



Together, we can make the
world a better place...one
native plant at a time!



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WHY PLANT NATIVES?

Bringing Nature Into
Your Own Backyard

WHY NATIVES?

They Grew Up Here

Native plants are species that existed here without human introduction. They are accustomed to our local climate and weather patterns. Many are hardy and easy to establish in the landscape.

Deep Roots

The deep root systems of some natives can help protect our soil and prevent or mitigate flooding. This also means they may need little to no supplemental watering once those roots are established. A win for water conservation!

Un-BEE-lievably Beneficial

Many ornamental flowers at garden centers are exotics or cultivars. Pollinators are attracted to them, but may not find any pollen/nectar within the flower. In the case of double-flowering hybrids, pollinators can struggle to access the food. Native flowers are perfectly adapted to feed bees and butterflies.

Host With The Most

Natives host the most caterpillars! Busy bird parents can feed their young with less effort when native host plants are nearby. Berries also provide the perfect nutrients for migratory birds, unlike nutritionally deficient berries from non-natives. Seeds can feed over-wintering songbirds.

More Than Just A Pretty Face

There are hundreds of plants indigenous to your state. Choosing the right plant for the right place in your landscape can not only add curb appeal, but also attract beautiful wildlife visitors. Bring nature into your own backyard by planting natives!

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DID YOU KNOW?

Many butterflies rely on specific host plants to ensure the survival of their species. For example, Monarch butterflies will exclusively lay their eggs on milkweed. This is because their larvae (caterpillars) can only consume the leaves of this important native plant! Today, Monarch populations are dwindling. How can you help?

Plant Milkweed!

NATIVE PLANT FEATURE

COMMON MILKWEED *ASCLEPIAS SYRIACA*

SPRING

This milkweed spreads by rhizomes to form large colonies. It is easily grown from seed in average, well-draining soil. Thrives in full sun. Tolerates dry conditions.

SUMMER

Pink flowers bloom on 2'-3' stems from June-August. Butterflies lay their eggs on the undersides of leaves. Striped caterpillars hatch and then eat the leaves! They go through five instars (stages) and then form a gold-accented chrysalis. Finally, they metamorphose into beautiful black and orange butterflies.

FALL

Large oblong seed pods form where flowers used to be. Seeds are dispersed on the wind and eaten by wildlife.

WINTER

Even during dormancy when nothing is visible above the soil, a very deep taproot is hidden underground.

