

Landscape for Life – January 20, 2018

Introductory Program to Creating Sustainable Landscapes

Presented by the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners

How They Compare

Unsustainable Landscape	Sustainable Landscape	What Can I Do?
Includes invasive plants that threaten natural ecosystems	Vegetation is carefully selected to avoid the use of invasive species. Existing invasive species are removed from the garden.	Learn about your ecoregion Avoid invasive species
Requires potable water, fertilizers and pesticides to maintain plant health	Includes plants that are adapted to the climate and conditions of the site	Use native and adapted plants Select the right plants Use Integrated Pest Management
Often has low diversity and minimal habitat for wildlife	Includes plants that are both beautiful and serve as food or refuge for wildlife	Gardening for wildlife
Not designed to improve home energy efficiency	Uses vegetation to reduce the heating and cooling requirements of the home and surrounding buildings	Use vegetation to increase energy efficiency

Why are plants important?

Beyond simply enriching our lives with beauty and wonder, plants provide key environmental benefits, such as providing clean air and water, regulating temperature, controlling erosion and providing habitat for wildlife, and are essential to the functioning of both healthy home gardens and surrounding landscapes. Plants also provide a variety of economic and social benefits, like reducing energy costs for the cooling or heating of homes or buildings, or creating restful settings that provide an environment for mental restoration. Selecting and installing plants that are adapted to the site conditions, climate and design intent require fewer resources and less maintenance to thrive. Understanding plant selection, site conditions and maintenance practices, gardeners can help conserve water, reduce mowing costs, provide habitat, reduce soil erosion, minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides, and ultimately save money typically allocated for landscape maintenance.

***Save the date ... more information to follow.**