

# What is a Native Plant?

Native plants co-evolved with other local organisms. Natives sustain an interactive food web for insects, birds and other wildlife.

## Benefits of Native Plants

### Beauty

The flowers, fruits, seeds and autumn foliage add beauty to our landscapes.

### Wildlife

By providing food, nesting areas and shelter from predators, native plants are vital to birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife.

### Savings

Using natives means less maintenance. Already adapted to our region's weather, soil and water cycles, there is no need for fertilizers and pesticides.

### ForeSight

By not using fertilizers and pesticides, we keep chemicals out of our water and soil. Trees like oaks and maples help to sequester carbon dioxide. Natives help to preserve our natural heritage for future generations.

# What can YOU do?

When homeowners plant natives, they begin the restoration process. Instead of barren lawn (which offers no value to wildlife), think about planting a bush with berries, a perennial with nectar, a tree that will offer shelter and nesting areas. Imagine your yard connected with your neighbor's yard, and they with their neighbors, and so on and so on. Together we could create contiguous habitat—one backyard at a time!

## Sense of Place

Planting natives reinforces our sense of place. We recognize place as a certain set of aesthetics—the plants, birds, insects and animals that are our "local residents." The cornerstone of this sense of place begins with what vegetation we choose. By providing historically-correct native plants we begin to move toward a fully functioning ecosystem.

Having respect for the land and the creatures that belong here deepens our regional understanding. The particular ecology of our plants and animals is what makes Bucks County unique. This is our part of the world.

## Why go Native?



Native plants have direct value to the insects, birds, pollinators and other wildlife of our area. Loss of habitat due to development is a significant cause of reduced populations. You can think of the interplay of native flora and fauna as an orchestra. Each member plays a part, creating a glorious symphony. Any part that is missing diminishes the whole.

To paraphrase the author Paul Ehrlich, removing native species from our ecosystem is like taking the rivets out of an airplane wing—at some point, the whole thing crashes. What would bring it all down? It is impossible to know until the catastrophe happens.

## RESOURCES

Native Plant Demonstration Garden  
*Central Park, 425 Wells Road, Doylestown Township*

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve  
*1635 River Road, New Hope, PA 18938*

Mt. Cuba Center  
*3120 Barley Mill Rd., Hockessin, DE 19707*

## REFERENCES

Bringing Nature Home  
by Doug Tallamy

Natives: Alternatives to Invasive Plants  
*Brooklyn Botanical Gardens*

Department of Conservation  
& Natural Resources  
*dcnr.pa.gov*

Missouri Plant Finder  
*missouribotanicalgarden.org*

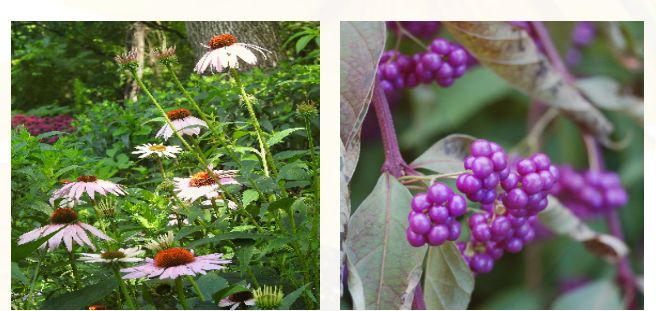
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
*wildflower.org*

Pennsylvania Native Plant Society  
*panativeplantsociety.org*

# Native Plants Four SEASONS

## A HOMEOWNERS GUIDE

“Garden as if life depends on it.”  
Doug Tallamy



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## FUN FACTS ABOUT NATIVES!

- 96% of North American birds feed caterpillars to their young. Black-capped Chickadees, for example, require 6000 caterpillars for just one brood.
- Great-horned Owls love to roost in White Pine trees.
- Goldfinches relish the seeds of the Purple Coneflower.
- The Monarch Butterfly relies on specific host plants: Common Milkweed, Swamp Milkweed or Butterfly Weed. Without these Milkweeds, there are no Monarchs. Not just any plant will do!
- Little Bluestem, an ornamental grass, has roots that can reach down five to six feet. This helps to recharge groundwater aquifers.
- The Scarlet Tanager needs 500 contiguous acres to nest successfully.
- Coneflowers, Butterfly Weed and Joe Pye Weed attract Swallowtail Butterflies. Swallowtails are unique among butterflies in that they flap their wings while they nectar.
- The Ruby-throated Hummingbird uses spider silk to bind her nest of moss, lichen, bits of bark and plant fluff.
- It takes about 556 worker bees to gather one pound of honey from about two million flowers.

# Four Seasons of Native Plants



Drought Tolerant



Attracts Pollinators



Deer Resistant



Rabbit Resistant

## FERNS



**Ostrich Fern**  
*Matteuccia struthiopteris*  
H. 36-72", W. 60-84"  
Spreads to form a colony  
Part to full sun  
Use in shady rain garden  
Medium to wet soil



**Sensitive Fern**  
*Onoclea sensibilis*  
H. 36-48", W. 36-48"  
Spreads to form a colony  
Full sun to shade  
Good in a rain garden  
Wet to moist soil



**Christmas Fern**  
*Polystichum acrostichoides*  
H. 12-24", W. 12-24"  
Evergreen, clumping  
Full to part shade  
Dry to medium soil

## FLOWERING PERENNIALS



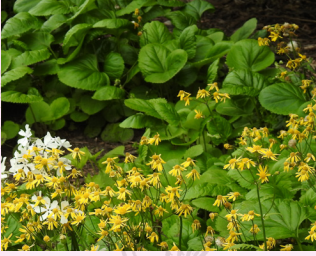
**Foam Flower**  
*Tiarella cordifolia*  
H. 9-12", W. 12-18"  
Blooms pink or white, May  
Part to full shade  
Early season nectar source



**Butterfly Weed**  
*Asclepias tuberosa*  
H. 12-18", W. 12-18"  
Blooms yellow/orange  
June to August  
Dry to medium soil  
Full sun



**Goldenrod**  
*Solidago speciosa*  
H. 24-36", W. 24-36"  
Blooms yellow  
July to Sept.  
Dry to medium soil  
Full sun



**Golden Ragwort**  
*Packera aurea*  
H. 6-30", W. 6-12"  
Blooms golden, April  
Full sun to part shade  
Medium to wet soil  
Good ground cover



**Purple Coneflower**  
*Echinacea purpurea*  
H. 24-60", W. 18-24"  
Blooms pink/purple  
June to August  
Full sun to part shade  
Medium to dry soil



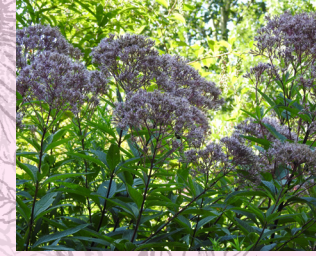
**New England Aster**  
*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*  
H. 36-60", W. 24-36"  
Blooms deep pink/purple  
August to September  
Full sun



**Blue Star**  
*Amsonia tabernaemontana*  
H. 2-3', W. 2-3'  
Blooms powdery blue  
April to May  
Full sun to part shade  
Medium soil



**Black-eyed Susan**  
*Rudbeckia hirta*  
H. 24-36", W. 12-24"  
Blooms yellow  
June to September  
Full Sun  
Dry to Medium soil



**Joe Pye Weed**  
*Eutrochium purpureum*  
H. 60-84", W. 24-48"  
Blooms mauve pink  
July to September  
Medium soil  
Full sun to part shade



**Wild Geranium**  
*Geranium maculatum*  
H. 18-24", W. 12-18"  
Blooms pink, lilac  
May to June  
Full sun to part shade  
Medium to dry soil



**Blue Mist Flower**  
*Conoclinium coelestinum*  
H. 18-36", W. 18-36"  
Blooms blue  
August to September  
Full sun to part shade  
Medium soil



**Turtlehead**  
*Chelone glabra*  
H. 24-36", W. 18-30"  
Blooms white  
August to October  
Part shade  
Medium to wet soil

## GRASSES & VINES



**Little Bluestem**  
*Schizachyrium scoparium*  
H. 24-48", W. 18-24"  
Ornamental grass  
Fall color/winter interest  
Full sun  
Dry soil



**Indian Grass**  
*Sorghastrum nutans*  
H. 26-60", W. 12-24"  
Ornamental grass  
Brilliant fall color  
Full sun  
Dry to medium soil



**Coral Honeysuckle**  
*Lonicera sempervirens*  
Flowering vine up to 15'  
Blooms coral, May to Oct.  
Attracts hummingbirds  
Full sun to part shade  
Medium soil

## TREES



**Sweet Bay Magnolia**  
*Magnolia virginiana*  
H. 10-35', W. 10-35'  
Blooms white  
May to June  
Full sun to part shade  
Moist to well drained soil



**White Pine**  
*Pinus strobus*  
H. 50-80', W. 50-80'  
Important habitat tree  
Full sun  
Well drained soil



**Tulip Poplar**  
*Liriodendron tulipifera*  
H. 60-90', W. 30-50'  
Blooms yellow, May to June  
Fast growing  
Full sun to part shade  
Moist to well drained soil



**Flowering Dogwood**  
*Cornus florida*  
H. 15-30', W. 15-30'  
Blooms white, April to May  
Fall berries and color  
Full sun to part shade  
Well-drained soil



**White Oak**  
*Quercus alba*  
H. 50-80', W. 20-40'  
Important habitat tree  
Full sun  
Well-drained soil



**Eastern Red Cedar**  
*Juniperus virginiana*  
H. 30-65', W. 8-25'  
Attractive berries  
Dry to moist  
Well-drained soil  
Full Sun



**American Red Maple**  
*Acer rubrum*  
H. 40-70', W. 30-50'  
Great fall color  
Full sun to part shade  
Wet to moist soil



**Black Gum**  
*Nyssa sylvatica*  
H. 30-50', W. 20-30'  
Blooms white, April to May  
Slow growing, fall color  
Full sun to part shade  
Moist soil

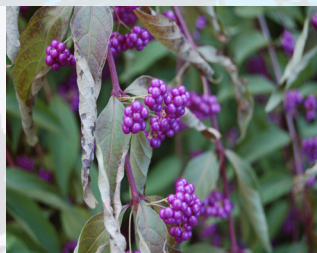


**River Birch**  
*Betula nigra*  
H. 40-70', W. 40-60'  
Attractive peeling bark  
Graceful form  
Full sun to part shade  
Wet to moist soils

## SHRUBS



**Common Witch Hazel**  
*Hamamelis virginiana*  
H. 20-30', W. 20-25'  
Blooms yellow, Oct. to Dec.  
Full sun to part shade  
Winter interest, birds  
Tolerates deer and clay



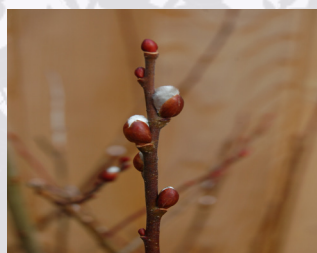
**Beautyberry**  
*Callicarpa americana*  
H. 3-6', W. 3-6'  
Purple berries in fall  
Attracts birds  
Full sun to part shade  
Moist clay or sandy soil



**Buttonbush**  
*Cephalanthus occidentalis*  
H. 5-12', W. 4-8'  
Blooms white, June to Sept.  
Showy fragrant flowers  
Full sun to part shade  
Moist to wet soil



**Red-twig Dogwood**  
*Cornus sericea*  
H. 7-9', W. 10'  
Showy bright red twigs  
Winter interest  
Full sun to part shade  
Wet soil



**Pussywillow**  
*Salix discolor*  
H. 6-15', W. 4-12'  
Showy catkins  
March to April  
Full sun to part shade  
Wet, well-drained soil



**Winterberry**  
*Ilex verticillata*  
H. 3-12', W. 3-12'  
Showy red berries  
Fall to winter  
Sun to part shade  
Wet to moist soils