





By planting more plants, homeowners can improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

As stormwater flows across hard surfaces and through landscaped areas, it carries particulates through drainage systems and into local waterways. Harmful amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediments and other pollutants are channeled from residences directly into the waters of the Bay.

These pollutants include:

- fertilizer
- pesticides
- topsoil
- oil and gasoline
- pet waste

Homeowners can mitigate the amount of harmful elements that reach the Bay through landscaping practices that include reducing hard surfaces, fertilizing responsibly and planting native trees, shrubs, plants and grasses.

Choosing the right species and planting in abundance will establish expansive root systems to hold soil in place, creating a natural filter that reduces the harmful effects of fertilizers, pesticides and spilled fuels.

