

# Plant Grass and Native Plants in Yard

## Overview

- Vegetation provides many ecosystem services such as erosion control, soil stability, flood prevention, heat reduction, privacy, increased property value, aesthetic value, etc.
- Replace rock or hardscaped areas with grass and other native vegetation in order to decrease flooding on the property.
- Grass and other vegetation help reduce flooding by slowing and absorbing rainwater. Surfaces such as concrete, asphalt, and rocks do not absorb water.
- The root systems of grasses and native plants help hold the soil in place, stabilizing the soil during flooding events.
- Only plant native species that are well-suited for the ecosystem type of the area.
- In addition to planting grass, consider planting shrubbery, trees, and other native plants.

## Considerations for planting:

- Soil type
- Plant function (flood prevention, shading, etc.)
- Species
- Size
- Insect susceptibility
- Exposure to sun and wind
- Human activity in direct proximity to the plants
- Location in proximity to structures, sidewalks, power lines, etc.
- Post-planting maintenance requirements
- Personal preference



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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, plant grass and other native plants in the yard.



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# I-ADAPT

## Yard Adaptation

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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
Remove concrete/asphalt/stone substrate (if necessary)	\$1-\$5 per sq ft	Flood damage recovery (professional clean-up, mold removal, replacement/repair of flood damaged items)	1 inch water ↓ 1 foot water
Plant grass	\$0.10-\$0.20 per sq ft		\$10,800-\$53,500+ ↓ \$29,400-\$143,500+
Landscaper labor (if necessary)	\$50-\$100 per hour	Mosquito control	\$400-\$600 per treatment
<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL COST (5,000 sq ft lawn)</b>	<b>\$500-\$26,300+</b>	<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL SAVINGS</b>	<b>\$11,200-\$144,100+</b>

## Expected Maintenance

- Regular lawn maintenance including mowing and weeding.
- Replant any non-perennial plants annually.

## Additional Resources

- [Delaware Livable Lawns: Establishing a Healthy Lawn](#)
- [Native Plant Nurseries Serving Delaware](#)

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

## Potential Funding Sources

- [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant \(BRIC\)](#)
- [Delaware Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund](#)
- [FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant](#)
- [FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program](#)

## Additional Actions

- Plant native species of trees in the yard.
- 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](mailto:DNREC_IADAPT@Delaware.gov)

