

WHY CHOOSE NATIVES?

They Grew Up Here

These plants existed here without human introduction. They are adapted 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 protect our soil and mitigate flooding. When planted in the right place, they do not need supplemental watering once their roots are established. A win for water conservation!

Un-BEE-lievably Beneficial

Most flowers at garden centers are exotics or cultivars. Pollinators are attracted to them, but may not find pollen/nectar within the flower. Native plants are perfectly suited to feed bees, butterflies, and pollinator specialists.

Host With The Most

Natives host the most caterpillars! Busy bird parents can feed their young with less effort when these host plants are near. Native berries provide the ideal nutrients for migratory birds and 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 not only adds curb appeal, but can also attract interesting wildlife visitors!

Arcadia NATIVES

2273 S. Main St. Ext.
Washington, PA 15301
724.986.0907
arcadianatives@gmail.com
www.arcadianatives.com

DID YOU KNOW?



Many butterflies and moths rely on certain host plants to ensure the survival of their species. This is because their larvae (caterpillars) are uniquely adapted to consume the leaves of a very specific plant or plant family! They do not recognize exotic ornamentals as a food source.  **No food for caterpillars means the loss of our butterflies, moths, and birds!**



PESTICIDE FREE ZONE

Insects provide essential food for birds and other wildlife as part of a balanced, intricate food web. Instead of reaching for pesticides at the first sign of leaf damage, consider grabbing your magnifying glass and observe what visitors are frequenting your landscape!

Garden with Native Plants

5

TIPS FOR
ESTABLISHING
YOUR NEW
PLANT IN THE
LANDSCAPE



THERE'S NO RUSH

1

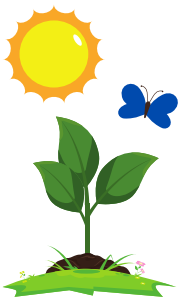
Your new seedling/plant may be very small. If so, it won't hurt to leave the plant in the pot for another week or two. Just be sure to check soil moisture daily. Keep moist, not wet.



CHOOSE A LOCATION

2

Observe lighting conditions before planting. For instance, forcing a shade-lover to grow in a spot that receives too much sun can do more harm than good. The area should be free of weeds as they can quickly overwhelm a young plant.



OUT OF THE POT

3

Water the plant before removing it from the container. Carefully tip and squeeze the pot/cone to free the contents. Avoid pulling the plant out by its stem! Untangle tightly bound roots, but keep the rootball intact.



INTO THE LANDSCAPE

4

Plant your seedling at the same depth it was in the pot. Burying the stem can lead to rot. Backfill with soil, firming just enough to keep the plant in place. Water thoroughly to settle the dirt around the roots.



TIME TO GROW

5

Fertilizer is not necessary. Water as needed until roots are established. Over the next few growing seasons you can expect your plant to "sleep, creep, then leap"!



BRINGING NATURE INTO YOUR OWN BACKYARD



WANT FREE PLANTS?

Many native flowers are mature enough to set seed in 1-3 years. They can freely reseed themselves in the landscape! Be wary of using bagged/dyed mulches as they may have chemical inhibitors that won't allow seeds to germinate. Instead, apply a thin layer of natural mulch like leaves, pine needles, or fresh wood chips around your plants to give seeds a chance!



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