



NORTH AMERICAN  
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

*Dedicated to the study,  
conservation, cultivation,  
and restoration  
of North America's  
native flora*

## The W5 of Native Plant Gardening

**WHO are native plant gardeners?** We are people of all ages and walks of life who are trying to create the biodiversity necessary for a healthy environment in our cities, suburbs and countryside. We love gardening, we respect the needs of the birds and insects that pollinate our plants and we have discovered how rewarding it is to grow native plants successfully.

**WHAT are native plants?** They are the wildflowers, grasses, ferns, vines, shrubs and trees that were growing here before European settlers arrived, bringing seeds from 'home'. Native plants are the plants our native birds, bees and other pollinators generally prefer. The ones that 'fit' in our local ecosystem. If you would like to grow some in your own garden, start with something simple like bee balm, black-eyed Susan, butterfly milkweed, evening primrose, prairie smoke, wild geranium or one of the wild roses. These will grow almost anywhere except in full shade.

For shady areas, try Virginia bluebells, Dutchman's breeches, false Solomon's seal, foamflower, mayapple and wild ginger. Native ferns and sedges are great too.

Small native trees for city gardens include Canada plum, pin cherry and pagoda (or alternate-leaf) dogwood. Shrubs include red osier dogwood, nannyberry and serviceberry.

### **WHERE can I plant them?**

- In any garden, even among your non-natives
- Dig up some lawn and create a new native plant bed
- Look for an unused corner that needs brightening
- At the cottage
- In containers on your balcony or patio

**WHEN should I plant them?** You can plant many natives as soon as the soil can be worked easily, then continue all summer and fall. Be sure to water your transplants regularly until they adapt to their new surroundings. This should take about one growing season.

### **WHY should I grow native plants?**

- To provide food, shelter and pollen for our native birds, bees, butterflies, etc.
- Because they are easy to grow and seldom need watering, pruning or spraying
- To reconnect yourself to nature
- And, because they are so beautiful!

## Sources of Information

### Books:

*Grow Wild! Native Plant Gardening in Canada* by Lorraine Johnson  
*Newcomb's Wildflower Guide* by Lawrence Newcomb  
*The ROM Field Guide to Wildflowers of Ontario* by R. Dickinson, T. Dickinson & D. Metsger  
*Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas W. Tallamy  
*Trees in Canada* by John Laird Farrar  
*The American Woodland Garden* by Rick Darke  
*Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants* by C. Colston Burrell

### Websites:

[www.nanps.org](http://www.nanps.org)  
[www.natureserve.org](http://www.natureserve.org)

[www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)  
[www.ontariowildflowers.com](http://www.ontariowildflowers.com)

[www.trentu.ca/org/fbo](http://www.trentu.ca/org/fbo)  
[www.ontariotrees.com](http://www.ontariotrees.com)

### Ontario Plant Sources:

The North American Native Plant Society (NANPS) holds Canada's largest one-day native plant sale each May and accepts advance orders from members. Go to [www.nanps.org](http://www.nanps.org) for details.

Suppliers of locally sourced native plants:

Ephemeral Ark Nursery, Port Perry, [www.ephemeralark.ca](http://www.ephemeralark.ca)  
Evergreen Brick Works, Toronto, 416-596-0404 or <http://ebw.evergreen.ca>  
ForFaraz, Mulmur, 647-500-1762 or [www.forfaraz.com](http://www.forfaraz.com)  
Fuller Native & Rare Plants, Belleville, 613-968-4643 or [www.fullerplants.com](http://www.fullerplants.com)  
Grand Moraine Growers, Alma, 519-638-1101 or [www.grandmorainegrowers.ca](http://www.grandmorainegrowers.ca)  
Green Side Up, Omemee, 705-799-2610 or 289-892-2827 or [www.greenservices.ca](http://www.greenservices.ca)  
GreenUp Ecology Park, Peterborough, <http://www.greenup.on.ca/ecology-park/garden-market/>  
Grow Wild! Native Plant Nursery, Omemee, 705-799-2619 or [www.grow-wild.com](http://www.grow-wild.com)  
Hidden Habitat, Kilworthy, 705-828-6313 or [www.hiddenhabitat.ca](http://www.hiddenhabitat.ca)  
Inglis Falls Native Plant Nursery, Owen Sound, 519-371-4559 or [www.greysauble.on.ca](http://www.greysauble.on.ca)  
Native Plant Nurseries, Pefferlaw & Tottenham, 416-999-7654 or [www.nativeplantnurseries.ca](http://www.nativeplantnurseries.ca)  
Native Plant Source, Breslau, 519-748-2298 or [www.nativeplantsource.com](http://www.nativeplantsource.com)  
Native Plants in Claremont, North Pickering, 905-649-8176 or [www.nativeplants.ca](http://www.nativeplants.ca)  
Natural Themes, Frankford, 613-398-7971 or [www.naturalthemes.com](http://www.naturalthemes.com)  
Nith River Native Plants, New Hamburg, 519-831-0953 or [www.nithriverplants.com](http://www.nithriverplants.com)  
Northern Wildflowers, Whitefish, 705-618-4797 or [www.northerwildflowers.ca](http://www.northerwildflowers.ca)  
Not So Hollow Farm, Mulmur, 705-466-6290 or [www.notsohollowfarm.ca](http://www.notsohollowfarm.ca)  
Ontario Flora, Melancthon, 416-964-0201 or [www.ontarioflora.ca](http://www.ontarioflora.ca)  
Ontario Native Plants, [www.onplants.ca](http://www.onplants.ca)  
Sassafras Farms, Port Robinson, 905-658-8907 or [www.sassafrasfarms.ca](http://www.sassafrasfarms.ca)  
St. Williams Nursery & Ecology Centre, St. Williams, 1-866-640-8733 or [www.stwilliamsnursery.com](http://www.stwilliamsnursery.com)  
Tin Roof Rusted Farm & Plant Nursery, Mount Forest, 519-261-0330 or [www.tinroofrustedfarm.com](http://www.tinroofrustedfarm.com)

Please, NEVER dig native plants from the wild  
We need them all growing where they are

**GROW NATIVE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

[www.nanps.org](http://www.nanps.org) or [info@nanps.org](mailto:info@nanps.org) for more information