



# SOUTH JERSEY EDITION



HOMEOWNERS' GUIDE TO PROTECTING THEIR LAKE, RIVER & STREAM FRONTS | NJDEP Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration & Standards

## Green your Waterfront



*Even a few trees, shrubs and plants bordering a waterfront can help protect water quality*



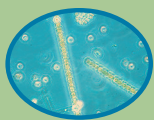
Typical HAB scum

### What is a Harmful Algal Bloom (\*HAB)?

A freshwater Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) is an excessive growth of phytoplankton known as cyanobacteria in a lake, pond or stream. Although not true algae, cyanobacteria are often referred to as "blue-green algae".

### Toxic HABs

Some cyanobacteria produce dangerous toxins harmful to humans, pets, livestock and wildlife. Do not come in direct contact by swimming, touching, ingesting, or inhaling aerosolized toxins within suspected or confirmed HAB waters.



© NJ DEP, BFEM

Keep pets and domestic animals away from HAB waters.

### How to ID a HAB?

CyanoHABs typically turn normally clear waters a pea soup-green. The presence of paint-like blue-green or off-white scums; parallel green streaks, green swirls; foam on the surface or green dots or blobs suspended in the water column suggest a HAB. True non-toxic algal mats or tiny duckweed leaves are not HABs.

For more information visit:  
<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/hab/>

### What causes a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB)?

HABs form in the presence of sunlight, nutrients, warm temperatures and calm waters. Heavy rains can mobilize fertilizer and other nutrients off lawns, washing them into lakes, rivers and streams. The sudden influx of phosphorus and nitrogen can trigger a HAB.

Lawns sloping all the way down to waterfronts, without any intervening

landscaping, allow those stormwaters to wash nutrients into waterbodies.

### Plant Riparian Buffers along edges of lakes and streams

You can reduce the amount of nutrients entering lakes and streams by planting a "Riparian Buffer"—a vegetated strip of trees, shrubs, and plants that borders



© EPA

a waterway. Plants block and slow down polluted stormwater, allowing it to first percolate into the ground, followed by uptake by the roots. Plant tissues filter out dissolved nutrients, heavy metals and bacteria. Roots help anchor stream banks preventing sediment from entering nearby water bodies. Wide, dense plantings with trees and shorter plants filter the most stormwater; but even a simple, narrow planted border can help improve water quality!

### Go Native, Go Wild!

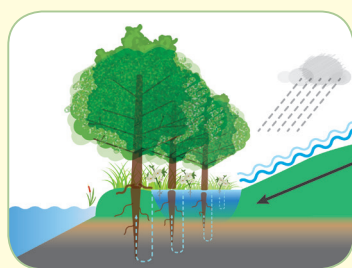


Native plants need less maintenance than non-natives because they're better adapted to local climates and soils. Native perennials and grasses have much deeper roots than turf grasses, so are better at preventing erosion. Seasonal colors brighten vistas.

*See back for recommended trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses, sedges, and rushes.*



© EPA



▲ *Riparian Buffer along stream*

◀ *Trees & shrubs can buffer and filter stormwater run-off from lawns*

*Plant \*anything\* but lawn.*



## Plants to help stop a HAB

Native trees, shrubs, woody and herbaceous plants, grasses, sedges, rushes and aquatic plants listed below. Many NJ nurseries now carry native plants (see links below). Plant in the spring after last frost to allow plants to get established but before soils dry out in summer's heat or plant in fall before first frost.

### TREES (tall to shorter)

= salt tolerant species

#### Shade Trees

- American Sycamore | 60-140'
- Bald Cypress | 80-100'
- Black Willow | 30-90'
- Pin Oak | 70-90'
- Willow Oak | 50-70'

- Red Maple | 60-90'
- Sweet Gum | 60-90'
- River Birch | 40-80'
- Black Gum | 30-50'
- Hackberry | 25-50'
- Sweetbay Magnolia | 20-60', late Spr

- Shadbush/Serviceberry | 25-30', early Spr
- #### Evergreens
- Atlantic White Cedar | 50-90'
- Pitch Pine | 40-60'
- Eastern Red Cedar | 40-50'
- American Holly | 40-50'

### SHRUBS (many flowering Spring-Summer and/or colorful Fall berries)

= salt tolerant species

- Eastern Redbud | up to 40', early Spr
- Pussy Willow | 6-20', Feb-Mar
- Blackhaw Viburnum | 12-15'
- Arrowwood Viburnum | 6-10'
- Possumhaw Viburnum | 5-6'
- Smooth Alder | 8-12', Mar, Apr

- Highbush Blueberry | 6-12', July
- Silky Dogwood | 6-10', Jun-July
- Red Chokeberry | 5-10', Spr
- Spicebush | 3-9', early Spr
- Buttonbush | 3-8', mid-summer
- Sweet Pepperbush | 3-8',

- Swamp Doghobble | 3-8', May-Jun
- Virginia Sweetspire | 3-6', late Spr
- Beach Plum | up to 6', Apr-Jun
- Winterberry Holly | 6-10', berries Winter
- #### Evergreen
- Inkberry Holly | 6-8', berries Winter

### PERENNIALS (for color and texture across the seasons)

= salt tolerant species

#### Flowering Plants for Sun

- Blue Vervain | 2-6', Jun-Sept
- Cardinal Flower | to 5', Jul-Aug (also shade)
- Blue Lobelia | to 5', Jul-Sept
- Wild Blue Indigo | 3-4', Apr-Jul
- Swamp Milkweed | to 6', Jun-Aug
- Joe Pye Weed | 4-6', Jul-Sept
- Dense Blazing Star | to 4', Jun-Sept
- Sneezeweed | 4-6', Aug-Oct
- Monkeyflower | to 3', July-Sept
- Foxglove Beardtongue | to 3', May-July

- Sundial Lupine | 1-2', Apr-July
- #### Flowering Plants for Shade
- Alumroot, Coral Bells | 1-3', late Spring
- Smooth Solomon Seal | 2-3', Apr-May
- #### Ferns
- E. Hayscented Fern (can take dry shade) | 1-3'
- Sensitive Fern (can take sun if moist) | to 3'
- Ostrich Fern | to 5'
- Cinnamon Fern | to 5'
- #### Grasses, Rushes & Sedges
- Switchgrass | to 6'

- Little Bluestem (grass) | 2-4'
- Soft/Common Rush (rush) | to 3'
- Green Bulrush (rush) | to 5'
- Woolgrass (sedge) | 3-5'
- #### Salty, Brackish Grasses
- Salt Hay/Saltmeadow Cordgrass | 1-2'
- #### Flowering Plants for Water's Edge
- Blue Flag Iris | 2-3', May
- Swamp Rose-mallow | to 5', Summer
- #### Aquatic Flowering Plants
- Pickerel Weed | to 3', Summer
- Broadleaf Arrowhead | to 2', Summer

### MOISTURE PREFERENCE KEY

Aquatic

Wettest (wetlands)

Wet (moist)

Average (but not dry)

None listed = slightly moist to dry

For more information and where to find native plants

[Jersey-Friendly Yards](#)  
[Native Plant Society of New Jersey \(NPSNJ\)](#)

[Native Plant List for Southern New Jersey](#)

[Lady Bird Johnson Center's list of NJ Native Plant Suppliers](#)

[US Fish & Wildlife Service: Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat & Conservation Landscaping. Chesapeake Bay Edition](#)

[NPSNJ's Invasive Plant Species](#)

[Lake Hopatcong Foundation's Lake Friendly Living Guide](#)

[Arboretum Foundation: Greening a Shoreline Garden](#)

[Understanding lake-shore ecosystems— Part 3: Natural vegetation](#)

[Speaking of Landscapes: Lake Hayward buffer garden, year two](#)

[The Wetlands Initiative: Nutrient Removal](#)

[Landscape Plants Rated by Deer Resistance \(Rutgers NJAES\)](#)

[NJ's native trees, shrubs & vines beneficial to birds by Patricia Sutton](#)

[Incorporating Native Plants in Your Residential Landscape](#)

