

NATIVE PLANTING GUIDE

FLOWERING PLANTS:

Black-eyed Susan	Cardinal Flower
Great Lobelia	Jacob's Ladder
Butterfly Milkweed	Joe Pye Weed
Ohio Spiderwort	New England Aster
Culver's Root	Bee Balm
Ohio Goldenrod	Obedient Plant
Purple Coneflower	Cup Plant
Marsh Milkweed	Blue Vervain

GRASSES & FERNS:

Big Bluestem
Wet-tolerant Sedges
Virginia Wild Rye
Fowl Manna Grass
Torrey's Rush
Switch Grass
Ostrich Fern
Sensitive Fern
Cinnamon Fern

SHRUBS & TREES:

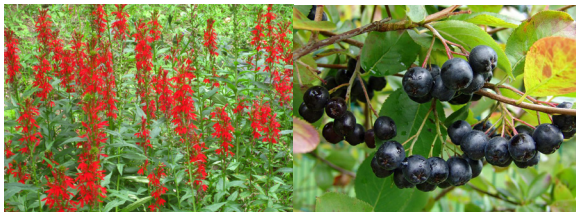
Red Maple
Chokecherry
River Birch
Summer Sweet
Silky Dogwood
Winterberry
Pin Oak
Elderberry
Highbush Blueberry
Arrowwood Viburnum

Visit www.cuyahogawcd.org
for our full list of recommended native plants



Black-eyed Susan

Big Bluestem



Cardinal Flower

Chokecherry

Five Reasons Native Plants Help You Save Money and the Environment



Native plants are healthier
and stronger. They establish faster
and will be naturally more hardy
and healthy.



Native plants help the environment
by requiring less watering, fertilizer
and pesticides.



Native plants are low maintenance and
the long term upkeep is dramatically
less costly than for turf grass.



Native plants create wildlife habitat.
Birds, bees and butterflies pollinate
our crops and flowers.



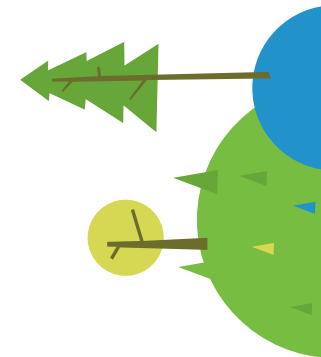
Native plants provide a variety of
colors, textures, heights, and bloom
times resulting in a stunning display
over multiple seasons.

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SHRINK YOUR LAWN Landscaping with Native Plants



cuyahoga
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conservation district

THE RUNOFF DILEMMA

When most people think of the ideal lawn, they think of well-maintained, bright green turf grass. There are around 40 million acres of lawn in the United States, occupying about 2% of the surface area of our country. We perceive a well-maintained lawn as aesthetically pleasing to the human eye, but they're not pleasing toward our environment. Due to modern development practices that scrape off or compact the topsoil layer, the area covered by most turf grass is a largely impervious (not penetrable) surface, so most rain water flows directly off your lawn.

Run-off pollution occurs with each rainfall and snowmelt when water flows over land picking up soil and pollutants and depositing them into streams, ponds, wetlands, rivers, and eventually Lake Erie. Run-off pollution can result in excess algal growth, fish kills, reduced tourism, impaired drinking water, and more. It is environmentally and economically costly. While we want to make our yards friendlier to wildlife and the surrounding environment, regulations from some homeowner associations or municipalities don't always make it easy. However, you can incorporate landscaping features using native plants to shrink your lawn.

Planting native species can improve the curb appeal of a home, boost its resale value and decrease its time on the market. In addition, native flowers and shrubs provide vital food and habitat for birds, insect pollinators and many other species. Yet convincing homeowners to make the switch can be a tough sell, mainly because of the perception that lawns are elegant while native plants are sloppy. But that doesn't have to be the case!

SHRINKING YOUR LAWN WITH NATIVE PLANTS

CUT CORNERS

Pick a corner of your lawn to install a native wildflower garden, creating a bed that will complement, not compete with your lawn.

Step 1: Lay a garden hose or rope on the ground to represent your new planting bed's edge.

Step 2: Install edging either all the way around the corner or just along the edge that it shares with the lawn.

Step 3: Smother the lawn in your new corner garden with layers of newspaper and then mulch.

Step 4: While you wait for the grass to die over a season, use the time to design your new corner garden. Consider native shrubs and perennials to plant.

Step 5: When the grass is sufficiently smothered, plant through the newspapers and mulch.

Step 6: Water plants well when planting and for the next several weeks to ensure that they establish with minimum disturbance.



*Cutting corners is good for your wallet and your yard!
Less mowing, fertilizer and water.
More habitat and long roots to soak up pollutants.*



Hedging the edge adds beauty and privacy to your yard while providing habitat for wildlife.

HEDGE THE EDGE

The hedge area or edges of your yard are usually the least used area. Enhancing your edges with native plants adds beauty and privacy to your yard. Combine an assortment of native plant species to make a tapestry hedge, a row of mixed shrub varieties.

- For greatest interest throughout the seasons, include both evergreen and deciduous shrubs and select plants that produce flowers, berries, or splendid fall foliage.
- If you do prune, keep the desired form of the plant in mind as you work, and understand in advance what effect each cut will have on its future growth.
- If you go the informal route, try to choose shrubs of similar mature size and pay attention to their growth rates.
- Tapestry hedges can be excellent habitats for many creatures. They provide dense cover and food, like insects and berries. A variety of birds nest in thickets, as do some mammals, and a hedge that provides adequate food will attract even more wildlife to visit.

GO WILD

Reduce yard work, water and fertilizer use, create a more interesting landscape, and increase wildlife habitat by installing a self-sustaining natural ecosystem like a small prairie.

Step 1: Pick a place, if you water regularly choose an area away from the house, or a shaded or sloping area.

Step 2: Select a native landscape type that fits the climate and geography for your wildflower garden.

Step 3: Smother your lawn with layers of newspaper and then mulch. Remove any sod and weeds.

Step 4: Add desirable native plants. Many can be found through local nurseries. Contact the Cuyahoga SWCD if you have any questions on picking the right plants for your yard.

Step 5: Water plants well when planting and for the next several weeks to ensure that they establish with minimum disturbance.

Step 6: Patrol for invaders or invasive species that might try to compete with the newly planted native plants.



Native plants often have roots up to 15 feet deep!