

**Abstract:** Sustaining landscapes, water quality and the water balance are of the utmost importance in developing watersheds. URI's Cooperative Extension Healthy Landscapes Education Program delivers pollution prevention best management practices (BMPs) that encompass the concerns posed by landowners and land users within North Kingstown, Rhode Island. North Kingstown exemplifies rural southern New England—"mixed land use" watersheds.

maintaining your  
landscape for clean  
water starts with  
a few simple steps

- ✔ Choose the right plant for the right spot.
- ✔ Recycle your yard waste.
- ✔ Use fertilizers and pesticides responsibly.
- ✔ Water wisely.
- ✔ Reduce runoff from your yard and increase groundwater recharge.
- ✔ Reduce soil erosion. Keep it planted and mulched.
- ✔ Pick up after your pets.
- ✔ Use and dispose of fuels and hazardous products properly.

Visit our website  
[www.healthylandscapes.org](http://www.healthylandscapes.org)



**Target Area**

- ◆ North Kingstown, Rhode Island
- ◆ Media outreach - statewide

**Target Audiences**

- ◆ Residents and small acreage farms
- ◆ Landscape Professionals
- ◆ Retail Garden Center Employees
- ◆ Master Gardener Association Volunteers

**About North Kingstown, Rhode Island...24,000 people**

- ◆ 31 miles of coastline along Narragansett Bay
- ◆ Relies solely on groundwater for drinking water
- ◆ 94% of residents are served by municipal water supply
- ◆ 59% of land in agriculture, forest, and wetlands (RIGIS 1995)

Small acreage non-commercial farms (less than ten acres) fall through the cracks of traditional agricultural programs and outreach.



Pasture and animal waste management, Gilbert Stuart Road demonstration site, North Kingstown, RI. October 2003.

**Project objectives include:**

1. Educate residents and landowners about the water cycle, watersheds and aquifers within North Kingstown, Rhode Island.
2. Increase the public's knowledge of BMPs and individual actions they can take to protect water resources.
3. Establish local landscape demonstration sites showcasing a variety of BMPs.
4. Conduct professional training programs for the Rhode Island Green Industry.
5. Develop a comprehensive media strategy.
6. Strengthen existing, robust URI CE programs.
7. Strengthen the New England Region Water Quality Program by extending materials, training and lessons learned to our colleagues.

**Year One Accomplishments**

- ◆ Established four demonstration sites in North Kingstown and added one additional site for educational programs.
- ◆ Developed an approach for mass media outreach including TV and print media coverage locally and statewide.
- ◆ Developed educational materials including a display and a project website, [www.healthylandscapes.org](http://www.healthylandscapes.org).
- ◆ Held tours of demonstration sites (available on-line), training programs, and participated in local events.
- ◆ Developed surveys and evaluation methods (survey available on-line).



URI students planting native and sustainable plants, Wickford Cove demonstration site, North Kingstown, RI. September 2003.



Tour of Davisville demonstration site, North Kingstown, RI. July 2003.

Residential landscapes typically use ten times the amount of fertilizers and pesticides on a per acre basis than agricultural lands.

Residential landscape watering accounts for about 40% of residential water use during summer months.

**Desired Program Outcomes**

- ◆ Measurable increase in residents being aware of the importance of their water resources and how to protect them.
- ◆ Measurable increase in changes in behavior—less water use and less pollution from home landscapes.



Filming a TV news **Plant Pro** segment on organic lawn renovation and management, Mountain Laurel Estates demonstration site. North Kingstown, RI. October 2003.



URI GreenShare Field Day, drawing over 2,000 people. CE Learning Landscape, Kingstown, RI. September 2003.



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