

Are you interested in a drought tolerant lawn that requires less work? Would you like to save time and the costs of watering, irrigating, fertilizing, and mowing, but still want a lawn that looks good?

There are several grass seed mixes on the market today that offer you an alternative. A few of them include Enviro-Turf, EcoLawn and Pearl's Premium.

These grass mixes are a blend of several fescues (Sheep, Chewings, Hard, Blue and Red fescues) and perennial rye grass that have been specially developed for a slower growth rate, which translates into less mowing and less fertilizer each season.

These low maintenance grasses require less water due to the deep root system. The 12" roots of an established lawn (12-18 months) tap into naturally occurring moisture to minimize watering and better resist drought. The deep root system also makes the grass less susceptible to many common pests that live just below the surface of a shallow rooted lawn.

Enviro-turf seed mix is available for sun, sun/shade and shade exposures, and suitable for normal household traffic usage.

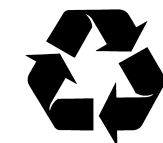
To learn more visit the following informative websites. [www.eco-lawn.com](http://www.eco-lawn.com) / [www.pearlspremium.com](http://www.pearlspremium.com) / and [www.bluestem.ca/enviroturf.htm](http://www.bluestem.ca/enviroturf.htm)

- Susan DiLoreto

Please visit [www.wiltonct.org](http://www.wiltonct.org) regularly to access trail maps, Wilton's zoning and wetland regulations, news about community events and more.



**RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER**  
**WILTON, CT 06897**



## Wilton Conservation Commission Newsletter



### EAT YOUR (LOCAL) VEGETABLES

Buying local, sustainable eating, and living green are all catch phrases we are hearing more and more of. But practically speaking, for many it is tough to know how to move from talking the talk to walking the walk. When it comes to food, the answers are easier than you think.

Fresh vegetables, many of which are organic, can be bought locally a number of ways. Farmers markets are within arms' reach most days of the week. Wilton's own is held at the Historical Society on Wednesdays. Then there is always Ridgefield, Westport, Weston, Georgetown, and New Canaan if you miss Wilton's market. Farmers' markets are abundant through our growing season, but there are still options in the winter in Westport and Fairfield, among others.

If you are open to a weekly commitment of locally grown produce, consider Community Supported Agriculture or CSA. These run from mid-June into the fall. You pay the shareholder fee upfront in the early spring, and then pick up a weekly supply of seasonal vegetables for some 16-24 weeks. The vegetables are harvested within hours of the pick-up time. Millstone Farm in Wilton has a small CSA. There are also The Hickories in Ridgefield, Warrup's Farm in Redding, and Simpaug Farm has a pick-up location in Ridgefield center. These CSA's, plus both Offinger Farm and Ambler Farm have farm stands to make ongoing purchases possible, as do Village Market and Ancona's, who among others stock locally grown products.

When the produce needs meat and dairy to fill out a menu there are local sources for that, too. Westport offers grass-fed beef and poultry at Gilbertie's Herb Garden farmers' market and daily at Double L and Saugatuck Craft Butchery. In New Canaan, The Farm Table has a selection of locally raised meat, and cheeses can be purchased at the Fairfield Cheese Company, Double L, and at the Greenfield Hill Grange farmers' market.

There are of course the days when going out to eat is the way to go. You can still eat locally grown food. The Schoolhouse at Cannondale, Elm in New Canaan, and Barcelona in Norwalk are just a sampling of the many area restaurants that seek out locally grown produce and locally raised meats and dairy. This effort creates a fluid menu that reflects the season.

There are a surprising number of outlets to practice eating greener. This is just a small offering. To make it easy to find sources, check out [fairfieldgreenfoodguide.com](http://fairfieldgreenfoodguide.com). This site will open your eyes to the numerous options available in the area. And lastly, if you are in need of some motivation to make this change, even if it is just a partial change in your purchasing habits, read "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" by Barbara Kingsolver for a light-hearted and inspirational look at the value of locally grown food.

- Patricia Sesto, Director, Environmental Affairs



## TAKE A WALK IN SACKETT PRESERVE

If you have a free hour in your week, consider taking a walk in Wilton's Sackett Preserve. This town-owned open space encompasses 33 acres of land and abuts 44 acres of Wilton Land Trust open space. The town acquired the land from the Sackett family in 1999 in order to protect the open space from development.

The property entrance is located off of Ridgefield Road just south of Deforest Road. The paved driveway winds through an open meadow to a small parking area. An information kiosk along the edge of the parking area displays the trail map. You can enjoy the 4 acres of meadows around the parking area and stroll along the walking trails in the woods. The trails will take you over small stonewalls, past rocky outcrops and through wetland areas so you may wish to wear hiking boots or old sneakers.

The average person can probably walk all of the trails in this open space in about an hour but don't forget to take a few breaks along your walk to enjoy your natural surroundings. For additional information and a trail map of Sackett Preserve visit the Conservation Commission's website: <http://www.wiltonct.org/departments/conservation/documents/sackettpreserve.pdf>

- Michael Conklin, Environmental Analyst

### WGG's Spring Green Homes Tour

- Sunday, May 20th , 1–5pm
- Registration at Old Town Hall

The Wilton Go Green (WGG) Committee is hosting a spring showcase tour of three homes in Wilton and, by reservation only, one in New Canaan that feature "green" energy upgrades and environmentally responsible new construction. Learn from the homeowners themselves; they are generously opening their homes for the afternoon to talk about insulation, heating, cooling, roofing, flooring, eco-friendly property management and leaving a smaller carbon footprint on our earth.

Exhibitors who specialize in green building and energy efficiency will be present to answer your questions.

More info at <http://wiltongogreen.org>

## “DISCOVER OUTDOOR WILTON” PHOTO CONTEST

The Wilton Garden Club is pleased to announce the “Discover Outdoor Wilton” Photo Contest. Shut off the computer, put down your cell phone, grab a camera, and head out into your backyard or take one of the to-be-scheduled walks in one of the Town's 23 parks/open spaces. Between now and mid-October, capture photos of your favorite picnic spot, most memorable sunset, best take-your-breath-away view, or most picturesque stream in Wilton. Submit your matted photographs to the Gilbert & Bennett Community Cultural Center in Georgetown between October 10th-20th. An Opening Reception will be held at the center on Thursday, November 1st. Twelve photographs will be selected by a panel of 5 judges and used to produce a 2013 calendar that will go on sale around Town on November 10th. Proceeds will go to complete renovations at the Wilton Garden Club's Greenhouse at Comstock Community Center. All ages are encouraged to get outside today and start enjoying the natural beauty of Wilton! For more information, see our brochures around town or check out the garden club's website, [www.wiltongardenclub.org](http://www.wiltongardenclub.org)

- Kristen Begor



## TALKING TREES

Wilton's Tree Committee may not have the history of our older municipal sibling, the Conservation Commission, but we do have an equally important function – to preserve and protect Wilton's wonderful urban canopy. We “speak” for trees threatened by improper maintenance or by clear cutting or those damaged by wind, storms or insects. In our four years of existence, the Tree Committee has been very active. We oversee a tree (and bench) donation program, which has resulted in 34 new trees and 8 new benches in the Center. We led the effort for Wilton to be designated as a Tree City USA, a designation we have maintained for three years. Yearly, we honor a selected resident for his/her singular tree protection efforts as Tree Steward for the year. We just were awarded a small grant from the state to develop a tree management plan for the Center. And we have reached out to the community to show our joy in trees through the Wilton Wondrous Tree Contest (2007) and the Tree-Art Show (2010) and through our participation in the annual Norwalk-Wilton Tree Festival, a fun-filled, family-oriented day, complete with free food and drink, children's activities and door prizes.

Please join us in our efforts to keep Wilton a lovely, tree-filled community. Donate a tree or bench to honor someone special. Join us in the “Discover Outdoor Wilton” contest and take a photo of a special tree (or other beautiful spot) in town. Come for a great afternoon at this year's tree festival on Saturday, May 19, 11 am – 3 pm, at Cranbury Park in Norwalk (filled with magnificent trees). For more information about donating a tree or the committee's other activities, contact the Environmental Affairs Office (203-563-0180).

- Jessica Kaplan, Chair, Wilton Tree Committee

## THE WILTON FARMERS' MARKET IN 2012

The weekly outdoor Wilton Farmers' Market features local produce, baked goods, soaps and teas every Wednesday from 2pm to 6pm, from May through September. Located at the Wilton Historical Society at 224 Danbury Road in Wilton, it serves to educate the public about eating locally and making nutritious, healthy food choices.

Supported by the Wilton Chamber of Commerce, the Wilton Historical Society, and the Wilton Library, the market is comprised of local farmers and artisans who come together to provide shoppers a venue in which to purchase the best products from local vendors. The market's 12 “farmers” and artisans include Ambler Farm, Bongo+Capacci Pasta Heaven, Capt'n John's Clambakes, Crowley Cheese, Killam+Bassett Farm, Mamacat's Q. Tea, Nod Hill Soap, Ola! Granola, Schulze Farm, The Bites Company, Wave Hill Breads and the Whistle Stop Bakery. For more information, please visit [www.wiltonfarmersmarket.com](http://www.wiltonfarmersmarket.com).

Remember to bring your recycled brown, plastic, hemp, crocheted or Go Green bags to the Wilton Historical Society and load up on tasty goodness and crunchy healthy things!

- Kristen Begor

### WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION



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