	Common Name	Scientific Name	Bloom period / color	Size	Notes
Sunny Moist Sites					
Trees	Red maple	*Acer rubrum*	Mar-Apr / red	40-100’	very adaptable to light and moisture conditions
	Serviceberries	*Amelanchier* species	Mar-May / white	20-30’	good fall color and edible berries
	Tuliptree	*Liriodendron tulipfera*	May-Jun / green & orange	75-100’	fast growing, nectar source, tulip-shaped flowers
	Eastern white pine	*Pinus strobus*	May / cones 5”	> 100’	graceful shape with very high wildlife value
	White oak	*Quercus alba*	Mar-May / inconspicuous	60-80’	acorns feed a variety of wildlife, slow-growing
	Eastern hemlock	*Tsuga canadensis*	Apr-May / cones ¾”	60-80’	evergreen, tolerates shade, PA’s state tree symbol
Shrubs	Summersweet	*Clethra alnifolia*	Jul-Aug / white or pink	6-12’	very fragrant, tolerates shade, supports pollinators
	Red-osier dogwood	*Cornus sericea*	May / white	6-12’	showy red stems, spreads to form colonies
	Winterberry	*Ilex verticillata*	May-Jun / red berries	6-10’	male and female plants needed for fruit production
	Red chokeberry	*Photinia pyrifolia*	Mar-May / white	5-10’	red fruits & fall color, can be pruned as a hedge
	Ninebark	*Physocarpus opulifolius*	May-Jul / pinkish white	5-10’	coppery fall color, papery peeling bark
Perennials	Swamp milkweed	*Asclepias incarnata*	Jul-Aug / rose	2-6’	lovely flowers, food for monarch butterfly caterpillars
	Joe-pye-weed	*Eutrochium fistulosum* (*Eupatorium f.*)	Aug-Sep / purple	3-10’	nectar source draws many pollinators
	Gaura	*Gaura biennis*	Jul-Sep / pink or white	1-6’	long-blooming, very attractive flowers
	Oxeye sunflower	*Heliopsis helianthoides*	Jul-Sep / yellow	1-5’	nectar for butterflies & bees, seeds for goldfinches
	Great blue lobelia	*Lobelia siphilitica*	Jul-Oct / blue	1-4’	long blooming, nectar for hummingbirds & butterflies
	Bee-balm	*Monarda didyma*	Jul-Aug / red	2-5’	nectar for hummingbirds & butterflies, aromatic
	Wild blue phlox	*Phlox divaricata*	May-Jun / lilac	1-2’	aromatic showy, nectar source, dormant in summer
	Mountain mints	*Pycnanthemum* species	Jul-Aug / white	15-36”	aromatic, support butterflies, bees and other species
	New England aster	*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*	Aug-Oct / purple	2-6’	tolerates drier soil
	New York ironweed	*Vernonia noveboracensis*	Jul-Sep / purple	3-6’	tall, attractive nectar source for wet sites
	Culver’s-root	*Veronicastrum virginicum*	Jun-Sep / white or pink	to 6’	elegant spires of flowers support butterflies
Sunny Dry Sites					
Trees	Red bud	*Cercis canadensis*	Apr-May / pink	20-35’	fixes nitrogen, 20-year average lifespan
	Eastern red-cedar	*Juniperus virginiana*	Apr-May / inconspicuous	30-45’	evergreen, sky blue fleshy berry-like cones
	Blackgum	*Nyssa sylvatica*	Apr-May / inconspicuous	30-75’	dark blue fruits, scarlet early fall color
	Red oak	*Quercus rubra*	Apr-May / inconspicuous	60-80’	acorns feed wildlife
	Sassafras	*Sassafras albidum*	Apr-May / yellow	30-50’	dark blue fruits feed songbirds
Shrubs	Black chokeberry	*Photinia melanocarpa*	Apr-May / white	3-6’	black fruits feed songbirds, red fall color
	New Jersey tea	*Ceanothus americanus*	May-Sep / creamy white	< 3’	drought tolerant
	Blueberries	*Vaccinium* species	May-Jun / white-pink	2-12’	Highbush & lowbush need acidic soils, edible fruit
	Blackhaw	*Viburnum prunifolium*	Apr-May / white	8-15’	blue-black fruits feed songbird and people
Perennials & Grasses	Big bluestem grass	*Andropogon gerardii*	Jun-Sep / inconspicuous	3-5’	clump-forming, bronze fall & winter color
	Butterfly-weed	*Asclepias tuberosa*	May-Sep / orange	1-3’	food for monarch caterpillars, deep-rooted
	Blazing-star	*Liatris spicata*	Jul-Sep / purple	2-6’	showy flower spikes
	Wild bergamot	*Monarda fistulosa*	Jul-Aug / pink-violet	2-5’	nectar for hummingbirds & butterflies, aromatic
	Sundrops	*Oenothera perennis*	Jun-Aug / yellow	1-2’	long-blooming perennial, drought tolerant
	Switchgrass	*Panicum virgatum*	Jul-Sep / pink-red	3-6’	golden yellow-burgundy fall color, winter cover
	Virginia creeper vine	*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*	Jul-Aug / inconspicuous	25-35’	bluish-black berries with high wildlife value, fall color
	Beard-tongue	*Penstemon digitalis*	May-Jul / white	2-5’	meadow & border plant, long-blooming
	Black-eyed Susan	*Rudbeckia hirta*	Jul-Sep / yellow	2-3’	long-blooming, readily available
	Little bluestem grass	*Schizachyrium scoparium*	Aug-Oct / inconspicuous	2-4’	blue-green in spring, coppery autumn color
	Goldenrods	*Solidago* species	Sep-Oct / yellow	1-4’	drought tolerant once established, many pollinators
	Indian-grass	*Sorghastrum nutans*	Aug-Sep / yellow anthers	3-8’	beautiful seed heads feed songbirds
Shady Moist Sites					
Trees	Sugar maple	*Acer saccharum*	Apr-May / yellow	60-75’	adaptable to dry sites, outstanding fall color
	River birch	*Betula nigra*	Apr-May / brown catkins	60-80’	attractive peeling bark
	Flowering dogwood	*Cornus florida*	Apr-Jun / white or pink	10-30’	prefers acidic soils, red berries
	Pin oak	*Quercus palustris*	Apr-May / tan catkins	60-70’	red fall color, acorns feed wildlife
Shrubs	Smooth alder	*Alnus serrulata*	Mar-Apr / yellow catkins	6-10’	high wildlife value
	Pagoda dogwood	*Cornus alternifolia*	May-Jun / white	15-25’	very high wildlife value, purple-red fall color
	Wild hydrangea	*Hydrangea arborescens*	Jun-Aug / white	3-6’	leaves poisonous
	Spicebush	*Lindera benzoin*	Mar-May / yellow	6-12’	aromatic, red fruits
	Rosebay	*Rhododendron maximum*	Jun-Jul / rose pink	10-30’	evergreen wildlife cover
Perennials	Jack-in-the-pulpit	*Arisaema triphyllum*	Apr-Jun / green-purple	1-3’	bright red berries in an unusual flower shape
	Wild ginger	*Asarum canadense*	Apr-May / maroon	< 1’	semi-evergreen groundcover
	Dutchman’s breeches	*Dicentra cucullaria*	Apr-May / white to cream	< 1’	early nectar for bumblebees, dormant in summer
	Cardinal-flower	*Lobelia cardinalis*	Jul-Sep / scarlet	2-5’	nectar for hummingbirds & butterflies, usually biennial
	Golden ragwort	*Packera aurea*	Apr-Jul / yellow	1-2’	long-blooming, tolerates wet areas
	Jacob's ladder	*Polemonium reptans*	Apr-Jun / blue	1-2’	clumping ladder-like foliage, self-seeds
	Foamflower	*Tiarella cordifolia*	Apr-Jul / white	4-14’’	groundcover for deciduous woods, long-blooming
Ferns	Maidenhair fern	*Adiantum pedatum*	distinctive delicate texture	1-2’	great for woodland or rock gardens
	Wood ferns	*Dryopteris* species	lacy clump of fronds	1-3’	evergreen, some adaptable to drier sites
	Cinnamon fern	*Osmunda cinnamomea*	fertile fronds in Apr-May	1-2’	fertile fronds cinnamon brown, prefers acidic soils
	Interrupted fern	*Osmunda claytoniana*	distinctive fronds	2-4’	prefers acidic soils
	Christmas fern	*Polystichum achrostichoides*	evergreen, short rhizomes	1-2’	adaptable to drier sites
Shady Dry Sites					
Trees	Shagbark hickory	*Carya ovata*	May / green catkins	60-80’	golden yellow to orange fall color, sweet nuts
	Chestnut oak	*Quercus montana*	May-Jun / catkins	50-75’	acorns feed wildlife
	Hop-hornbeam	*Ostrya virginiana*	April / catkins	35-50’	nutlets in a loose papery cone resembling hops
	Witch-hazel	*Hamamelis virginiana*	Sep-Nov / golden yellow	8-20’	fragrant, often multi-stemmed
Shrubs	Pinxter-flower	*Rhododendron periclymenoides*	Apr-May / pink to white	6-12’	prefers acidic soils
	American hazelnut	*Corylus americana*	Mar-Apr / catkins	10-15’	nuts ripen in Aug-Sep.
	Arrow-wood viburnum	*Viburnum dentatum*	May-Jun / white	3-15’	a very variable and adaptable species
Perennials	Black cohosh	*Actea racemosa*	Jun-Sep / white	3-8’	tapering spikes of flowers & interesting seed heads
	White snakeroot	*Ageratina altissima* (*Eupatorium rugosum*)	Jul-Oct / white	2-3’	nectar for butterflies & bees, hardy, spreading habit
	Wild columbine	*Aquilegia canadensis*	Apr-Jun / red & yellow	1-3’	supports hummingbirds, adaptable to sun and soil
	White wood aster	*Eurybia divaricata*	Jul-Oct / white	1-3’	showy fall flowers, thrives throughout PA
	Bigleaf aster	*Eurybia macrophylla*	Aug-Sep / pale blue-violet	1-2’	groundcover, larval food for pearl crescent butterfly
	Wood geranium	*Geranium maculatum*	Apr-Jul / lavender-pink	1-2’	adaptable to full sun, spreads slowly
	Alumroot	*Heuchera americana*	May-Aug / greenish	1-2’	long-blooming, many cultivars
	Virginia bluebells	*Mertensia virginica*	Mar-Jun / blue	1-2.5’	early, long-blooming, supports early pollinators
	Partridge-berry	*Mitchella repens*	May-Jul / white	<1’	groundcover, acid soils, trailing stems, red fruits
	Mayapple	*Podophyllum peltatum*	May / white	1-2’	prefers acid soils, rhizomes spread slowly
	Stonecrop	*Sedum ternatum*	Apr-Jun / greenish-white	<1’	groundcover, adaptable to sun
	Solomon’s plume	*Smilacina racemosa*	May-Jul / white	1-2’	starry flowers, red berries, rhizomes spread

Go native with these six basics:

1. Protect native plant communities and minimize habitat destruction

The easiest, least expensive, and best way to conserve Pennsylvania's plant heritage is to protect existing native plant communities from further disturbance. If disturbance is necessary, strive for minimum impact on habitat.

2. Landscape with native plants

In many neighborhoods, wild native plant communities have been seriously impaired. The landscaping of parks, yards, streets and campuses then provides the foundation of the local ecosystem. Well-chosen native plants can perform beautifully in these landscapes. The DCNR-Bureau of Forestry recommends hardy and adaptable native plants which flourish in a wide variety of conditions and have a better chance of success in gardens. These plant species grow abundantly throughout the state. For a short list of recommended native plants easily purchased, see the table in this brochure.

3. Learn more about native plants

Learn what plants are native in your area. Many field guides and online resources can help you get started. Days afield in Pennsylvania's parks and wildlands getting to know the wildflowers are both delightful and educational.

4. Buy nursery-propagated native plants

Many retail nurseries and mail-order catalogs now offer native plants. As more consumers request native plants, these sources of supply will grow making it even easier for more gardeners to go native. If you want guaranteed ornamental characteristics, named cultivars of native species are available in some cases. Cultivars are predictable in attributes many gardeners want—height, color and blooming period. If your goal is genetic diversity, however, ask for straight species grown from local seed sources. Plants grown from seed provide more variety than cloned cultivars.

5. Do not remove native plants from the wild

Taking plants from the wild depletes native populations. Also, many wild-collected plants do not survive transplanting. Discourage wild-collecting of plants by making sure that plants you buy are propagated at a nursery or start plants yourself from local seed. Collect seed only where plants are abundant and take at most 10 percent of the seed crop. You must have the property owner's permission on private land. Seed collecting in public parks and state forests is illegal without a permit from the managing agency.

6. Practice responsible landscaping techniques

The first rule of responsible landscaping is to plant the right plants in the right environment. Choose plants that match the prevailing light and soil conditions — shade or sun, wet or dry, and acid or neutral pH. One good tactic is to notice which native plants are thriving nearby and let these clues guide your plant selection. This brochure lists some information, but more is available from plant nurseries, catalogs, books, or online.

Proper site preparation begins with a soil test to determine the current condition of the soil. Composts and a mulch of leaves and grass clippings improve soil structure and provide slow release of nutrients. Chemical fertilizers provide a flush of soluble elements that give weeds a competitive edge.

Try cultural pest controls before using chemicals — keep the soil covered to prevent weeds; remove invasive plants nearby; take out diseased plants to reduce infestations. Many native plants attract beneficial insects which help control pests so try creating habitat for "good bugs."

Never introduce exotic plants into your landscape that may spread from your property and invade native plant communities. Read the DCNR brochure *Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania* for more information.

In Summary

Native plants help create beautiful landscapes that provide wildlife habitat and reduce maintenance costs.

Their greatest benefit, though, may be the greater appreciation of our natural heritage they engender. Native plants in our gardens connect us to all the living things sharing our neighborhood. Children and adults can have a high-quality educational experience right in their own backyard, park, school, or workplace.

For more information and a list of native plant and seed sources in Pennsylvania visit our web site:

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/nativeplants

DCNR–BOF–10/15/2015

What is a native plant?

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) defines a native plant as one that occurred within Pennsylvania before European settlement. Native plants include ferns; grasses and sedges; annual, biennial and perennial wildflowers; trees, shrubs and vines that covered "Penn's Woods" when English, Dutch, German and Swedish settlers brought their agricultural plants and associated weeds to the colony. More than 2,100 plant species make up the native botanical heritage of Pennsylvania.

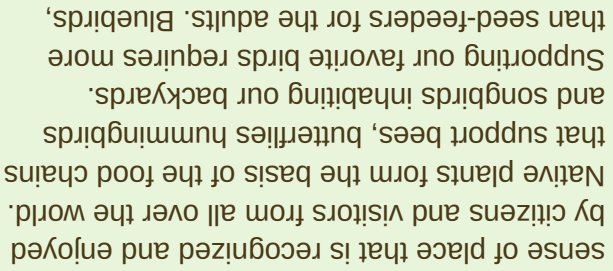
Why should I care about native plants?

Native plants create beautiful landscapes that provide native wildlife with the diverse habitat and food they need to survive. Plants are the foundation of local ecosystems. As such they maintain the unique natural heritage of a region. Pennsylvania's native plants give a sense of place that is recognized and enjoyed by citizens and visitors from all over the world. Native plants form the basis of the food chains that support bees, butterflies hummingbirds and songbirds inhabiting our backyards. Supporting our favorite birds requires more than seed-feeders for the adults. Bluebirds, chickadees, warblers — in fact over 90 percent of the birds that share our suburban neighborhoods raise their babies on a diet of insects, especially caterpillars. By providing plant foods for the butterfly and moth caterpillars, we help adult birds feed the next generation of songsters.

Goldenrods, asters, sunflowers, bonesets and other plants support hundreds of species of butterflies and moths that have co-adapted to feed on their leaves, pollen and nectar here in the eastern United States. These insects in turn support birds and other wildlife in the ecological network.

Because Pennsylvania's native plants are adapted to grow here, they thrive with less maintenance thereby reducing the labor and expense of watering and fertilizing.

As wildlands are developed, paved or planted to biologically impoverished grass lawns, our community and residential gardens become increasingly important to sustaining the natural beauty and wildlife that define the region.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS IN PENNSYLVANIA