



TENNESSEE SMART YARDS

<http://tnyards.utk.edu>

A *Tennessee Smart Yard* is one that is in harmony with Tennessee's native plants and animals, climate, soil, and topography, working with nature to obtain the maximum benefits for you, your family, and your community.

Experience the full potential of your yard. Use this program to help maximize the opportunities to improve property value, attract beneficial wildlife, create a healthy living space, and protect Tennessee's natural resources, all right in your own yard.

It all starts with you. The urban landscape can be void of natural elements and actually harmful to the ecosystem and infrastructure we depend on.

Your Roadmap to success!



The actions needed to reach the full potential of your yard are based on nine foundational principles: Right Plant, Right Place; Manage Soils & Mulch; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; Water Efficiently; Use Fertilizer Appropriately; Manage Yard Pests; Reduce Stormwater & Pollutants; Provide for Wildlife; and Protect Water's Edge.

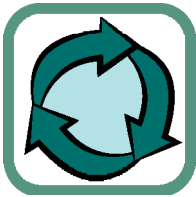


Benefits of the Foundational Principles



Right Plant, Right Place – Plant success is a product of selecting the right plants for the conditions at hand. Whether those are light availability, soil moisture, topography, or space, knowing the local conditions and setting goals for your yard will help you attain the best result.

Manage Soils & Mulch – The foundation of a healthy yard is healthy soil. Too often, soils are damaged during the development process, leaving compacted soils low in organic matter. Learn how to assess and address your soil's needs and why mulch is so important to appropriately apply.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – One of the most cost effective actions you can take to improve the overall performance of your yard is to compost your kitchen scraps and yard waste and then use that compost in landscaping beds.

Water Efficiently – Saving irrigation water is most importantly saving money. In Tennessee, we receive enough rainfall to easily sustain a healthy diversity of native plants in most every condition. Saving the rain for later in rain barrels is also always a smart move!



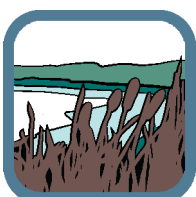
Fertilize Appropriately – Over half of high phosphorus soils sampled in Tennessee come from over-fertilized residential lawn and gardens. Taking a soil sample and following recommendations is an easy way to save money while also protecting our creeks from harmful excessive nutrient input.

Manage Yard Pests – Choosing native plants can go a long way to minimizing risk of pests and disease. Using integrated pest management like the practice of protecting beneficial insects that control pests is also an effective alternative.



Reduce Stormwater & Pollutants – Rain water runoff from your yard is a lost opportunity for natural irrigation water. Building a rain garden or directing runoff onto grass instead of the driveway or road is a way to make sure you take full advantage of nature's irrigation.

Provide for Wildlife – Having your very own nature preserve on your property can be satisfying as well as beneficial to the health of your yard. Selecting plants, providing water sources, and meeting other habitat needs can support butterflies, songbirds, and other urban wildlife in your neighborhood.



Protect Waters Edge – Having natural water features is a unique amenity to any property, but it requires that we do our part to keep them healthy. Retaining a wide swath of trees, shrubs and grasses next to a waterbody is one of the best ways to protect it from pollutants, erosion, and other impacts while also providing habitat.