

Reasons to Use Native Plants

1. Native plants provide food and shelter for wildlife

Mowed lawns are of little use to wildlife. Native plants provide flowers, nectar and fruits as well as habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife to seek shelter and make homes.

2. Native plants are low maintenance

Americans use up to 3 trillion gallons of water per year on grass, using as much as 30% of the water consumption on the East Coast. Once established, native plants use little water because they are adapted to local conditions, thereby saving you money and a natural resource, water.



3. Native plants decrease the amount of fertilizer and pesticides needed for your property making a healthier place for humans and wildlife

Close to 90 million pounds of fertilizer is applied to yards each year. The excess runs off into lakes, rivers, and streams. Excess pesticides also contaminate the water system and can harm pets and people.

4. Native plants help improve the climate

Lawns require regular mowing using close to 3 billion gallons of gasoline each year. This is the equivalent of 6 million cars running for a year. Lawnmowers and leaf blowers both contribute to noise pollution. Natural landscapes do not require mowing or much maintenance. Many native trees are able to store carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas.

5. Native plants provide beauty

Many native plants have showy flowers, brightly colored fruits, or colorful leaves in the fall.

Places to find native plant suggestions for your yard

<https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/plants>

<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>

<https://ncwildflower.org/>