

# LANDSCAPING

## *Greening from the Ground Up*

The Landscaping Crew plans the 60 core-campus acres to be low-maintenance, environmentally sound, and pleasing to the eco-conscious eye. The Crew spends their energy planting native species, rather than wasting resources on formal gardens or the perfect “golf course” lawn. Professors from biology, environmental studies, and forestry work closely with the Crew on projects such as growing broom sedge, grasses, and wildflowers in order to establish quail and other species in the wildlife habitat.



*Native species are the plants of choice to create beauty and to benefit the animal habitat.*



*Students help maintain the core campus in environmentally responsible ways.*



*The six acres of College athletic turf are managed organically, and only rarely require the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.*



*Compost generated from decomposing leaves, weeds, and campus food waste is applied regularly to maintain healthy soil.*



*The Crew has converted four mowers, including a large mowing tractor, from gasoline to propane to improve efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*

### ***Sustainable Practices***

- Planting native species, including grasses and trees
- Diminishing formal grassy areas
- Limiting herbicide use to control invasive species
- Using organic composting and mulching
- Converting mowers to propane
- Lubricating tools with biodegradable, soy-based oil
- Building landscape features with locally milled/recycled wood
- Controlling runoff with bioretention ponds and bog gardens
- Using non-traditional organic turf management, including poultry waste fertilizer, aeration, overseeding, and proper mowing heights

### ***The Native Grasses and Wildflowers Program***



The North Carolina landscape once supported a rich diversity of grasslands and grassy forest understories, and their depletion today is an ecological catastrophe that receives little attention. In 1998, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, Warren Wilson launched an ongoing Native Grasses Project. The Landscaping Crew built a hoop-house for growing, monitoring, and researching more than 65 species of grasses and flowers, many of which previously grew only in the wild. The Crew focuses on using native plants wherever possible on campus, to create wildlife habitats and to reduce the need for mowing. The native plantings also create accessible local seed stock.