Going Native



One benefit of native plants: wildlife.

The regular happy-go-lucky plant that will make your backyard bloom with health and vigor is most likely one of about 4,000 native plant species found throughout Virginia. Native plants in any particular area are those which arrived, established and survived without any human

assistance. Native species will tolerate the environment of a region: the soil, temperature and rainfall, and they have the added bonus of attracting local birds and butterflies.

If you are like most people, you want to maximize the enjoyment of your backyard — you want something attractive, low maintenance and a little bit different than the neighbor's yard.

Choosing the right native plant can be a challenge, especially because you will want to match the plant to the spot in your landscape that will be most accommodating. A local park could be the source of inspiration to match native plants to your backyard habitat. And with native plants you will likely:

- Reduce erosion
- Reduce runoff
- Reduce the spread of non-native species
- Maintain the integrity of local habitats
- Maintain or improve soil fertility
- · Increase birds and other wildlife.

As more and more native plants are becoming available from growers, planting native is easier than ever. Obtain your plants from reputable sources since sometimes native plants are stolen from the wild (including parkland), and in that case no one wins — these plants don't survive the shock of transplanting.

With a little work, you can transform your backyard into a haven for wildlife and insects and provide a beautiful, hardy, low maintenance landscape.



Care, Educate, Inspire

Stewardship is about working together to care for the environmental and cultural resources of Fairfax County. People become stewards for different reasons. They may want to help ensure clean water and air. They may wish to share something with their children. They may be inspired by spiritual beliefs. Whatever prompts our commitment, it is easy to take an active role in stewardship. It can be a small and simple thing, or it can be much bigger. Either way, it all adds up to a Fairfax County that looks to its past with pride and to its future with confidence.

You can learn more about Fairfax County
Stewardship, the Board of Supervisors'
20-year environmental vision and
the Fairfax County Park Authority at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/stewardship
or call 703-324-8674

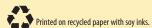




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If accommodations or alternative formats are needed, please call 703-324-8563. TTY 703-803-3354.



Fairfax County Stewardship



Native Backyard Plants

Fairfax County Stewardship

Native Backyard Plants

Eleven Backyard Habitats

The Shady Characters Spicebush is a pretty shrub with brilliant red berries in the fall. Scratch and sniff the bark to find out how it got its name.





The Good Neighbor Good fences make good neighbors, and native evergreens like American holly and **Virginia pine** make a hardy living fence.

The Tree Line

For the "no plant's land" between where the lawn ends and the trees start, the calico aster and other native asters offer a longflowering, 2-4 ft tall splash



of white, pale pink or light blue in the dappled shade.

If not you, who? Small things.

Plant a native plant. Reducing your home yardscape by just one invasive, non-native plant can have a tremendous positive effect on local forests and natural areas. Maybe the plants here weren't the ones for you, but there are many others. For more plant suggestions, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/stewardship.





The "I've Always Wanted a Fruit Tree" Two kids, a station wagon, white picket fence and a fruit tree...Try the native paw paw, a relatively compact tree with very

large leaves, for a source of native fruit for you and area wildlife.

The Utility Boxes

All azaleas are derived from native stock, and can withstand the windy conditions next to air conditioners, but the pinksterbloom azalea is



a plant that can also be found in local woodlands.



To avoid mucky, muddy shoes, plant a fern, like the 4-foot tall **cinnamon fern**, in areas you don't

want to walk anyway.

The Mud Pit

Sunny Dispositions Elderberry's attractive flowers and fruit are a major draw for wildlife. White flowers in late spring give way to purplish-black berries in



the fall that attract birds - and humans.



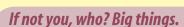
The Groundcover Color Everyone wants a groundcover, and foam flower's dense growth is a lot friendlier to the environment than an invasive species.

The Deergarden

Vines often have an ugly name but the trumpet **creeper**, a native hummingbird feeder, is

an attractive addition to

a home landscape as well as tolerant of deer munching.



Volunteer to remove invasive plants from your local **natural area**. Many local jurisdictions and non-profits have volunteer events where you can learn to help rid a natural area of its invasive weeds. See our calendar at https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/invasivemanagement-area