

What is a Native Plant?

Native plants co-evolved with other local organisms. Natives sustain an interactive food web for insects, birds and other wildlife.

Benefits of Native Plants

Beauty

The flowers, fruits, seeds and autumn foliage add beauty to our landscapes.

Wildlife

By providing food, nesting areas and shelter from predators, native plants are vital to birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife.

Savings

Using natives means less maintenance. Already adapted to our region's weather, soil and water cycles, there is no need for fertilizers and pesticides.

ForeSight

By not using fertilizers and pesticides, we keep chemicals out of our water and soil. Trees like oaks and maples help to sequester carbon dioxide. Natives help to preserve our natural heritage for future generations.

What can YOU do?

When homeowners plant natives, they begin the restoration process. Instead of barren lawn (which offers no value to wildlife), think about planting a bush with berries, a perennial with nectar, a tree that will offer shelter and nesting areas. Imagine your yard connected with your neighbor's yard, and they with their neighbors, and so on and so on. Together we could create contiguous habitat—one backyard at a time!

Sense of Place

Planting natives reinforces our sense of place. We recognize place as a certain set of aesthetics—the plants, birds, insects and animals that are our "local residents." The cornerstone of this sense of place begins with what vegetation we choose. By providing historically-correct native plants we begin to move toward a fully functioning ecosystem.

Having respect for the land and the creatures that belong here deepens our regional understanding. The particular ecology of our plants and animals is what makes Bucks County unique. This is our part of the world.

Why go Native?



Native plants have direct value to the insects, birds, pollinators and other wildlife of our area. Loss of habitat due to development is a significant cause of reduced populations. You can think of the interplay of native flora and fauna as an orchestra. Each member plays a part, creating a glorious symphony. Any part that is missing diminishes the whole.

To paraphrase the author Paul Ehrlich, removing native species from our ecosystem is like taking the rivets out of an airplane wing—at some point, the whole thing crashes. What would bring it all down? It is impossible to know until the catastrophe happens.

RESOURCES

Native Plant Demonstration Garden
Central Park, 425 Wells Road, Doylestown Township

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve
1635 River Road, New Hope, PA 18938

Mt. Cuba Center
3120 Barley Mill Rd., Hockessin, DE 19707

REFERENCES

Bringing Nature Home
by Doug Tallamy

Natives: Alternatives to Invasive Plants
Brooklyn Botanical Gardens

Department of Conservation
& Natural Resources
dcnr.pa.gov

Missouri Plant Finder
missouribotanicalgarden.org

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
wildflower.org

Pennsylvania Native Plant Society
panativeplantsociety.org

FUN FACTS ABOUT NATIVES!

- 96% of North American birds feed caterpillars to their young. Black-capped Chickadees, for example, require 6000 caterpillars for just one brood.
- Great-horned Owls love to roost in White Pine trees.
- Goldfinches relish the seeds of the Purple Coneflower.
- The Monarch Butterfly relies on specific host plants: Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed or Butterfly Weed. Without these Milkweeds, there are no Monarchs. Not just any plant will do!
- Little Bluestem, an ornamental grass, has roots that can reach down five to six feet. This helps to recharge groundwater aquifers.
- The Scarlet Tanager needs 500 contiguous acres to nest successfully.
- Coneflowers, Butterfly Weed and Joe Pye Weed attract Swallowtail Butterflies. Swallowtails are unique among butterflies in that they flap their wings while they nectar.
- The Ruby-throated Hummingbird uses spider silk to bind her nest of moss, lichen, bits of bark and plant fluff.
- It takes about 556 worker bees to gather one pound of honey from about two million flowers.

Native Plants Four SEASONS

A HOMEOWNERS GUIDE
"Garden as if life depends on it."
Doug Tallamy



Four Seasons of Native Plants



Drought Tolerant



Attracts Pollinators

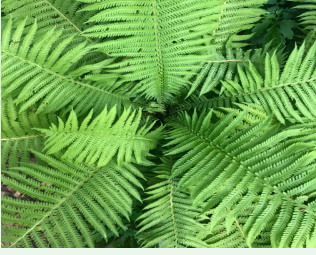


Deer Resistant



Rabbit Resistant

FERNS



Ostrich Fern
Matteuccia struthiopteris
H. 36-72", W. 60-84"
Spreads to form a colony
Part to full sun
Use in shady rain garden
Medium to wet soil



Sensitive Fern
Onoclea sensibilis
H. 36-48", W. 36-48"
Spreads to form a colony
Full sun to shade
Good in a rain garden
Wet to moist soil



Christmas Fern
Polystichum acrostichoides
H. 12-24", W. 12-24"
Evergreen, clumping
Full to part shade
Dry to medium soil

FLOWERING PERENNIALS



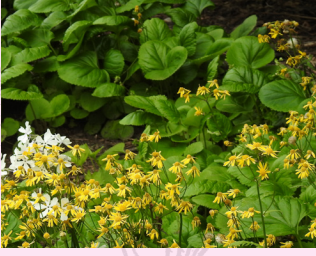
Foam Flower
Tiarella cordifolia
H. 9-12", W. 12-18"
Blooms pink or white, May
Part to full shade
Early season nectar source



Butterfly Weed
Asclepias tuberosa
H. 12-18", W. 12-18"
Blooms yellow/orange
June to August
Dry to medium soil
Full sun



Goldenrod
Solidago speciosa
H. 24-36", W. 24-36"
Blooms yellow
July to Sept.
Dry to medium soil
Full sun



Golden Ragwort
Packera aurea
H. 6-30", W. 6-12"
Blooms golden, April
Full sun to part shade
Medium to wet soil
Good ground cover



Purple Coneflower
Echinacea purpurea
H. 24-60", W. 18-24"
Blooms pink/purple
June to August
Full sun to part shade
Medium to dry soil



New England Aster
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae
H. 36-60", W. 24-36"
Blooms deep pink/purple
August to September
Full sun



Blue Star
Amsonia tabernaemontana
H. 2-3', W. 2-3'
Blooms powdery blue
April to May
Full sun to part shade
Medium soil



Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta
H. 24-36", W. 12-24"
Blooms yellow
June to September
Full Sun
Dry to Medium soil



Joe Pye Weed
Eutrochium purpureum
H. 60-84", W. 24-48"
Blooms mauve pink
July to September
Medium soil
Full sun to part shade



Wild Geranium
Geranium maculatum
H. 18-24", W. 12-18"
Blooms pink, lilac
May to June
Full sun to part shade
Medium to dry soil



Blue Mist Flower
Conoclinium coelestinum
H. 18-36", W. 18-36"
Blooms blue
August to September
Full sun to part shade
Medium soil



Turtlehead
Chelone glabra
H. 24-36", W. 18-30"
Blooms white
August to October
Part shade
Medium to wet soil

GRASSES & VINES



Little Bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium
H. 24-48", W. 18-24"
Ornamental grass
Fall color/winter interest
Full sun
Dry soil



Indian Grass
Sorghastrum nutans
H. 26-60", W. 12-24"
Ornamental grass
Brilliant fall color
Full sun
Dry to medium soil



Coral Honeysuckle
Lonicera sempervirens
Flowering vine up to 15'
Blooms coral, May to Oct.
Attracts hummingbirds
Full sun to part shade
Medium soil

TREES



Sweet Bay Magnolia
Magnolia virginiana
H. 10-35', W. 10-35'
Blooms white
May to June
Full sun to part shade
Moist to well drained soil



White Pine
Pinus strobus
H. 50-80', W. 50-80'
Important habitat tree
Full sun
Well drained soil



Tulip Poplar
Liriodendron tulipifera
H. 60-90', W. 30-50'
Blooms yellow, May to June
Fast growing
Full sun to park shade
Moist to well drained soil



Flowering Dogwood
Cornus florida
H. 15-30', W. 15-30'
Blooms white, April to May
Fall berries and color
Full sun to part shade
Well-drained soil



White Oak
Quercus alba
H. 50-80', W. 20-40'
Important habitat tree
Full sun
Well-drained soil



Eastern Red Cedar
Juniperus virginiana
H. 30-65', W. 8-25'
Attractive berries
Dry to moist
Well-drained soil
Full Sun



American Red Maple
Acer rubrum
H. 40-70', W. 30-50'
Great fall color
Full sun to part shade
Wet to moist soil



Black Gum
Nyssa sylvatica
H. 30-50', W. 20-30'
Blooms white, April to May
Slow growing, fall color
Full sun to part shade
Moist soil

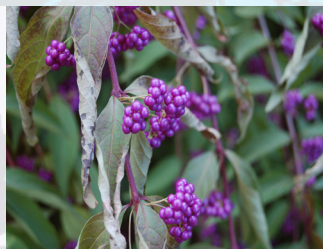


River Birch
Betula nigra
H. 40-70', W. 40-60'
Attractive peeling bark
Graceful form
Full sun to part shade
Wet to moist soils

SHRUBS



Common Witch Hazel
Hamamelis virginiana
H. 20-30', W. 20-25'
Blooms yellow, Oct. to Dec.
Full sun to part shade
Winter interest, birds
Tolerates deer and clay



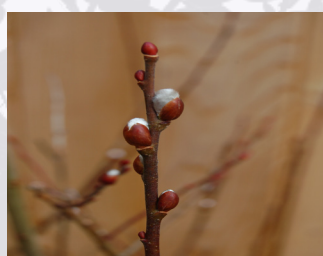
Beautyberry
Callicarpa americana
H. 3-6', W. 3-6'
Purple berries in fall
Attracts birds
Full sun to part shade
Moist clay or sandy soil



Buttonbush
Cephalanthus occidentalis
H. 5-12', W. 4-8'
Blooms white, June to Sept.
Showy fragrant flowers
Full sun to part shade
Moist to wet soil



Red-twig Dogwood
Cornus sericea
H. 7-9', W. 10'
Showy bright red twigs
Winter interest
Full sun to part shade
Wet soil



Pussywillow
Salix discolor
H. 6-15', W. 4-12'
Showy catkins
March to April
Full sun to part shade
Wet, well-drained soil



Winterberry
Ilex verticillata
H. 3-12', W. 3-12'
Showy red berries
Fall to winter
Sun to part shade
Wet to moist soils