

Health and Happiness Yard by Yard









We Can Make a Difference in Our Own Yards

- **Fertilizers are the second largest source of man-made nitrogen pollution in the Peconic Estuary.**
- **Nitrogen pollution has lead to yearly algal blooms that have closed beaches and shellfish grounds, while causing massive wildlife die-offs.**

How To See (hear!) Your Impact?

**Birds are indicator species
They are telling the story.**



It's our Backyard Birds



WHY?

Loss of Habitat

Use of Pesticides



Loss of Habitat

**Habitat = Food,
Shelter, Water**









Use of Pesticides

What's In Your Yard?

118 pesticides have been detected in Long Island's aquifer.

The three most widely sampled pesticides in Long Island groundwater are STILL on the market

"DDT is good for me-e-e!"







Designed For Dependency



Noise and Poison





Leave the Leaves



Leave these Leaves Too





A close-up photograph of a green, serrated leaf, likely from a maple tree, showing significant damage. There are three distinct holes eaten into the leaf: one near the top edge, one in the middle-right section, and one near the bottom-left tip. The leaf is covered with numerous small, dark purple or reddish-brown spots, which are characteristic of insect feeding or fungal infection. The background is a blurred green, suggesting other foliage.

Share Generously





**If You Don't Know
Who It Is – Wait! Don't Kill It**



Ticks?

Food and Shelter Year Round ?

No irrigation, no fertilizing, no pesticides

Plant Natives

2/3 for the Birds







More Food- and shelter



**Waste Not: save biomass
Soil Food + Wildlife Shelter**









Design for Independence



**Less Lawn
More Natives**



Why Fertilize?

Mulch mowing and leaving grass clippings on the lawn provides over 50% of nutrient needs.

Clover, a nitrogen fixing plant, in most cases provides the rest.



A photograph of a lush, green landscape. In the foreground, there are tall, thin grasses and several bushes with bright yellow flowers. The background shows a bridge with a blue and orange structure, and a city skyline with various buildings. The scene is framed by green foliage on the left and right sides.

Toward an Ethical Aesthetic







The Basics of Nature Based

- 1. Plant Natives**
- 2. Remove Invasives**
- 3. Swear Off Pesticides**
- 4. Reduce/Rethink Lawn**
- 5. Close the Loop**
- 6. Be Beautifully Independent**

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