

USDA Forest Service Celebrating Wildflowers

Native Gardening

Gardening with WILDFLOWERS



Why Garden with Native Wildflowers?

Native plants are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions where they naturally occur. These important plant species provide nectar, pollen, and seeds that serve as food for native butterflies, insects, birds and other animals. Unlike natives, common horticultural plants do not provide energetic rewards for their visitors and often require insect pest control to survive.

Native plants are also advantageous, because:

- **Native plants do not require fertilizers and require fewer pesticides than lawns.**
- **Native plants require less water than lawns and help prevent erosion.**
The deep root systems of many native Midwestern plants increase the soil's capacity to store water. Native plants can significantly reduce water runoff and, consequently, flooding.
- **Native plants help reduce air pollution.**
Native plantscapes do not require mowing. Excessive carbon from the burning of fossil fuels contributes to global warming. Native plants sequester, or remove, carbon from the air.
- **Native plants provide shelter and food for wildlife.**
- **Native plants promote biodiversity and stewardship of our natural heritage.**
- **Native plants are beautiful and increase scenic values!**



Photos by Kim Pierson.

To learn more about Native Plant Gardening, explore the links below or [contact your local Native Plant Society!](#)

Plant Hardiness Zones

→ [Choose the Proper Hardiness Zone for Your Area](#)

Create Your Garden

→ [Basic Instructions for Restoration and Native Landscaping](#)

Going Native!

→ [Wildflower Ethics](#)

→ [Great Native Plant Alternatives](#)

→ [Genetic Considerations](#)

→ [Landscaping for Wildlife](#)

Gardening for Pollinators

- [Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden](#)
- [How to Make Butterfly Gardens](#) - available from the University of Kentucky Entomology Department's website.
- [Home-Made Sweet Homes - Building Native Bee Nesting Blocks](#)
- [Hummingbird Feeders \(PDF\)](#)
- [North American Pollinator Protection Campaign](#)
- [Monarch Watch](#)
- [The Monarch Butterfly](#)



Photo by Kim Pierson.

Preventing and Eradicating Weeds

- [No-No Plants!](#)
- [Invasive Plants](#)

Other Resources and Links

- [Linking Ecology & Horticulture to Prevent Plant Invasions: Codes of Conduct](#) - *"The voluntary codes offer professional codes of conduct designed to curb the use and distribution of invasive plant species through self-governance and self-regulation by the groups concerned."*
- [The Natural Landscaping Alternative: An Annotated Slide Collection \(PDF\)](#) - provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- [Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes - Landscaping with Native Plants \(PDF\)](#) - also available from the [Wild Ones web page](#) on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website.



Location: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/nativegardening/index.shtml>

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