

NATIVE PLANTS FOR HOME GARDENS STORMWATER PLANNING DIVISION

Department of Public Works and Environmental Services Working for You!





Why Native Plants? - To Build Ecosystem Resiliency!



Why Native Plants?

NATURAL BEAUTY IN LIVING LANDSCAPE

- Excellent network of natural corridors through Fairfax County
- Existing Parks and undeveloped stream valleys boost our home garden habitats
- Healthy ecosystems are layered groundcover, shrubs, understory & canopy trees
- Provide resiliency for native species to adapt to changing environment

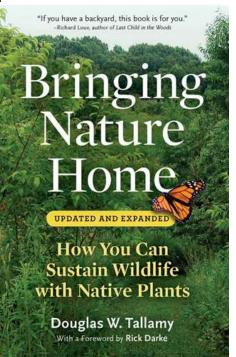
NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANTS: Junk Food for Wildlife

- Do not support native birds and insects like chickadees and monarchs.
- Invasive plants threaten native vegetation with aggressive growth patterns
- Dense mono-stands of ground-covers like ivy and pachysandra harbor NNI pests like Asian tiger mosquitos and rats.
- Cheap, yes but low functional value!









Why Native Plants?

DECLINING POLLINATORS - Your efforts can help pollinators!

- Native Perennials and Grasses provide year round food and habitat
- Mosquito control? Hint: they are breeding in the containers!
- Pesticides are not selective, can drift, and will kill native pollinators

LESS CHEMICAL INPUT - Lawn is Biggest Polluter in Suburbs

- Native plants attract native insects that are in balance with our ecosystem
- Native plants do not need soil supplements
- Healthy bird population will help control mosquitos
- Reduce lawn = reduce mowing and chemical additives









Problems You Could Solve with Native Plants

BARE GROUND

- Too wet flooding?
- Too steep erosion?
- Too shady?
- Too hot?
- Too delicious to deer?
- Too beaten down?



COST OF MAINTENANCE – time and money!

- Annual plants for color and interest? gradually infill with perennials!
- Mosquito control? Hint: it's in the containers!!!
- Pruning or chemical application services? Select native plants
- Leaf raking and blowing? Leave the leaves in place!
- Mowing extensive lawns? Lawns limit potential pollinator habitat!
- Difficult areas to mow Native groundcover, ferns, shrubs

NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANTS (NNI)

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LIVING OUTDOOR FURNITURE

- Need for privacy screenings
- Need for noise reduction
- Need for shade
- Create rooms for different uses









BARE GROUND? - Diagnose the problem.

1. Assess Problem 2. Reduce Soil Compaction 3. Right Plant for the Place 4. Increase Layers of Plants

Too Wet, Ponding, Swale? Create a living sponge.

Rain Garden with Flood Tolerant Plants

 Ferns, Sedges, Cardinal flower, Obedient Plant, Buttonbush, Silky Dogwood, Sweetbay, River Birch, Serviceberry, Red Maple

Too Shady - Dry or Wet?

- Dry: Sedges, Alleghany Spurge, Witch-hazel, Grey Dogwood
- Wet: Fern, Sedges, Winterberry, Smooth Hydrangea, Sweetspire

Too Hot – Compacted Soils?

Amend soil and add leaf mulch

More Sunny Upland Plants, Plant a tree to shade a window or patio

Butterflyweed, Blackeyed-Susan, Broomsedge, Beautyberry

Too Steep, Erosion, Thin Soils?

Wide Spreading Plants with Leaf Mulch

- Green & Gold, Alleghany Spurge, Moss Phlox, Virginia Creeper
- Dense St. John's Wort, Sweetfern, Lowbush Blueberry,
- New Jersey Tea, American Hazelnut, Carolina Rose, Winged Sumac

Too Delicious to Deer - Browse & Buck-rub?

Fence if necessary!!

 Beebalm, Sedges, Golden Groundsel, Spicebush, Devil's Walkingstick, Inkberry, Dogwood, Redbud, Paw paw, Witch-hazel, Persimmon, Black Gum, American Holly, Red Cedar

Too Beaten down by Foot Traffic?

Maybe plants aren't the answer...

Narrow Mulch Path, Stepping Stones, Porous Paving













COST OF MAINTENANCE - Time and Money



Mowing, Pruning & Chemical Application \$\$

- Select Native Plants they are adapted to our climate and need less coddling once established
- Reduce lawn and associated fertilizer
- Expand beds and plant with natives Green Mulch
- Lawns limit potential pollinator habitat!

Leaf Raking and Blowing \$\$

- Leave the leaves in place! Leaves are a natural mulch break down and provide a natural fertilizer.
- Another reason to reduce lawn

Mosquito Control \$\$

- Pesticides are not selective and kill native pollinators
- Mosquitos breed in containers
 - As small as a bottle cap, saucers of planters
 - Gutters
 - Miscellaneous tarps, trash containers
- Bug repellant is more effective and controlled. Apply to hat or clothing to avoid skin contact.

Cost of Annual Plants for Color and Interest \$\$

Gradually infill with perennials of varying bloom times

- March/April Foam Flower, Witch-hazel, Violet
- April/May Phlox, Columbine, VA Bluebells
- May/June Beebalm, Iris, Penstemon, Wild Indigo
- July/Aug Butterflyweed, Purple coneflower, Swamp milkweed
- Aug/Sept Wild Petunia, Mountain mint, Cardinal flower
- Sept/Oct Bluemist flower, Goldenrod, Fall Phlox, NE Aster















NON-NATIVE INVASIVE VS NATIVE PLANTS

Do not support native birds and insects Like chickadees and monarchs.

 New research from U of Delaware documents that a landscape that is less than 70% native cannot support Chickadees.

Dense mono-stands of NNI ground-covers Harbor NNI pests like Asian tiger mosquitos and rats.

- English Ivy
- Japanese Pachysandra
- Liriope

Invasive plants threaten native vegetation – Aggressive growth patterns & seed dispersal

- Vines weaken and ultimately kill trees
- Allelopathic chemicals in soils inhibit growth
 - · Use Inkberry instead of Japanese Holly
 - Use Silky Dogwood instead of Burning Bush

Cheap, yes, but low functional value!

- Like plastic plants, decorations
- Low nutritional value compared to native plants, berries, pollen











OUTDOOR LIVING ROOMS – that provide shelter & food!

Create rooms for different uses - Living walls & roof

- Outdoor dining
- Lawn for sports
- Vegetable & Herb Garden
- Butterfly Garden
- Maintenance & Storage

Shade: Leafy Canopy

- Cooling in Summer
- Deciduous allowing warming in Winter

Privacy: Hedge or Trellis/Fence with climbing vineDeciduous:

- Silky Dogwood, not Privet
- Virginia Sweetspire, not Barberry

Evergreen:

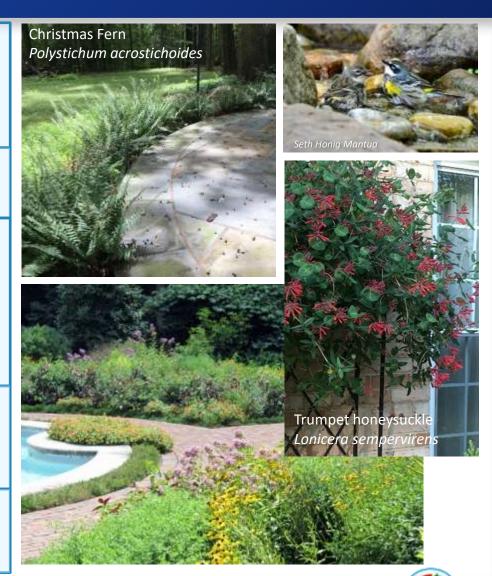
- Inkberry instead of Japanese Holly
- Southern Bayberry, not Cherry Laurel
- Red Cedar, not Leyland Cypress

Garden Accents

- Sculptural Tree
- Dry stream bed activated by stormwater runoff
- Recirculating fountain
- Wind sculpture

Noise Reduction

- Evergreens
- Layered plantings to maximize plant mass
- Minimal bare or mulched ground





Sunny Upland Gardens:

BORDERS: Ground Covers/Grasses

- Creek sedge, Carex amphibola
- Pink Hairgrass, Muhlenbergia capillaris
- Moss Phlox, Phlox subulata
- Little Bluestem, Schizachyrium scoparium

ACCENTS: Perennials

- Butterflyweed, Asclepias tuberosa
- False Indigo, Baptisia australis
- Blue Mistflower, Conoclinium coelestinum
- Blazing Star, Liatris spicata
- Blackeyed Susan, Rudbeckia fulgida
- New England Aster, Symphyotrichum novae-angliae

















Little Bluestem

Plant NOVA Natives





Shade Gardens:

BORDERS: Ground Covers/Grasses

- Plantain-leaved Sedge, Carex plantaginea
- River Oats, Chasmanthium latifolia
- Marginal Wood Fern, Dryopteris marginalis
- Robin's Plantain, Erigeron pulchellus
- Christmas Fern, Polystichum acrostichoides
- Foamflower, Tiarella cordifolia

ACCENTS: Perennials

- Wild Columbine, Aquilegia canadensis
- Wild Geranium, Geranium maculatum
- Woodland Phlox, Phlox divaricata
- Golden Groundsel, Packera aurea
- Heartleaf Aster, Symphyotrichum cordifolium



























Shrubs: Sunny & Shady

Sunny:

- Red-osier Dogwood, Cornus stolonifera
- Inkberry, Ilex glabra 'Densa' or 'Shamrock'
- Virginia Sweetspire 'Henry's Garnet,' Itea virginica
- Nine Bark, Physocarpus opulifolius









Shady:

- Smooth Hydrangea, Hydrangea arborescens
- Winterberry, Ilex verticillata
- Mountain Dog-hobble, Leucothoe fontanesiana
- Possum-haw, Viburnum nudum 'Winterthur'











Understory Trees: Lowland & Upland

Lowland – damp to wet:

- Serviceberry, Amelanchier canadensis
- River birch, Betula nigra
- Paw paw, Asimina triloba
- Sweetbay magnolia, Magnolia virginiana









Upland – damp to dry:

- Redbud, Cercis canadensis
- Flowering Dogwood, Cornus florida
- Witch-hazel, Hamamelis virginiana

American Holly, Ilex opaca











Canopy Trees: Lowland & Upland

Lowland – wet to damp:

- Common Persimmon, Diospyros virginiana
- Sweet Gum, Liquidambar styraciflua
- Black Gum, Nyssa sylvatica
- Pin Oak, Quercus palustris
- Willow Oak, Quercus phellos











Upland – damp to dry:

- Mockernut Hickory, Carya tomentosa
- Southern Magnolia, Magnolia grandiflora
- Eastern Red Cedar, Juniperus virginiana
- White Oak, Quercus alba
- Southern Red Oak, Quercus falcata













Investigate Your Site and Define Your Objectives

NATURAL LANDSCAPE OBJECTIVES

- Manage rainfall on site with plants and soil improvements.
- Reduce lawn
- Plants for shade to reduce heat island effect and AC costs
- Plants for shaping outdoor rooms and adding accents
- Plants to improve edges for privacy and noise reduction
- Manage wildlife: deer, pollinators, birds, etc

KNOW YOUR SITE

- Unique Attributes Opportunities
- Current Constraints erosion, steep slopes, invasive non-native plants
- Sun/Shade
- Soil type, Wet/Dry, Acid/base, rich/depleted
- Sources of mosquitos
- Impacts of deer browse or rub

DESIRED USE – Concept Diagram

- Create rooms for play, dining, vegetables, swimming
- Consider location of doors, patios, courtyards and views
- Note circulation routes for fun and maintenance
- Identify needed screening from surrounding uses
- Consider shade for summer and sun in winter.
- Attract pollinators, frogs, birds, etc
- Eliminate deer access
- Consider noise reduction

SELECT PLANTS THAT WOULD GROW THERE NATURALLY - Is your site...

- A Sunny Meadow or Sunny Wetland?
- Or a Shady Woodland Edge or Wooded Wetland?
- Visit a Local Nature Park or Botanic Garden for help and ideas.
- Consult websites like DCR.Virginia.gov/natural-heritage









County Resources: NVSWCD website



- Site Visits & Technical Expertise
- Grants for Home Improvement
- Annual Spring Garden Tours
- Nature Friendly Lawn practices
- Reforest with Fairfax ReLeaf

Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/

Phone: 703-324-1460 TTY 711

Conservation Assistance Programs:

CAP and VCAP Matching Funds

Do you have a drainage and erosion problem? Are you interested in improving water quality in local watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay? Funding may be available for you to pursue these types of environmental projects at your home, HOA, or place of worship. See details below to see if you qualify for either the Conservation Assistance Program or the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program.

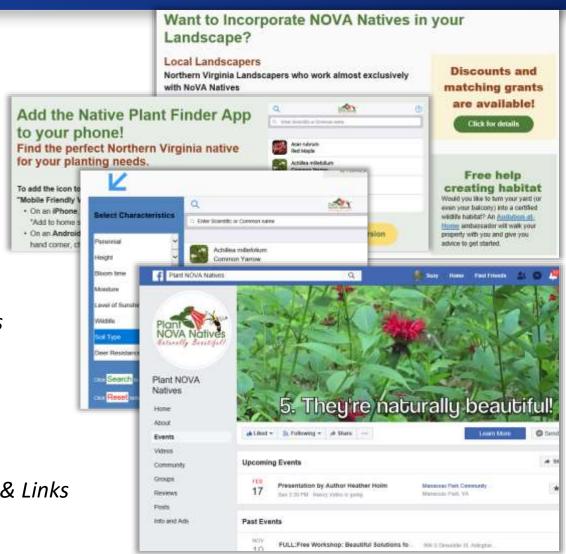
Learn more about the program that applies to you at conservation district @fairfaxcounty.gov or call (703) – 324 – 1460 TTY 711.



County Resources: Plant NoVA Natives website



- Audubon At Home Ambassadors
 - Home visits
- "App" with Detailed Plant Info
- Matching Grants
- "Facebook" with Useful Articles & Links



County Resources: Green Spring Gardens & website



- Native Plant Gardens & Tours
- Lectures & Newsletters
- Native Plant Sales

GREEN SPRING GARDENS

4603 GREEN SPRING RD • ALEXANDRIA • VA 22312 PHONE: 703-642-5173 • 77Y: 703-803-3354

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring

NATIVE PLANT INFORMATION SHEETS

Native Plants

- · Native Trees and Large Shrubs for the Washington D.C. area
- Native Shrubs for the Washington D.C. area
- · Native Herbaceous Perennials for Sunny Gardens in the Washington





Other Resources: Earth Sangha-Wild Plant Nursery



- Native Plant Source/Sales
- Detailed Plant Information
- Volunteer Planting Events

Earth Sangha - Wild Plant Nursery

http://www.earthsangha.org/wpn/

Phone: 703-859-2951



Other Resources: RainScapes website



- "12 Easy Native Plants" Sheets
- Conservation/Eco-gardening Guidelines

DEP Montgomery County, MD https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/rainscapes/



SPREAD THE WORD – Outreach to HOA's & Friends

HELP IS AVAILABLE - Free Services from Experts

NoVA Soil & Water Conservation Service (NVSWCS)

- Sustainable Garden Tour, June 9th, Reston, Oakton, Vienna
- Presentations on Native Plants, Smart Pest Control, Lawn Care
- Matching Grants for Individuals, HOA's, and faith communities
- Natural Lawn practices
- Fairfax ReLeaf

Plant NOVA Natives

June 29th HOA workshop, UUCF, Oakton VA

Audubon At Home Ambassadors

- Personal Home Visits and Recommendations
- Home Garden Certifications

Green Spring Gardens and other county parks

- Native plant gardens
- Fairfax Master Gardeners
- Lectures

Engage your community - Together We Can Have An Impact!

- Plant trees at your school
- Opportunities for Scout projects
- Set up a presentation for your HOA or Civic Associations
- Write guidelines for community common areas to support native wildlife
- Select Landscape Contractors who embrace natives and Natural Landscaping







Additional Information

For additional information, please contact

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks