Landscape with Native Plants

Overview

- Vegetation provides many ecosystem services such as erosion control, soil stability, flood prevention, heat reduction, privacy, increased property value, aesthetic value, etc.
- Grasses and native plants help stabilize the soil because the root systems help hold the soil in place during flooding events.
- Native plants have adapted to the environmental conditions of their native region. They are better suited to offer ecosystem services than non-native plants.
- Landscape with native vegetation in order to decrease flooding on the property and receive other beneficial ecosystem services.
- See the following link for an established native plant species list: https://www.udel.edu/academics/colleges/canr/cooperative-extension/fact-sheets/native-plants-for-delaware-landscapes/

Considerations for plant species:

- Soil type
- Function (flood prevention, shading, etc.)
- Size
- Insect susceptibility
- Exposure to sun and wind
- Location in proximity to structures, sidewalks, power lines, etc.
- Post-planting maintenance requirements

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Key Takeaways

During storm events, water may pool in yards or may flood structures.

Flooding can cause extensive damage to the interior and exterior of structures. Additionally, pools of water can harm landscaping and provide breeding grounds for pests such as mosquitos.

To help avoid flood damage costs, landscape with native plants in the yard.

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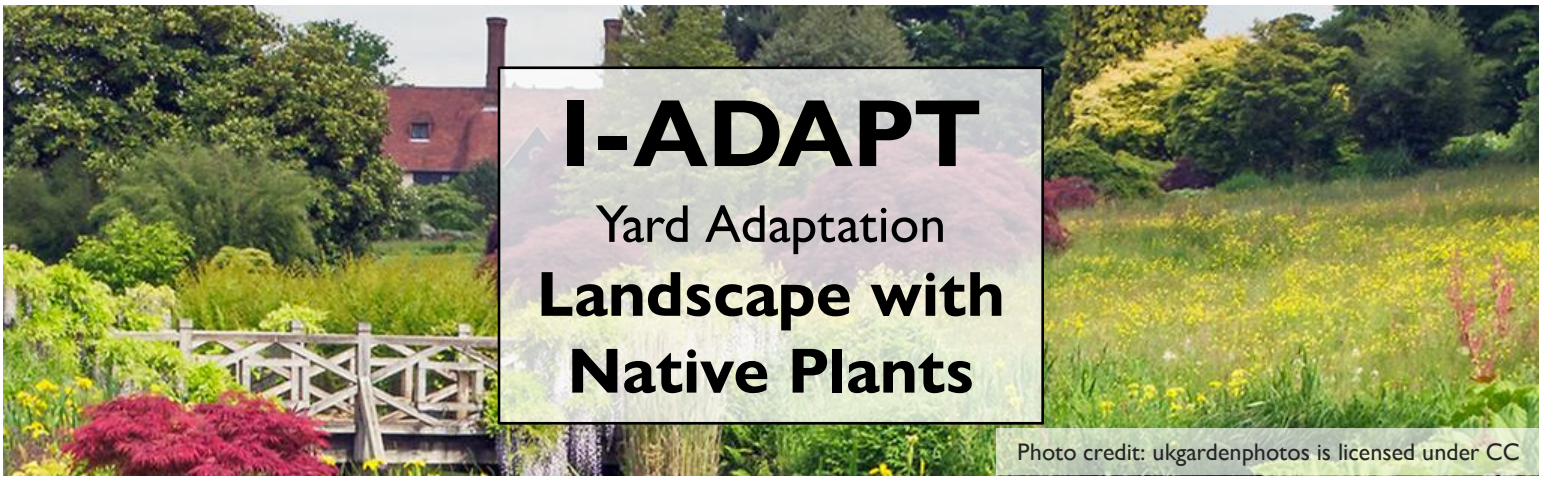

I-ADAPT

Yard Adaptation

Landscape with Native Plants

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Estimated Costs/Benefits

*U.S. dollars (2022), estimates are subject to change

Potential Costs		Potential Benefits		
Item	*Estimate*	*Post-Flood Recovery Actions*	*Estimate*	
Native plants	$4-$12 per square foot	Flood damage recovery (professional clean-up, mold removal, replacement/ repair of flood damaged items)	1 inch water ↓ 1 foot water	$10,800-$53,500+ ↓ $29,400-$143,500+
Landscaper labor (if necessary)	$50-$100 per hour	Mosquito control	$400-$600 per treatment	
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	**Total cost is highly dependent on plant species and size of landscaped area**	**ESTIMATED TOTAL SAVINGS**	**$11,200-$144,100+**	

Additional Resources

- Delaware Livable Lawns: Establishing a Healthy Lawn
- UD Native Plants for Delaware Landscapes
- Native Plant Nurseries Serving Delaware

Resources can also be found at https://de.gov/iadapt

Expected Maintenance

- Regular lawn maintenance including mowing and weeding.
- Re-plant as needed.

Additional Actions

- Purchase a lawn mower and/or other yard maintenance tools.

Permitting Agencies

Contacts for permitting requirements include but are not limited to the following:

- Your city and/or county government for local flood ordinances or regulations

Who to Contact

- 811 Call Before You Dig
- Landscape professional

Technical definitions and more information are located on the I-ADAPT website: https://de.gov/iadapt.

This information is intended to be used for planning purposes. It is not intended to substitute or take precedence over the guidance of design engineers, contractors, utility companies or regulatory agencies.

For more information, contact DNREC's Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy at DNREC_IADAPT@Delaware.gov