

New Jersey State Flag and Other State Information...



The **New Jersey State flag** displays the official State colors. The State seal is presented in Jersey blue on a buff background. The colors were chosen by General George Washington in 1779, after he was headquartered in New Jersey during the Revolutionary war. These were the military colors used by the New Jersey troops.

The State seal in the center of the flag contains a horse's head. A helmet showing that New Jersey governs itself and three plows on a shield referring to the State's agriculture tradition, giving it the nickname "**Garden State**". The two Goddesses represent the State motto, "**Liberty and Prosperity**". Liberty is on the left. She is holding a staff with a liberty cap on it, and the word liberty underneath her. The goddess on the right is Ceres, goddess of agriculture. She is holding a cornucopia with prosperity written below her.

Reference: <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/kids/stateflag.asp>

[Click Here](#) for additional information about New Jersey's State Bird, flower, dinosaur, etc.



STATE FLOWER
Purple Violet



STATE TALL SHIP
Meerwald



STATE INSECT
Honeybee



STATE SHELL
Knobbed Whelk



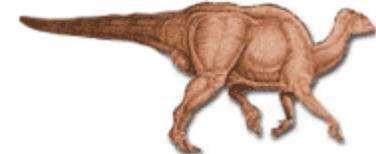
STATE FISH
Brook Trout



STATE TREE
Red Oak



STATE BIRD
Eastern Goldfinch



STATE DINOSAUR
Hadrosaurus Foulkii



STATE ANIMAL
Horse



STATE FRUIT
Blueberry



STATE DANCE
The Square Dance

The New Jersey State Fish

The Brook Trout

The State fish is the brook trout, which joined the other State symbols in 1992. This native New Jersey fish received its name from the Pilgrims. The brook trout is very sensitive to pollution and other changes in the environment. Therefore, its presence assures good water quality.

The New Jersey State Animal

The Horse

Two students, one in the fifth grade and one in the eighth grade, were responsible for making the horse New Jersey's State animal in 1977. Representing power and strength, the horse is included on the State seal. It was also very important in making New Jersey farming successful. Today, raising and racing horses are very popular in New Jersey.

The New Jersey State Dinosaur

The Hadrosaurus Foulkii

During the Cretaceous Period, 70 to 100 million years ago, duck-billed dinosaurs roamed the swampy land that would later become New Jersey. A fossil of one of these dinosaurs was discovered by William Parke Foulke in Haddonfield in 1858. It was named Hadrosaurus Foulkii. In 1991, the Hadrosaurus Foulkii became New Jersey's State dinosaur.

The New Jersey State Insect

The Honeybee

Our State insect, the honeybee, serves all of us very well. It makes honey for sweetening our meals and beeswax to smooth. Honeybees also pollinate our flowers, fruit trees and vegetable blossoms. A group of New Jersey school children persuaded the Legislature to designate the honeybee as the State insect. Then they all watched as the Governor signed the bill into law in 1974. Now isn't that a honey of a tale?

The New Jersey State Flower

The Violet

New Jersey has considered the violet as the State flower since 1913. It wasn't until 1971, however, that the Legislature adopted a bill that made the *Viola sororia* one of our official symbols. Even though violets are often considered "shy," they are hardy enough to grow in New Jersey fields, lawns, and anywhere they can find warm spring sunshine.

The New Jersey State Bird

The Eastern Goldfinch

Alert birdwatchers can catch a glimpse of a male eastern goldfinch's bright yellow feathers as he visits in the backyards of New Jersey. He also has a snappy black cap, wings and tail. If you want eastern goldfinches to visit you, try putting out some sunflower seeds - that's their favorite treat. The eastern goldfinch was chosen to be the New Jersey State bird in 1935.

The New Jersey State Tree

The Red Oak

In 1950 the majestic red oak became New Jersey's State tree. The red oak is a hardwood tree that you can recognize by its pointy-lobed leaves with prickly tips. It produces many acorns, an important food for the Native Americans of long ago. In autumn the leaves turn a vibrant red, adding bursts of color to our rural landscapes.

The New Jersey State Shell

The Knobbed Whelk

New Jersey's State shell, the knobbed whelk, can be found along our beaches and bays. Its scientific name is *Busycon carica* gmelin. This large marine snail with a spiral shell is harvested and canned for food. It is also known by its Italian name, scungilli. The knobbed whelk became the State shell in 1995.

The New Jersey State Folk Dance

The Square Dance

"Do-si-do" and "swing your partner!" cries the caller in New Jersey's official State folk dance, the square dance. In the popular American square dance, a caller shouts out directions to the dancing couples. Square dance music is lively and the dancers wear colorful clothes. New Jersey adopted it as our State folk dance in 1983.

The New Jersey State Fruit

The Blueberry

Blueberries were first cultivated for commercial production in New Jersey and the state is widely recognized as the blueberry capital of the nation. The highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), also known as the "New Jersey blueberry," is the ideal symbol of a delicious, nutritious, and healthful fruit. Inspired by elementary school children, the blueberry was designated as the official New Jersey State Fruit on January 12, 2004.

The New Jersey State Tall Ship

The Meerwald

The A.J. Meerwald, a Delaware Bay oyster schooner launched in 1928, is the state tall ship having been so designated by Chapter 9 of the Laws of 1998. The Ship constructed of oak planks laid over oak frames, is 115 feet long and has a beam height of 22 feet, 3 inches. From its home port in Commercial Township, the A.J Meerwald is operated by the Delaware Bay Schooner Project as a floating classroom, promoting ecological and historical awareness of the bay and the waters of New Jersey.