

# New Jersey Gardening

Plainfield Public Library Pathfinder

August 2010

Special points of interest:

- If you are a novice gardener, be sure to consult gardening magazines, catalogs, and library resources to ensure your annuals and perennials will thrive in New Jersey.
- New Jersey acquired its nickname, “*The Garden State*”, at a centennial exhibition address in Philadelphia, PA (in 1876).
- New Jersey’s state flower is the *Common Meadow Violet*. Its Latin name is *Viola sororia*.
- Various resources are available to you at the Library for planning garden landscaping. Inquire at the *Reference Desk* for resources within our periodicals and general collections that can help you to plan the garden that is right for you.
- *Land plants* evolved from *complex green algae* in the *Paleozoic Era*.

## Gardening in the “*Garden State*”

Hello, Plainfield gardener! To get off to a good start in your gardening project, you can use the Plainfield Public Library’s printed and electronic resources.

Did you know that New Jersey has more than one hardiness zone when it comes to thriving gardens? Plainfield falls within zone 6A, according to the ***USDA Hardiness Zone Map***. Some examples of plants, trees, shrubs, and flowers which would thrive in Plainfield and the surrounding areas are: Threeleaf Akebia, Anemones, Birches, Lady’s Mantle, Creeping Wintergreen, Forget-me-nots, Wild Strawberries, Cinnamon Ferns, Carnations, Hollyhocks, Maiden Grass, Common Periwinkle, Lamb’s Ears, Yews, Willows, Sedum, Common Ashes, Cherry Laurels, Clematises, Hydrangeas, Trumpet Creepers, Azaleas, Magnolias, and Rhododendrons. To check on area compatibility for your gardening selections, check this map in advance.



**Border Forsythia** (*Forsythia x intermedia*) is one of the most widely used border shrubs seen in New Jersey. It thrives in an exposure range of partial shade to full sun. It also has a fast growth rate and can thrive in varied soils such as: acidic, alkaline, clay, loamy, neutral, sandy, slightly alkaline, and well drained. Forsythias are used for varied landscaping objectives, such as: border accents, erosion controllers, espaliers, pest deterrents, hedging, massing, and screening. It is yellow shrub, weeping, and vase like in form.

## Landscaping Your Own Little Piece of Paradise

Whether you are planning a small shrub garden replete with accompanying statuary, a theme-based garden motif (such as a Japanese rock garden accented with a Japanese fir), a backyard entertaining arbor, or a hedging arrangement, you can get ideas from your Library’s resources. To find ideas for projects or investigate possible landscape setups, you can try these magazines in the Library’s collection: ***Better Homes and Gardens***, ***Garden Gate***, ***Fine Gardening***, ***Old House Journal***, and ***Architectural Digest***. Who knows, perhaps a random single photograph may inspire a whole new look for your home!



Adding a mulch garden to your property can add variety and contrast to it while also cutting back on grass maintenance. You can create a mulch garden island focused on a theme or motif of interest to you. The addition of interesting stepping stones as part of your setup can create an eye-catching accent for family and friends to enjoy.

**“Confronted with the vision of a beautiful garden, we see something beautiful about ourselves.”**

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**Jeff Cox**



Maintaining vegetable and herb gardens is an enjoyable way to utilize your yard and provide fresh seasonal selections right off the vine and out of the ground.

## Books

- ***Understanding Perennials: A New Look at an Old Favorite***, by William Cullina, call # 635.932 CUL
- ***A Field Guide to Eastern Trees: Eastern United States and Canada***, by George A. Petrides, call # JR 582 PET
- ***Month-by-month Gardening in New Jersey***, by Pegi Ballister-Howells, call # NJ 635.097 BAL
- ***Landscape Plans***, by Ron Lutsko, call # 712.6 L96

## Articles

- Nuss, J. (2000). ***Mid-Atlantic***. Flower & Garden, 44(2), 54. Retrieved from MasterFILE Premier database.
- Cohen, S. (2004). ***Forsythia viridissima koreana 'Kumson'***. Country Living Gardener, 12(4), 39. Retrieved from MasterFILE Premier database.
- Joe, S. (2010). ***Build a bug box and keep pests at bay***. Times, The (United Kingdom), 17. Retrieved from Newspaper Source database.

## Online Resources

The library provides computers for Internet access to do online research. To learn more about the compatibility of landscaping and gardening selections in your zip code, go to the web site **National Gardening Association** ([www.garden.org/home](http://www.garden.org/home)). If you love to visit **state gardens and arboretums**, then the web site [www.jerseygrown.nj.gov/njgardens.html](http://www.jerseygrown.nj.gov/njgardens.html) will help you locate them. Other web sites of interest are: **The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society** ([www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org/home/index.html](http://www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org/home/index.html)), **the New York Botanical Garden** ([www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)), **The New Jersey State Botanical Garden** ([www.njbg.org](http://www.njbg.org)), **Fine Gardening** ([www.finegardening.com](http://www.finegardening.com)), and **Weekend Gardener** ([www.weekendgardener.net](http://www.weekendgardener.net)).