

## IN THIS ISSUE

Native Plant Case Study for Drought Conditions



We were awarded "Best Of Houzz" once again for 2016 for Customer Satisfaction by Houzz, the leading platform for home remodeling and design. Our 9 year old landscape design firm was chosen by the more than 25 million monthly unique users that comprise the Houzz community from among more than 500,000 active home building, remodeling and design industry professionals.

We want to thank all of our wonderful clients who have given us the privilege of working on their properties.

### Jay Petrow



Jay's creative vision, coupled with his horticultural knowledge, produces extraordinary landscapes for his clients.

To reach Jay with your landscaping questions, please call 203-803-0533 or [email](#)



## The Garden in August

Greetings!

The weather in our part of Connecticut has been abnormally dry this summer until recently when high heat and humidity was accompanied by strong thunderstorms. In fact, The U.S. Drought Monitor week for July 26 labeled 98% of Connecticut as in "Moderate Drought".

One way to ensure that your garden will survive drought conditions if you don't have an irrigation system is to plant native grasses and perennials that can weather these hot and dry times.

One garden we planted using native and other drought resistant non-native plants is featured in this newsletter. These photos were taken in July this year...

### A Case Study Using Native Plants That Can Withstand Summer Drought



New construction of a seaside home in Old Greenwich required a rain garden in the middle of the property to accommodate runoff from the home's gutters (Bottom Photo). Wetland species like switchgrass and winterberry were used to hide the drain pipes.

Fear of using native plants in residential properties because they create a disordered mess can be ameliorated by massing species together and edging the planted areas with lawn that make the landscape readable and ordered. These photos document a property we landscaped just 2 years ago starting with a site that was bare dirt.

Because regulations forced all the runoff from the roof to flow into a raingarden, we needed to use wetland plants in the raingarden that could survive temporary flooding conditions while in higher ground

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we used drought tolerant plants that thrive in hot and dry weather. Using the right plant in the right place is imperative to the success of any garden.



Native switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) flowering in July. The seeds will provide food for the bird population through the winter.



Orange and yellow sneezeweed (*Helenium mardigras*) bloom for a long time during the summer months and are a great color contrast to purple Hyssop (*Agastache*). Both are bee and butterfly magnets.



A great addition to the autumn garden, September blooming Stonecrop (*Sedum spectabile*) tolerates drought very well and is very attractive to pollinators



Coneflower (Echinacea), a long blooming and drought tolerant native species, keeps the color going through much of the summer.



Mixing drifts of grasses and flowering perennials creates great contrast in the garden



Oakleaf Hydrangea, a native flowering shrub valued for its huge white blooms and great fall color, mixing with a non-native,



Just to keep more color going all summer, carpet roses are planted along the top of this stone wall

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The next time your hydrangea or rhododendron wilt from too little water think about replacing them with native plants that can tolerate drought conditions better than our imported species. If you need help finding the right plant for the right spot give us a call.

Sincerely,

PetrowGardens Landscape Design

203 803-0533

[Email Jay](#)

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Please forward this newsletter to others who would appreciate it - thanks!

 Forward to a Friend

PetrowGardens Landscape Design creates unique landscape solutions by integrating classic design principles of repetition of shapes, harmonization of colors, and use of contrasting textures and forms with artistic expression. The resulting gardens promise to be inviting to explore and stimulating to your senses. Native and non-native plants that provide seasonal interest for both you and the wildlife in our region are used in our designs.