and reducing stormwater pollution.

Grow Plants for Pollinators

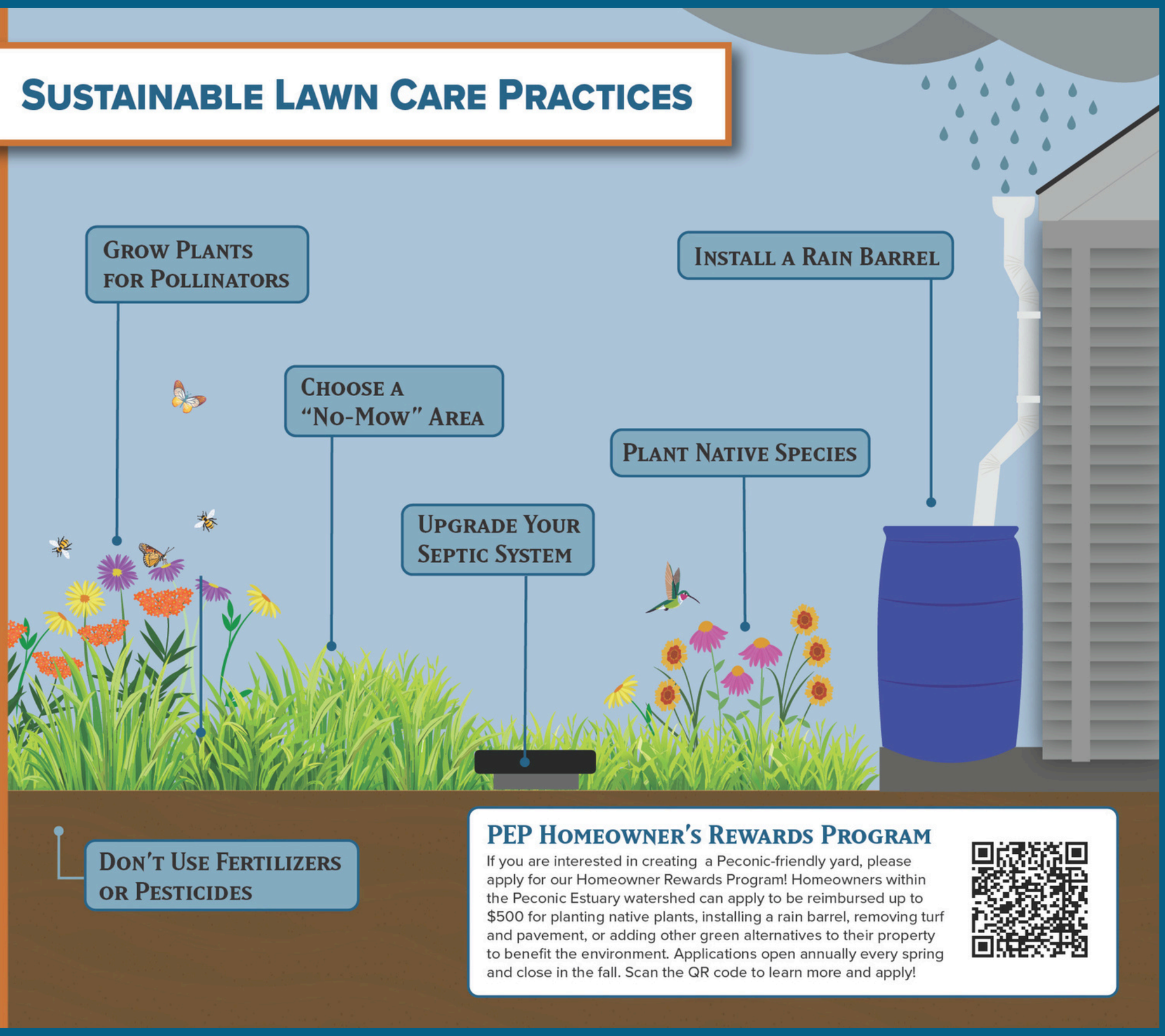
Create a pollinator garden with plants like milkweed to support butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Pollinators are essential to a healthy abundant ecosystem.

Don't Use Fertilizers or Pesticides

Avoid using fertilizers or pesticides, as these are a main cause of water pollution on Long Island. Excess nitrogen from fertilizers and pesticides seep into our groundwater, polluting our soul source aquifer, where we get our drinking water from. It also runs off into our surface waters leading to harmful algal blooms, fish kills, poisoning shellfish beds and creating beach closures.

Upgrade Your Septic System

Outdated septic systems and cesspools leach wastewater containing high levels of nitrogen into our groundwater, polluting our aquifer, where we get our drinking water, and eventually leads to our surface waters, creating harmful algal blooms. Upgrading to an Innovative Alternative (I/A) Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) protects your health, community and environment.



PEP Homeowner's Rewards Program

If you are interested in creating a Peconic-friendly yard, please apply for our Homeowner Rewards Program! Homeowners within the Peconic Estuary watershed can apply to be reimbursed up to $500 for planting native plants, installing a rain barrel, removing turf and pavement, or adding other green alternatives to their property to benefit the environment. Applications open annually every spring and close in the fall. Scan the QR code to learn more and apply!

Peconic Estuary Partnership

PEP FUNDED NATIVE PLANT AND RAIN GARDENS!

For over ten years, Peconic Estuary Partnership has funded the creation and maintenance of native plant and rain gardens trhoughout the estuary.

Rain gardens help improve water quality by capturing and filtering stormwater runoff before it reaches nearby waterways. Native plants support polinators and wildlife, improve biodiversity, and help stabilize soil.

THE BIG DUCK RAIN GARDEN

In 2014, PEP funded the creation of a demonstration rain garden at the iconic roadside tourist attraction, The Big Duck. PEP continually provides maintenance to the rain garden, showing how simple steps can reduce pollution in the estuary.

HAVENS BEACH RAIN GARDEN

A stormwater management system using multiple rain gardens and drainage infrastructure were constructed at Havens Beach in Sag Harbor to capture stormwater runoff and preventing direct pollution to Sag Harbor Bay. This project utilized IIJA Funds and is part of a larger effort by Sag Harbor to expand their use of rain gardens in the Village.

NINEVAH BEACH BIORETENTION RAN GAREN

Utilizing PEP Mini Grant Funding, the Ninevah Beach Property Association installed a 625 square foot bioretention rain garden in Sag Harbor to capture and filter stormwater runoff before it reahches Little Northwest Creek.

CAST NATIVE PLANT EDUCATIONAL GARDEN

PEP has supported CAST in the creation and expansion of an educational Native Plant Educational Garden! CAST has planted beneficial native plants that will help support a healthy ecosystem. Additionally, there is multi lingual and accessible educational signage to identify plant species.

OYSTER PONDS NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

PEP funded the Oysterponds Elementary School PTA to establish a native plant garden that replaced turf grass with native vegetation creating an outdoor educational resource for students. The project enhances biodiversity, supports pollinators, and provides hands-on learning opportunities.