

The Sag Harbor Oyster Club

Overclearing Triage & Revegetation Playbook – The Hamptons

On behalf of **The Sag Harbor Oyster Club** (a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to clean water initiatives across the Northeast), we are pleased to share this informational packet.

Disclosure: This document is provided for informational and educational purposes only. It does not constitute legal advice, land-use consulting, or professional permit expediting. Neither The Sag Harbor Oyster Club nor its directors or contributors represent themselves as professional expeditors. Recipients are encouraged to consult licensed surveyors, attorneys, and municipal staff before acting upon this material.

Viability of Food Gardens as Overclearing Remedies

Core Principle: Municipalities require revegetation with native species that restore ecological function. Food gardens are viable only when designed as *native food forests*.

Where Viable: Edible native shrubs/trees (Beach plum, Serviceberry, Blueberry, Aronia, Elderberry, American hazelnut); layered planting (canopy–understory–groundcover); conventional veg beds *outside* regulated buffers.

Where Not Viable: Inside wetlands/dune buffers (except coastal natives like Beach plum, Bayberry); non-native or fertilizer-dependent crops.

Bottom Line: Food gardens can satisfy revegetation only if structured as **native edible revegetation**.

Jurisdiction Notes – The Hamptons

- East Hampton Town – Clearing limits by lot size; Natural Resources oversight. Native lists required; Beach plum/blueberry/serviceberry count; veg beds outside buffers.
- Southampton Town – Reforestation specs require native vegetation and survival; edible natives acceptable if on approved lists.
- Sag Harbor Village – Wetlands Ch.285 mandates coastal natives; veg gardens not acceptable in buffers.
- North Haven Village – Must revegetate cleared areas with approved natives; edible natives allowed if listed.
- Sagaponack Village – Native revegetation required; Southampton Env. Division handles wetlands permits.
- Quogue Village – Wetlands Preserves must stay natural; native-only restoration.
- Westhampton Beach Village – Native replanting required near wetlands; floodplain regs apply.
- Westhampton Dunes Village – Dune overlays mandate beachgrass and dune natives only.
- Southampton Village – Tree permits and native revegetation encouraged.
- East Hampton Village – Wetlands permitting and strong tree/streetscape standards.

Native Plant Palettes

Upland Pine Barrens / Sandplain:

- Pitch pine, Oaks, Sassafras
- Edible shrubs: Blueberry, Huckleberry, Serviceberry, Beach plum, Bearberry
- Others: Bayberry, Inkberry, Chokeberry
- Groundlayer: Little bluestem, Switchgrass, sedges, wildflowers

Coastal Dune & Seaside:

- American beachgrass, Beach plum, Bayberry, Groundsel bush, Seaside goldenrod

Wetland Edge / Swales:

- Winterberry, Viburnum, Dogwood, Blue flag iris, Sensitive fern, Soft rush

Shaded Upland / Understory:

- Dogwood, Holly, Red maple, Viburnum, Mountain laurel

References & Source Links

- Town of East Hampton – Revegetation & Native Plant Lists: <https://ehamptonny.gov/188/Revegetation-Information>
- Town of Southampton – Reforestation Requirements & Native Planting Lists: <https://www.southamptontownny.gov/136/Environmental-Division>
- Village of Sag Harbor Wetlands Ch.285: <https://ecode360.com/36966645>
- Village of North Haven Clearing Code: <https://ecode360.com/13976346>
- Peconic Estuary Program Native Plant Database: <https://peconicestuary.org>
- NYSDEC Tidal Wetlands Program: <https://dec.ny.gov/lands/4940.html>
- NYSDEC Freshwater Wetlands: <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/9223.html>