



WHAT IS A TENNESSEE SMART YARD?



SMART YARD PRACTICES BENEFIT YOUR HOME, YOUR COMMUNITY, AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

Use these 9 principles on your own property to support healthy landscapes and **clean water in Tennessee!**

Right Plant, Right Place- select plants that will flourish in your site and soil

Manage Soils and Mulch- protect soils from erosion and use mulches to support plant and soil health

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle- use lawn clippings and plant trimming as mulch or in compost

Water Efficiently- use irrigation only when needed and capture runoff in rain barrels to reduce water use

Fertilize Appropriately- maintain soil pH in the recommended range and use fertilizers according to soil test recommendations

Manage Yard Pests- scout for pests and identify properly, use cultural and biological practices for control and only treat when required

Reduce Stormwater and Pollutants- use permeable surfaces and rain gardens and disconnect downspouts to retain rainfall on site

Provide for Wildlife- select plants that support wildlife and pollinators and provide water and shelter

Protect Waters Edge- maintain vegetation along streams and creeks to protect from soil loss and support stream health

tnyards.utk.edu



Reap the benefits of a Smart Yard.

Gain a better understanding of what plants will flourish in your landscape.

Attract more butterflies, bees, songbirds and other interesting wildlife by supporting their needs.

Lessen your impact on natural resources while boosting functionality of your yard.

Work with water in the landscape with proper plant selection, rain gardens, and creekside buffers.

Start the journey towards certification.

Scan the QR code or visit tnyards.tennessee.edu.

Learn about the Nine Foundational Principles through online, expert-delivered videos and the workbook.

Track your progress with the yardstick as you adopt 36 inches-worth of Smart Yard actions.

Certify your yard at the website.

Share with others in your community.

Certified yards are protecting local creeks and rivers across Tennessee.

Display your unique official smart yard certificate.

Certifiers are eligible to purchase the official yard sign.

