**Top 20 Ways to Create an Ecobeneficial Landscape**

*This is a list of ways to create a more eco-friendly environment at your own home!*

*You can find our list of our available native plants via the Availability tab on our website.*

1. Reduce or eliminate the “Green Desert”, this would be turf or lawn spaces. They are ecological wastelands.
2. Increase the health of your soil. Everything starts with healthy soil. This can be achieved in a number of different ways. Cover crops like clover help put nitrogen in the soil, or for smaller areas you can apply soil fertilizers.
3. Avoid synthetic pesticides, they are very harmful to our insects and therefore much of our wildlife that depends on the insects.
4. Limit the use of organic pestices and use only sparingly and carefully as they can also cause harm over time.
5. Tolerate some messiness in your landscape to support wildlife. Dead logs, dead trees that are still structurally sound (snags) and brush piles should all be left be. Dead trees, logs and brush piles can be great homes for wildlife of all kinds and when planted around can be very attractive in the landscape.
6. Tolerate some plant damage in the landscape. Valuable insects have to eat too and they have evolved to work with our plants in the landscape so they will not damage them.
7. Leave perennials standing through winter. They provide food and shelter for a lot of wildlife. Perennials are best pruned in February both for wildlife but also to help protect the plant through the winter time.
8. Plant native plants! These are what support our local ecosystems. Native plants have co-evolved with each other and with the wildlife around them.
9. Try to think “plant communities” when selecting plants. Plants do not grow in isolation! Just ask our staff for help with pairing plants together.
10. Support beneficial insects, nature’s pest control by planting their native host plants!
11. Eradicate or reduce the invasive plants in your landscape. Always try organic, mechanical means first.
12. When invasive plants are removed, replace them quickly and thickly with competitive, regionally native plants.
13. Limit exotic plants and know their limitations. They do not provide the same depth of ecological services as native plants.
14. Encourage biodiversity by planting diversely. Bio-diverse ecosystems are more resilient to pests, disease and climate change.
15. Avoid double-flowered plants. They often have less nectar, pollen and see than single-flowered plants.
16. Select natural forms of native plants for best ecosystem dynamics, cultivars can sometimes be beneficial but not always.
17. Provide a water source for wildlife and insects. This is crucial, but often forgotten in many landscapes.
18. Emulate healthy local natural areas in your garden. Use nature as your reference for structure and plant selection. Not sure where to start? Check out our native plant inventory and stop by our Garden Shop for more information.
19. Always plant the right plant in the right place.
20. When choosing plants, find the beauty in ecological function.

For more ecobeneficial information check out [www.youtube.com/user/EcobeneficialVideos](http://www.youtube.com/user/EcobeneficialVideos)