

Seed Library Brochure

Example Seed Library Catalog



Websites offering information about seed libraries

<http://www.seedlibrary.org/>

<http://www.richmondgrowsseeds.org/create-a-library.html>

www.motherearthnews.com

Sponsored by the
Woodbridge Township
Environmental
Commission

Located at the
Fords Branch Library
211 Ford Ave., Fords, NJ



**Woodbridge
Township Seed
Library**
Sponsored by the
Woodbridge Township
Environmental
Commission



**How Does the Seed
Library Work?**

For more information contact us by email:
wbenvironmentalcommission@gmail.com

How the Seed Library Works



Black-eyed Susan.

How the Seed Library Started

Ken Greene started the Seed Library in 2004 while working as a Librarian at the Gardiner Public Library in Gardiner, New York. Having developed a strong interest in preserving heirloom seed varieties, he decided to add them to the library catalog so that patrons could "check them out," grow them in their home gardens, and then "return" saved seed at the end of the season.

Save Your Seeds

Save the seeds that grow in your vegetable or flower garden. Package your seeds and bring to the Seed Library to exchange for different varieties. This will help to grow viable produce or flowers that are characteristic of the local region.

How to Start?

Save seeds from the healthiest looking, best tasting plants. Save your seeds and store them in a **COOL, DARK, & DRY** place.

Store seeds in a **COOL** (but not freezing) place that is **DARK** and low humidity. If storing seeds in a refrigerator, make sure the container is air-tight to keep out humidity. A **DARK, DRY** place like a closet or drawer will work.

DRY your seeds thoroughly before placing in storage for the winter. **DRY** the seeds by placing on a paper towel, coffee filter or screen. **DO** test the seeds to see if they are **DRY** enough for storage by pinching one of the seeds and if it cracks easily it is ready for storage. **DON'T** use microwaves, ovens or dehydrators to dry the seeds.

LABEL your seeds or save the original seed packet information at the end of the growing season.

How to Save Tomato Seeds?

1. Put tomato pulp containing seeds in an open glass jar or plastic container and add an equal amount of water.
2. Let the mixture sit for 3-5 days, then skim off the mold that formed on top and put the seeds in a strainer.
3. Dry the seeds thoroughly on a paper plate prior to placing in storage.

1. Visit the Seed Library located at the Fords Branch Library at 211 Ford Avenue in Fords, NJ.

2. Select a packet of seeds from the catalog and sign-out your name and contact information on a membership card.

3. Plant the seeds at your home and dry the seeds once the growing season is over. Write down the name of the flower/plant so you remember the name.

4. Once the seeds are dry, return to the library, place the seeds back into a seed packet, write the name of the flower/plant on the seed packet, and return the seed packet to the catalog.

5. Repeat the process.

Solutions to Stormwater Pollution

Easy Things You Can Do Every Day To Protect Our Water

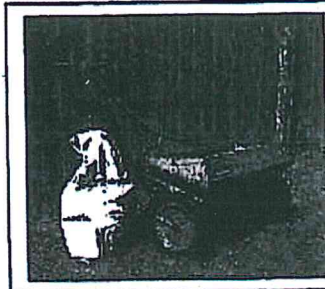
A Guide to Healthy Habits for Cleaner Water

Pollution on streets, parking lots and lawns is washed by rain into storm drains, then directly to our drinking water supplies and the ocean and lakes our children play in. Fertilizer, oil, pesticides, detergents, pet waste, grass clippings. You name it and it ends up in our water.

Stormwater pollution is one of New Jersey's greatest threats to clean and plentiful water, and that's why we're all doing something about it.

By sharing the responsibility and making small, easy changes in our daily lives, we can keep common pollutants out of stormwater. It all adds up to cleaner water, and it saves the high cost of cleaning up once it's dirty.

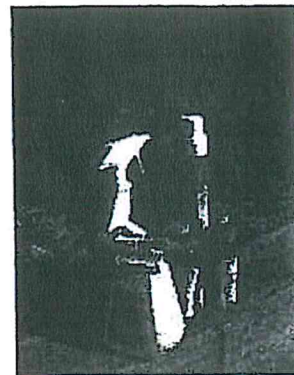
As part of New Jersey's initiative to keep our water clean and plentiful and to meet federal requirements, many municipalities and other public agencies including colleges and military bases must adopt ordinances or other rules prohibiting various activities that contribute to stormwater pollution. Breaking these rules can result in fines or other penalties.



As a resident, business, or other member of the New Jersey community, it is important to know these easy things you can do every day to protect our water.

Limit your use of fertilizers and pesticides

- Do a soil test to see if you need a fertilizer.
- Do not apply fertilizers if heavy rain is predicted.
- Look into alternatives for pesticides.
- Maintain a small lawn and keep the rest of your property or yard in a natural state with trees and other native vegetation that requires little or no fertilizer.
- If you use fertilizers and pesticides, follow the instructions on the label on how to correctly apply it.



Make sure you properly store or discard any unused portions.

Properly use and dispose of hazardous products

- Hazardous products include some household or commercial cleaning products, lawn and garden care products, motor oil, antifreeze, and paints.
- Do not pour any hazardous products down a storm drain because storm drains are usually connected to local waterbodies and the water is not treated.

Rain Barrels: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What if there's a heavy storm and my rain barrel overflows?

An overflow hose adapter is being installed in each rain barrel at the "Build a Rain Barrel" workshops. The overflow hose adapter can attach to a garden hose so that when the rain barrel fills up, the overflow water can drain to a nearby garden or lawn area. In addition to the overflow hose adapter, a manual or automatic diverter can be purchased and installed on the gutter to divert the rain water down the gutter like it would normally do after the rain barrel has reached its capacity.

My roof is small, is it even worth it for me to have a rain barrel?

Yes! For an 800 square foot roof area that is being drained into one downspout gutter, 500 gallons of water will come off your roof in a one-inch rain storm. If your entire neighborhood installs a rain barrel, it may have an impact on flooding and water pollution within your community.

Are there ways that I can decorate or disguise my rain barrel?

Yes! Lightly sand the exterior of the barrel with sandpaper to get rid of the waxy coat on the barrel to ensure that a paint primer has something to stick to. After sanding, immediately spray the primer onto the barrel. After the primer dries, you can paint the barrel. If you want to hand draw designs to the barrel, acrylic-based paints work best. If you want to simply wish to change the color of the barrel, you can use Krylon (TM) Fusion Spray Paint for plastics or Rust-Oleum (TM) Plastic Primer that can be found at home centers and hardware stores. After the paint dries, apply a coat or two of polyurethane to protect the paint. You can also construct an enclosure for the rain barrel or hide it amongst your landscape to make it less noticeable. A trellis with vine plants can be placed around your rain barrel to blend it within your landscape.

What can I do with the rain water that my rain barrel will harvest?

The water collected by your rain barrel could be used to water your flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawn. You could use the water to rinse your hands/feet, landscape tools, or even your muddy shoes. Please do not consume water collected in your rain barrel.

Is rain water good for plants?

Yes! Natural rainwater has proven more beneficial for plantings and gardens than tap water because it doesn't contain chlorine and its slightly acidic pH assists nutrient availability in most lawns and gardens.

What precautions should be taken for your rain barrel?

Always keep the lid to your barrel tightly secured to avoid any accidents involving children or animals. Please do not consume water collected in your rain barrel.

Would it be safe to use the water harvested from my rain barrel to water vegetable gardens?

There is no definitive answer to this question. It is best to avoid using the water from your rain barrel on plants grown for consumption until you receive results from taking a sample of water collected from your rain barrel and having it analyzed by your local water testing laboratory. If you decide to have this water sample analyzed, have it analyzed for contaminants such as zinc, lead, chromium, arsenic, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, fecal coliform, and *E. coli*. Once you confirm that the water is safe to use, it is best to use drip line irrigation to water the roots of the vegetables. Be sure to thoroughly clean the vegetables with potable water before consumption.

water.rutgers.edu

WATER CONSERVATION TIP SHEET



**Save Water, Save
Money on Water Bill**

Outside your home: Water your lawn only when it needs it. An easy way to tell if your lawn needs water is to simply walk across the grass. If you leave footprints, it's time to water.

- Make the most of your watering by doing it in the early morning. As much as 30 percent of water can be lost to evaporation by watering during midday.
- Plan for fewer, deep-soaking watering to encourage deep root growth and stronger turf.
- Set your lawn mower one notch higher to make your lawn more drought-tolerant.
- Use drip irrigation hoses to water plants, and water in the early morning or evening.
- Consider using porous pavement (gravel is a good example) instead of asphalt for driveways and walkways. The rain will soak into the soil instead of running off and contributing to erosion.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your sidewalk, driveway, or patio.
- Plant appropriately for your local climate. Check with local nurseries for non-invasive, drought-tolerant plants.
- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.

Inside your home:

- Run dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are full. If you have a water-saver cycle, use it.
- When replacing appliances, look for the WaterSense label for water-efficiency. Adjust the water level of your clothes washer so it matches your load size.
- Regularly check your toilet, faucets, and pipes for leaks

Stormwater and water conservation flyers available at Earth Day Fair and St. James Street Fair

Water Conservation: Ideas for Saving Water

New Jersey is often referred to as being "water rich" since we typically receive about 45 inches of precipitation annually. However, rainfall varies from year to year and even regionally within the state (the hilly northwest is generally wetter than the coastal plain to the southeast). Despite fairly abundant precipitation in most years, increased customer demands quickly deplete water reserves in even moderately dry years.

Summer outdoor water use increases dramatically as people water lawns and gardens, wash cars, and fill swimming pools. From May thru September, when hotter, drier weather conditions prevail, it is even more important to conserve water in order to avoid shortages and disruptive (and costly) water use restrictions.

By using water wisely, we can preserve more water in reservoirs and aquifers while sustaining levels in our streams, lakes and rivers. These water savings are simple to put into practice and enhance recreational uses and aesthetic enjoyment while providing and protecting habitat for our wildlife. They also can reduce the amount of public dollars spent on water supply infrastructure while minimizing energy costs and the unnecessary generation of greenhouse gases.

Follow these **QUICK TIPS** to Reduce Water Waste:

- Water lawns (and outdoor plants) less frequently (2-3 times per week) for no more than 30 minutes. This allows the soil to absorb the water and enables roots to grow more deeply, which encourages drought tolerance;
- Never water during the heat of the day, as this promotes evaporation and leads to water waste;
- Sprinkler systems should be set to water after sunset or before dawn, and by law should be equipped with an automated shut-off switch that disables the system following rainfall.
- Install water-saving showerheads and faucet aerators in the bathroom and kitchen (available at most home improvement stores and some supermarkets);
- Do not let faucets run when brushing your teeth or washing the dishes;
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only when they are full, or select the properly sized wash cycle for the current laundry load;
- Use a broom to sweep the sidewalk, rather than a hose;
- Use mulch and native plants to conserve water in the garden;
- Use a rain barrel to capture water from a downspout to use later for watering gardens and plants;
- Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation to water trees, gardens and flower beds;

For more detailed information on how you can conserve water in and outside your home, click on the link below. This site also includes related product information, environmental benefits and cost estimates, and a water use calculator to figure where you can conserve water in your daily routine.

www.njdrought.org

Remember, if we all do a little, we can save a LOT!

WHAT YOU NEED TO GET STARTED??

All of the following items can be purchased at your local hardware store for a **Total cost of around \$30***

- ◊ Outside trash can with lid
- ◊ Downspout flex-elbow
- ◊ 6 inch atrium grate
- ◊ Sump pump drain hose kit
- ◊ 1 1/4 inch PVC female adapter
- ◊ 3/4 inch spigot with sillcock
- ◊ 3/4 inch PVC male adapter
- ◊ Electric Drill
- ◊ 1 inch Hole saw bit
- ◊ 1 1/2 inch Hole saw bit
- ◊ File
- ◊ Silicone Caulk
- ◊ Teflon Tape
- ◊ Sharpie Marker
- ◊ Scissors and Utility Knife
- ◊ Hacksaw
- ◊ 2-4 Concrete Blocks

Step 1:

Trace the outline of the top of the atrium gate (largest circle) on the top of the barrel with a felt tip pen. Next, with scissors or a utility knife cut a hole out of the lid by following the traced line. The hole should be snug enough to allow the atrium gate edge to sit on top of the barrel securely without

falling in. This allows water to flow into the barrel and keep de-



5 Easy Steps to Make a Rain Barrel

Step 2:

Drill a 1 inch hole about 1 1/2 to 2 inches from the bottom of the barrel. Leave enough distance between the hole and the barrel's bottom to allow the barrel to sit flat on the ground without the spigot hitting the ground. Insert spigot on the outside of barrel. Wrap the 3/4 inch PVC male adapter threads with Teflon tape. Connect the spigot and male adapter together and tighten. Use silicone caulk to seal the hole on the inside and outside. Allow caulk to dry, then fill with water to see if it leaks.



Step 3:

Choose the side of the barrel that you want to place the overflow valve, and drill a 1 1/2 inch hole about 1-2 inches below the top of the barrel. Use your file to enlarge the hole enough to insert the 1 1/4 inch male adapter from the outside of the hole. Screw together the 1 1/4 inch female adapter to the male adapter until they are tight. Apply silicone caulk to inside and outside to seal the hole. Attach the hose and run it away from the house



Step 4:

Place concrete blocks under your selected downspout as a raised base to allow room for a watering can or to allow for a screw on hose. Cut your downspout about 4"

above the top of the barrel lid. Attach the downspout flex-elbow to the downspout. Direct the flex-



Step 5:

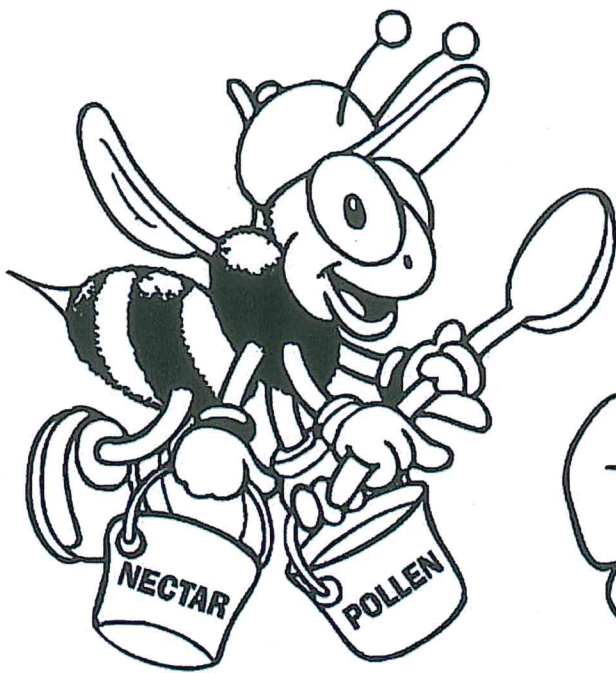
Congratulate yourself on your hard work and for making a difference in reducing stormwater pollution. Make sure to let all the caulk dry thoroughly before using. Enjoy your rain barrel..



* Depending on personal choices of parts and barrel

These Steps serve as a guideline for the construction of your own rain

Busy As A Bee Coloring Sheet



Honey bees gather nectar and pollen from blossoms.

Busy As A Bee Activity Sheet



Honey Bee Search

Circle the following honey bee words in the puzzle below:

BEEKEEPER	B	N	P	O	L	L	I	N	A	T	I	O	N
BEESWAX	J	E	E	Y	W	R	L	T	V	Y	F	N	J
BUZZ	V	X	E	L	T	L	A	C	L	O	V	E	R
CLOVER	E	D	U	S	L	V	T	O	C	R	T	K	T
COLONY	K	R	W	A	W	O	E	L	D	K	Q	R	C
COMB	H	O	N	E	Y	A	P	O	Q	U	F	O	E
DRONE	I	N	E	Y	Y	X	N	M	L	M	B	S	
FLOWER	V	E	C	N	G	Q	L	Y	O	B	Q	E	N
FORAGE	E	Y	T	O	Y	L	E	W	U	A	D	E	I
GARDEN	Q	K	A	G	M	N	E	G	R	G	O	K	Q
HEXAGON	B	U	R	A	B	R	Z	K	E	W	E	E	W
HIVE	U	W	E	X	X	K	U	G	K	R	A	E	C
HONEY	Z	O	E	E	S	N	E	D	R	A	G	P	L
INSECT	Z	S	K	H	N	C	X	J	O	F	F	E	Q
NECTAR	F	O	R	A	G	E	L	D	W	H	U	R	U
PETAL													
POLLEN													
POLLINATION													
QUEEN													
WORKER													

Honey, Care to Take a Dip?

- 1 pint (16 oz.) lowfat plain yogurt
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 1/2 teaspoon grated orange peel
- Assorted fruits for dipping such as sliced apples, pears and strawberries



In a small bowl, combine yogurt, honey, orange juice and orange peel. Serve with sliced fruit.

Sweet Jokes

Use this code to answer the questions below: A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10, K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18, S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26

Q: What did the worker bee use to brush her hair?

A: (11-10) (6+2) (9+6) (7+7) (12-7) (21+4) (9-6) (17-2) (8+5) (4-2)

Q: Why did beekeeper Bob go to the doctor?

A: (5+3) (10-5) (4+4) (4-3) (9-5) (12-4) (5+4) (25-3) (11-6) (20-1)

Q: What do bees do with their honey?

A: (15+5) (10-2) (4+1) (19+6) (11-8) (12-7) (9+3) (15-3) (7+2) (25-5)

Fun Trivia Facts

The taste and color of honey differs depending on which flowers the bees visit.

Honey bees visit two million flowers to make one pound of honey.

The raising of bees is known as apiculture.



National Honey Board
390 Lashley Street / Longmont, CO 80501-6045
For more fun facts, games and recipes, visit www.honey.com

IF YOUR CAR LEAKS
OIL IN THE DRIVEWAY,
YOU MIGHT AS WELL
LET IT LEAK IN THE OCEAN.

Rain washes pollutants into storm drains which
flows directly into our streams, lakes,
rivers and the ocean.
So what can you do?



www.cleanwaterNJ.org

IF YOU DON'T
PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET,
IT MIGHT AS WELL
POOP IN THE RIVER.



Rain washes pollutants into storm drains which
flows directly into our streams, lakes,
rivers and the ocean.
So what can you do?



www.cleanwaterNJ.org

IF YOU USE TOO MUCH
FERTILIZER ON YOUR LAWN,
YOU MIGHT AS WELL
FERTILIZE THE STREAM.



Rain washes pollutants into storm drains which
flows directly into our streams, lakes,
rivers and the ocean.
So what can you do?



www.cleanwaterNJ.org