

## **Management Practices for the Conservation Garden**

### **Eco-Smart Lawns**

Lawns are mowed at the highest recommended height to shade out weeds and encourage a deep, drought resistant root system.

Low growing wildflowers and groundcovers that are compatible with the turf grass are encouraged.

Grass clippings are left on the lawn to provide an important source of nitrogen.

Lawns are fertilized only if necessary. Fertilization is based on recommendations provided by the County Extension office.

Lawns are irrigated only when leaf blades begin to show signs of drought stress. Apply ½ to ¾ inch per watering.

Weed as necessary to eradicate invasive plants.

### **Wildflower Meadows**

Plant seeds and potted seedlings of wildflowers and native grasses to promote a diverse plant community and long-term blooming.

Cut back meadow patches after seed ripening to encourage natural regeneration and to maintain the diversity of wildflowers and native grasses. Some patches are left standing through winter to provide an important source of wildlife food and cover.

Weed as necessary to eradicate invasive plants.

### **Thickets and Hedgerows**

Prune as necessary to enhance flowering and fruiting of shrubs and small trees and to maintain the density of nesting cover. Use pruned wood to construct wildlife brushpiles.

Encourage natural regeneration and plant nursery stock to maintain the desired multi-layered structure of shrubs, vines and small trees. More layers provide more feeding and nesting opportunities for wildlife.

Apply mulch as necessary.

Weed as necessary to eradicate invasive plants.

### **Woodlands**

Maintain a layer of mulch on the woodland floor to provide nutrients, preserve soil moisture and prevent soil erosion.

Encourage natural regeneration and plant nursery stock to maintain the desired multi-layered structure of trees, shrubs, vines and groundcovers. More layers provide more feeding and nesting opportunities for wildlife.

Preserve snags and dead wood where possible to provide an important source of food and cover for wildlife.

Weed as necessary to eradicate invasive plants.