

Display Garden

To experience firsthand a curated plant collection that can be successfully grown in Ocean County, visit the Agricultural Center at 1623 Whitesville Road, Toms River. Created in 1993, the Demonstration Garden for Native Woodland Plants was funded by a grant from a Barnegat Bay Environmental Grant Fund (awarded by the Trust for Public Land) and by Rutgers Master Gardeners of Ocean County. The garden is maintained by the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Ocean County. The display garden has evolved over the years in response to new trends, agricultural concerns and the special talents and tastes of the members of the committee who maintain the garden. This experience engages all the visitor's senses and suggests a possible selection of plants for the home gardener.

There are currently 16 beds in the garden. At the front entrance to the Agricultural Center, two well-designed brochures are available: *Trees of the Display Garden* and *Shrubs of the Display Garden*. These brochures contain photos for each specimen being highlighted. There is also cultural information for each highlighted plant, as well as a basic map of the overall garden with the positions of trees and shrubs clearly marked. Plants are identified by markers that provide both botanical and common names. The shrub brochure has a section describing the value of incorporating native plants into the landscape.

Visit the garden to experience a wide variety of plants. The Display Garden offers something interesting in every season!

- *Itea virginiana* 'Henry's Garnet': Enjoy the fragrant white flowers in early summer. Return later to see this shrub's reddish-purple fall color. Bed 6.
- *Pachysandra procumbens* (Allegheny spurge): This evergreen to semi-evergreen perennial is native to the southeastern US. The plant grows in shady spots and has bluish green leaves with white to pink flowers in spring. Bed 8.
- *Hamamelis virginiana* (American witchhazel): This small deciduous tree has yellow blooms in fall and is native to NJ. Bed 9.
- *Cornus sericea* (red-twig dogwood): This shrub is another NJ native. It provides a pop of bright red stems in winter. Bed 13.
- *Salvia lyrata* (lyreleaf sage): This NJ native plant has purple blooms in late spring to early summer. This plant works well as a ground cover. It has high wildlife value and attracts hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. Bed 2.

Checklist for January

Flower and Vegetable Garden

- ✓ Decide which plants you will purchase and which you will grow from seed. ["Mail Order Vegetable Seed Sources for the New Jersey Gardener" FS1163](#)
- ✓ Plan to use disease-resistant plants for better results. Consider something unique this season.
- ✓ Select native plants when planning a new garden or renovating an existing one. See ["Incorporating Native Plants in Your Residential Landscape." FS1140](#)

Indoor Plants

- ✓ Inspect houseplants for insect pests and remove by hand. Spray with insecticidal soap, if needed. [Caring for Houseplants](#)
- ✓ Close the curtains or blinds between the window and houseplants on cold nights.

Trees and Shrubs

- ✓ Avoid the use of salt to melt snow; it is toxic to most plants. Use sand or an environmentally-safe alternative.
- ✓ Monitor plants for signs of damage from ice, snow, wind and animals.
- ✓ Brush snow from evergreens after a storm by sweeping upward.

Lawn

- ✓ Avoid walking on your frozen lawn. This can cause bare spots and crush the frozen plant tissue