



native plants

The definition of a native plant may vary depending on what resource you are consulting. However, there's a commonly accepted understanding that a native species is one that naturally exists in North America without any human interference. Additionally, there are native cultivars, which are native species that have been bred for specific traits. While they share the roots of their native counterparts, they're not considered truly native because they haven't occurred naturally. Below, we'll delve into the differences between these two categories to help assist you in selecting the best options for your landscape.

Native species occur naturally in our region and have evolved to thrive in local soil and climate conditions. They typically require minimal intervention such as fertilizers, irrigation and pesticides. Adding native species to your landscape can provide many benefits. Their strong root systems aid in erosion control, and they provide essential food sources for pollinators and wildlife. Due to the fact that they often reproduce by seed there can be a wide variety of variation in flower color, size and shape.

Native cultivars, derived from native species, offer specific desirable traits such as flower color, foliage color, plant shape and size & disease resistance. Though cloned for consistency, they may lack the genetic variation found in native species. However, they are often more manageable in size and less likely to spread.

When attracting pollinators, it's important to note that deviations from native species, such as darker foliage or double flowers, may deter feeding. Additionally, some cultivars may contain less pollen, requiring pollinators to exert more effort for sustenance.

By combining native species & native cultivars in your garden, you can enjoy the aesthetic appeal of cultivars while supporting native wildlife. Explore our selection of native species & native cultivars below for a balanced & thriving landscape.

SUN PERENNIALS

Agastache (NC)
Allium, Wild (N)
Aster (NC)
Aster, New England (N)
Baptisia (NC)
Baptisia australis (N)
Bee Balm (NC)
Bergamot, Wild (N)
Bluestar (NC)
Boneset, Common (N)
Coneflower (NC)
Coneflower, Yellow (N)
Coreopsis (NC)
Coreopsis, Sand (N)
Culver's Root (N)
Desmodium, Canadian (N)
Gentian, Cross (NC)
Goldenrod (NC)
Goldenrod, Showy (N)
Goldenrod, Stiff (N)
Helen's Flower (N)
Hibiscus (NC)
Hibiscus, Swamp Rose (N)
Ironweed, Common (N)
Joe Pye (NC)
Joe Pye Weed, Purple (N)
Liatris, Kobold (NC)
Liatris, Blazing Star (N)
Lobelia, Cardinal Flower (N)
Lobelia, Great Blue (N)
Lupine (NC)
Milkweed, Butterfly Flower (N)
Milkweed, Swamp, Cinderella (NC)
Milkweed, Swamp (N)
Monkey Flower (N)

SUN PERENNIALS

Mountain Mint, Common (N)
Obedient Plant (NC)
Penstemon (NC)
Penstemon, Hairy (N)
Penstemon, White (N)
Phlox, Garden (NC)
Rudbeckia (NC)
Rudbeckia, Showy Black Eyed Susan (N)
Sandwort (N)
Sea Holly (NC)
Spurge, Baby's Breath (N)
Strawberry, Ornamental (NC)
Sunflower (NC)
Sunflower, False (N)
Verbena, Swamp (N)
Yarrow (NC)
Yucca (NC)

SHADE PERENNIALS

Bowman's Root (N)
Cimicifuga (NC)
Columbine, Wild (N)
Fern, Cinnamon (N)
Fern, Common Polypody (N)
Fern, Hairy Lip (N)
Fern, Ostrich (N)
Goat's Beard, Misty Lace (NC)
Goat's Beard (N)
Jacob's Ladder (NC)
Spiderwort (NC)
Turtlehead (NC)
Virginia Bluebells (N)
Wood Poppy, Golden (N)

GROUND COVER

Barren Strawberry (N)
Chrysogonum,
Green and Gold (N)
Ginger, Canadian (N)
Iris, Dwarf, Crested (N)
Iris, Dwarf, Crested White (N)
Phlox, Creeping (NC)

VINES

Honeysuckle (NC)
Virginia Creeper (N)

GRASSES

Big Bluestem (NC)
Little Bluestem (NC)
Switch (NC)
Sedge (NC)

EVERGREENS

Arborvitae (NC)
Hemlock, Canadian (N)
Juniper, Andorra (NC)
Juniper, Blue Rug (NC)
Juniper, Taylor (NC)
Spruce, White Black Hills (NC)
Tamarack (N)
White Pine (N)

TREES

Amelanchier, Shadblow
Serviceberry (N)
Amelanchier cultivars (NC)
Maple, Red (NC)
Maple, Sugar (NC)
Oak, Red (N)
Oak, Swamp White (N)
Blackgum (NC)
Redbud, Eastern (N)
Redbud cultivars (NC)
Birch, Paper (NC)
Dogwood, Flowering (NC)
Tuliptree (N)
Tuliptree, Emerald City (NC)
Honeylocust (NC)
Catalpa, Northern (N)
Osage Orange (NC)

N = Native NC = Native Cultivar

SHRUBS

Aronia (NC)
Dogwood, Redtwig (NC)
Elder (NC)
Holly, Winterberry (NC)
Hypericum (NC)
Ninebark (NC)
Potentilla (NC)
Sumac (NC)
Viburnum, Arrowwood (NC)
Viburnum, Cranberry (NC)

FRUIT

Aronia Berry (NC)
Blackberry (NC)
Blueberry (NC)
Elderberry (NC)
Pawpaw (N)
Raspberry, Black (NC)
Saskatoon (NC)

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