

# PLEASE GO NATIVE!

The Cape May Point (CMPT) Environmental Commission deeply appreciates this community's commitment to supporting environmental sustainability. For that reason, we are certain that when given the choice between planting flowers that benefit wildlife (birds, bees, butterflies, moths, etc) vs planting flowers with no wildlife benefits, CMPT residents will happily plant beneficial flowers.

There are several key environmental benefits to native plants (plants that occurred within our region prior to settlement by Europeans). They are:

**Biodiversity Support:** Native plants are essential for local insects, birds, and animals

**Low Maintenance:** Once established, native plants are generally hardier and require less maintenance, saving time, money, and fertilizer compared to non-native ornamental plants

**Water Conservation:** Their deep roots allow them to thrive on natural rainfall, significantly reducing the need for irrigation

**Soil and Water Health:** Native vegetation stabilizes the soil to prevent erosion, manages rainwater runoff, and keeps waterways cleaner

**Climate Resilience:** Native plants help mitigate climate change by trapping carbon, and they are more resilient to extreme weather conditions like droughts or floods

**Chemical-Free Gardening:** Because they have adapted to local pests, native plants often require fewer to no pesticides



If you are thinking of adding native plants to your property this spring (and we really hope you are!), we suggest that you visit the **Native Plant Sale at the Nature Center of Cape May, 1600 Delaware Avenue, Cape May on Saturday, May 2**. All of the plants for sale that day are native to Cape May County, and this event is a fundraising opportunity for the NJ Audubon Society. Additional information about the native plant sale is available at [njudubon.org/native-plant-sales](https://njudubon.org/native-plant-sales).