



Why Native Plants?

A native plant is a species that naturally evolved in a given region over thousands of years and thrives in the natural soils, precipitation, weather and climate of that region. Native plants and native wildlife rely on each other for survival.

“As gardeners and stewards of our land, we have never been so empowered to help save biodiversity from extinction, and the need to do so has never been so great. All we need to do is plant native plants.”

— Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware



ELYSE JURGEN

MARIANNE MACQUEEN



PATRICK FITZGERALD



BARBRA BARBOSA

Supporting Wildlife

Wildlife coevolved over thousands of years with the plants that also originated within their ecosystem. Birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife need these native plants to survive and thrive. Native plants provide food, cover, and places to raise young. In turn, wildlife provide benefits to plants, such as pollination and spreading seeds.

Promoting Health and Wellness

Spending time in natural spaces contributes to improved mental and physical well-being, safety, and neighborhood satisfaction. Planting native gardens can increase access to greenspaces, providing important opportunities to connect to and enjoy nature. Kids reap many benefits from exposure to natural settings, from reduced stress to enhanced social interactions. When communities are healthy, wildlife will flourish too.

JEFF SCHULER



Supporting Food Cultivation

By supporting pollinators and healthy soil, incorporating native plants in your garden promotes the growth of fruits and vegetables, too. Native plants' ability to sequester carbon also benefits food production by reducing air pollution and the growing threat of extreme weather events



ELYSE JURGEN



ALLYSON GALL

Beautification and Reducing Maintenance

Native plants can be used to create vibrant natural landscapes or more traditional gardens, adding to your property's beautification. Specially adapted to the conditions of the local environment, they require less maintenance to thrive year-round. Unlike manicured lawns and ornamental plants, after their first season, native species require less regular watering, fertilizing, or pruning. In some cases, native plants are also naturally resistant to pests. Their low-maintenance nature will save you time, money, and resources.

Improving Water Quality

The reduced need for fertilizers and pesticides when gardening with native plants leads to an improvement in the quality of water that flows into our watersheds and through our communities. Eliminating the use of chemicals on our properties lessens the amount of toxins that enter our waterways, posing direct threats to both humans and wildlife. Utilizing native plants' deep roots can also lead to a reduction of runoff and erosion, resulting in water quality improvements.



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PATRICK FITZGERALD

Managing Stormwater and Reducing Flooding

Many native plants have more extensive root systems than their non-native ornamental counterparts, allowing them to retain water for longer periods of time. Consequently, native plants can help to slow the flow of stormwater runoff, reducing the risk of flooding.

Enhancing Resilience

Natural systems can provide ecosystem services to mitigate certain threats of climate change, such as erosion, flooding, and pollution. Promoting the health of environments and people hand in hand. Intentional use of native plants in our gardens and community landscapes can strengthen the resilience of communities overall.



PLANT WITH A PURPOSE!

Find Native Plants in Your Region at: www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife
Click on "Native Plants"