



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:

nanps.org wildflower.org/plants-main fieldbotanistsofontario.com
explorer.natureserve.org ontariowildflowers.com 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 nanps.org for details.

Suppliers of locally sourced native plants:

Beaux Arbres, Bristol, Quebec (in the Ottawa valley) 819-647-2404, or www.beauxarbres.ca
Bee Sweet, Puslinch, 519-763-0370 or www.facebook.com/beesweetnature
Ephemeral Ark Nursery, Port Perry, www.ephemeralark.ca
Ferguson Tree Nursery, Kemptville, 613-258-0110 or www.fergusontreenursery.ca
ForFaraz, Mulmur, 647-500-1762 or www.forfaraz.com
Green Side Up, Omemee, 289-892-2827 or www.greenservices.ca/nativeplant
GreenUp Ecology Park, Peterborough, www.greenup.on.ca/ecology-park/garden-market/
Grow Wild! Native Plant Nursery, Omemee, www.grow-wild.com
Hidden Habitat, Kilworthy, 705-828-6313 or www.hiddenhabitat.ca
In Our Nature, Mono & Orangeville ON, 519-216-2645 or www.inournature.ca
Inglis Falls Native Plant Nursery, Owen Sound, 519-371-4559 or www.greysauble.on.ca
Native Plant Nurseries, Pefferlaw & Tottenham, 416-999-7654 or www.nativeplantnurseries.ca
Native Plant Source, Breslau, 519-240-4159 or www.nativeplantsource.com
Native Plants in Claremont, North Pickering, 416-888-3363 or www.nativeplants.ca
Natural Themes, Frankford, 613-398-7971 or www.naturalthemes.com
Northern Wildflowers, Whitefish, 705-618-4797 or www.northernwildflowers.ca
Not So Hollow Farm, Mulmur, 705-627-8004 or www.notsohollowfarm.ca
Ontario Flora, Melancthon, 519-387-7668 or www.ontarioflora.ca
Ontario Native Plants, www.onplants.ca
Origin Native Plants, 519-760-0055 or www.originnativeplants.com
Sassafras Farms, Port Robinson, www.sassafrasfarms.ca
Toronto Plant Market, Toronto, 416-535-5565 or www.facebook.com/torontoplantmarket
Wildlife Gardening, Ingersoll, 519-523-3818 or www.wildlifegardening.ca

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 or info@nanps.org for more information