

Native Plants

What are Native Plants?

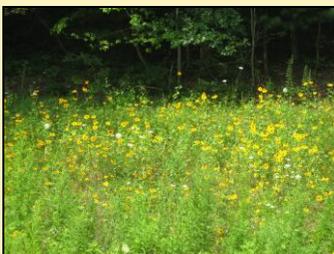


Plants that are best adapted to the local climate and once established, seldom need watering, mulching, protection from frost or continuous mowing.

Pennsylvania's native plants are those that were growing naturally in Pennsylvania prior to Europeans arriving. Pennsylvania has over 3,081 species of native trees, shrubs, flowers, and other forms of plants.

Pocono Environmental Education Center

The Pocono Environmental Education Center is located in northeastern Pennsylvania's Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Native wildflower gardens were constructed on the site to establish habitat for many species of birds and other wildlife. The gardens help serve to control erosion and water runoff issues.



Why Plant with Natives?

Because Native plants:

- Are an integral part of the larger biological community involving beneficial and pollinating insects, wildlife and ultimately, all of us.
- Offer food and shelter for many species all year long and are the foundation for a healthy, diverse habitat.
- Require less care and watering when established.
- Thrive with less fertilizer. (Most native plants will not need fertilizer once they are established. When fertilizers are used, they should be of the organic or "slow-release" varieties, should be used no more than once or twice a year, and should be used in as small a quantity as possible.)
- Provide carefree beauty that enhance any garden or landscape and create a special sense of place.
- Are naturally more resistant to diseases, pests, or physiological disorders in their home environment.
- Filter pollutants and preventing erosion when planted along waterways.



Engaging Children

Native plantings will give children a place to play where they can become aware of the world around them. Children can use their senses to discover the different smells, textures, and colors of plants. They will also be able to learn about the relationship insects, birds, and other types of wildlife have with plants.



Resources

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.
www.wildflower.org

Plant Native. www.plantnative.org

iConserve PA. Plant Natives.
<http://www.iconservepa.org/plantsmart/nativeplants/index.htm>

National Wildlife Federation.
<http://www.abnativeplants.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/home.why/index.htm>

Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association.
<http://www.plna.com/>

Native Plant Center- Chesapeake Region.
<http://www.nativeplantcenter.net/?q=database>

www.dcnr.state.pa.us

