

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 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, Spicebush Swallowtail butterflies will exclusively lay their eggs on Northern Spicebush or Sassafras. This is because their larvae (caterpillars) can only consume the leaves of plants in the Lauraceae family!

Plant Natives!



NATIVE PLANT FEATURE

NORTHERN SPICEBUSH
LINDERA BENZOIN



SPRING

Yellow flower clusters form on the branches. They bloom in March providing early food for solitary native bees.

SUMMER

Butterflies lay their eggs on the citrus-scented leaves. Caterpillars hatch and then eat the leaves. They resemble bird poop in their early stages, which protects them from predators. As they grow, they change colors from green to orange! Eventually, they form a chrysalis.

FALL

Twenty-four bird species eat the fruit that has a fat content of 34%. This is very beneficial to migratory species! It's also a treat for mammals. People often collect the berries to grind up & use in place of allspice.

WINTER

The branches provide shelter and cover for wildlife.