

# Green Scene

## A Win for Biodiversity

Our fall plant sale was a great success resulting in thousands of new plants, most native to Virginia, being added to gardens all across the Tidewater area. This success translates into a huge win for preserving and increasing biodiversity, a term that refers to the variety of all living things on Earth. Why should we care about biodiversity? Nature is a complex system providing our basic needs to survive. These needs are often referred to as ecosystem services. High levels of biodiversity allow for redundancy in nature, which, in turn, allows nature to be resilient. When one link in the web of life is weakened, there is another one ready to reform the connection. Home gardens are now on the forefront in the effort to restore our environment and build its resiliency. Folks often start gardening for personal pleasure by utilizing plants as decorations. Much like the gardens we tend, our thoughts and mindsets evolve over time; the time has come to think beyond the pretty.

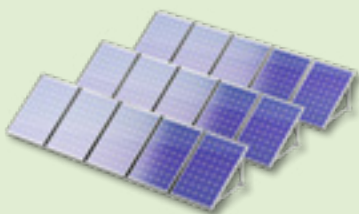


Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) is one of many native Virginia Plants that can be incorporated into your home garden and will benefit pollinators.

What you plant matters! Be more mindful about the plants we add to our home landscape. The plants that comprise our home landscapes can provide the same ecological benefit that natural groups of plants provide in the wild. By incorporating native plants in your home landscape, you will enhance the beauty of your property as well as provide habitat for wildlife, especially pollinators. Remember, the land doesn't benefit us alone. Go easy on the chemicals and become aware of non-native ornamental plants labeled as invasive by the state. Thanks to all who supported our plant sale and boosted the ecological landscape! Join our mailing list to receive updates on future plant sales directly in your email inbox. Scroll to the bottom of the homepage on our website at IDigNBG.org.

## EARTH DAY • APRIL 22, 2021

With 50 years of Earth Day celebrations to reflect upon, the need to protect our most valuable resource is imperative. It's well documented that our planet is in dire straits. Use this day to recommit yourself to improving the environment around you. Incorporating just one of these lifestyle changes is a step in the right direction.



Run your home on renewable energy from wind and solar farms. NBG switched to 100% renewable energy in 2019. Learn how you can switch too at [NBGreen.org](http://NBGreen.org).



Ditch single-use plastics! Reusable alternatives include bamboo cutlery, stainless steel drinking straws, reusable drinking containers, reusable shopping bags, and silicon or fabric storage baggies. Switch to bar soap instead of bottled soap.



Join the meatless Monday movement. Meat isn't the only source of protein and its production is one of the greatest sources of greenhouse gasses.



Compost your kitchen scraps. Throwing your raw veggie scraps and peels in the trash is a waste of valuable building blocks for creating rich, organic soil. Keep a compost pail on your countertop for easy collection.