

CONSERVE WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

LANDSCAPING FOR WILDLIFE

TREES and FORESTS

Trees are a key component of natural landscapes. They provide food, shelter, and places for wildlife to nest and reproduce. Trees are valuable to both humans and wildlife for survival. They provide a variety of services that make life on Earth possible and a variety of products that are used in every day life.

In New Jersey, 42% of the state is considered to be forested habitat. Many species of wildlife utilize forests to survive. Red-shouldered hawks, Indiana bats, Golden-winged warblers, Bobcats, and Eastern tiger salamanders all need forests to survive. Forest health throughout the United States has declined due to a variety of threats. Development, invasive species, and disease have all contributed to the loss of habitat for wildlife that live in forested habitats.



Pitch pine-oak forest type. Common to the NJ Pine Barrens.

Forested areas, large or small provide habitat for many species of birds for nesting and during migration. There are several ways that people can help reverse the negative trends in habitat loss. It can be as easy as selecting native species when landscaping around your home. Planting trees in your backyard is great way to attract wildlife to visit your space. And larger efforts like reforesting large areas help connect fragmented forest habitat.

REFORESTATION is the process of restoring a forest to it's natural state by planting trees in a given area.

Planting trees in your backyard not only benefits wildlife, but it also benefits people. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, reduce soil erosion, and provide protection from the elements. Trees capture carbon dioxide during photosynthesis and produce oxygen. The roots of trees hold soil particles in place and reduce erosion from rain

A "bare root" seedling.

and high winds. Trees can reduce energy costs when strategically placed near your home. Their leaves cast shade on buildings to reduce heat gain by the sun's rays and evergreen trees can act as windscreens in winter to block strong arctic winds.

Forests are a very important part of New Jersey's diverse natural history. We need to protect and restore these valuable resources for future generations.

NATIVE TREES TO NEW JERSEY:

- American holly (*Ilex opaca*)
- Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
- Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*)
- Chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*)
- Eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
- Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
- Green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)
- Gray birch (*Betula populifolia*)
- Pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*)
- Tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

This fact sheet is part of the Habitat Restoration program created by Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey (CWF). CWF is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting New Jersey's endangered and threatened wildlife and the habitats they depend on for survival. We accomplish this through research and conservation projects and education and outreach programs that advance the protection of New Jersey's rarest wildlife residents.

For more information, visit www.conservewildlifenj.org



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