

The Six "Ps" of Responsible Gardening

If you're starting or expanding a garden this spring, the Bloomfield Environmental Commission recommends that you consider the following tips to make your garden even "greener" ...

- *Place* your garden where it can catch and absorb rainwater runoff. Current stormwater management techniques emphasize the use of *permeable* surfaces to keep as much water as possible from running off into storm drains. Rain gardens are ideal.
- *Plant* for *Pollinators*. Whether your garden includes flowers to brighten your yard or vegetables to brighten your table, all need pollination ... and that means you need to welcome bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects. Native *perennial* plants with lots of small flowers are best, and milkweed will attract monarch butterflies to your yard, not only to eat but to lay eggs for the next generation.
- Avoid *Pesticides*. Chemical pesticides can't tell the difference between beneficial insects and harmful pests. They kill them all. Look for natural means of controlling pests in your garden and keep it pesticide-free.

Search online for lists of pollinator-friendly perennial plants native to New Jersey and for chemical-free methods of pest control.

The Bloomfield Environmental Commission will next meet Wednesday, May 15 at 7:00pm in the Law Enforcement Building, 2nd Floor, Mayor's Conference Room.