

# Adding Native Plants to Your Landscape to Help Protect Our Water



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## BENEFITS OF GROWING NATIVE PLANTS

- **Provide food and shelter for**

- Pollinators & butterflies
  - Sullivant's Milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*), bit less aggressive than common milkweed
- Other beneficial insects & birds

- **Improve soil**

- Clay busters
  - Butterfly weed for clay soil (*A. tuberosa* var. Clay)
- Erosion control & Nitrogen fixers
  - False Blue Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)

- **Manage storm water**

- Slows rainwater passing over landscape
- Deep roots create pathways for water

- Roots and soil help remove dirt and pollutants on way to groundwater

- Rain gardens

- **Less ongoing maintenance once established**

- No regular fertilization needed
- Less watering, as many are drought tolerant
- Fewer pest problems

## PROPER SOIL PREPARATION - GETTING PLANTS OFF TO A HEALTHY START

- Soil test
- Incorporate organic matter, add Milorganite

## POST PLANTING CARE AND BEYOND

- Water & Mulch
- Manage weeds & Divide as Needed

## PLANT SELECTION

- **Native versus Nativar** (*Liatris spicata* vs. *L. spicata* 'Kobold')

- **Suited to the growing conditions a few examples**

- **Shade**

- Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*)
- Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)
- Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)

- **Wet**

- Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*)
- Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*)
- Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

- **Hot and dry**

- Penstemon (*Penstemon digitalis*)

- **Sun**

- Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)
- Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- Rudbeckia (*Rudbeckia*)
- Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*)

- **Rain gardens - mesic prairie plants**

- Coneflower (*Echinacea*)

- Spiderwort (*Tradescantia*)

- Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

- Stiff Sunflower (*Helianthus pauciflorus*)

- Prairie Phlox (*Phlox pilosa*)

- **Disturbed sites**

- Rudbeckia (*Rudbeckia*)

- Wild Bergamont (*Monarda fistulosa*)

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- **Suited to your design**

- Purple Prairie Clover (*Dalea purpurea*)
- Fits available space
- Color, texture and bloom time

- **How and how fast they spread**

- **Clumpers**

- Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)

- **Seed**

- Rudbeckia (*Rudbeckia*)
- Coneflower (*Echinacea*)

- **Rhizome**

- Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*)

- Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)

- **Seed and rhizome**

- Wild Bergamot

## START SMALL

Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)

- **Substitution**

Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) for Fountain Grass

- **A few to try:**

- Camassia for rain garden faux water (bulb planted in fall)
- Native Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
- Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*) with Crystal Blue Salvia & Lilac

- White False Indigo (*Baptisia alba*), Compass Plant (*Silphium laciniatum*), Rattlesnake Master

- Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) with Caradonna Salvia

- Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) with Amsonia, Amber Jubilee Ninebark, Golden Juniper

- Butterfly Weed, Bee Balm (*Monarda*), Clematis

- Rattlesnake Master, Stiff Coreopsis (*Coreopsis palmata*), Rudbeckia

- Liatris with Echinops
- Purple Coneflower with Russian Sage
- Goldenrod (*Solidago*), Anise Hyssop, Purple Coneflower
- Coneflower with grasses and more
- New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*), Willow Amsonia (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- Aster and Willow Amsonia
- Ostrich Fern, Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), Hosta
- Ostrich Fern, Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), Daffodils
- Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pennsylvanica*) - groundcover or lawn substitute for shady locations
- Canadian Ginger (*Asarum canadense*) - groundcover for shade
- Salvia and Allium
- Allium, Salvia, Rattlesnake Master, Blue Star, Purple Coneflower, Prairie Dropseed
- Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) and Purple Coneflower
- Switchgrass and Rattlesnake Master
- Russian Sage and Rattlesnake Master
- Compass Plant
- Wild Quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*), Switchgrass, Purple

## CREATE A GARDEN OF NATIVES

Monarch on Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*)

### • Look to nature for winning combos

- Rudbeckia, Hoary Vervain (*Verbena stricta*), Rattlesnake Master
- Ironweed (*Vernonia*), Cardinal Flower, Cutleaf Rudbeckia (*Rudbeckia laciniata*)
- Wild Quinine, Switchgrass, Purple Coneflower
- Rattlesnake Master, Stiff Coreopsis, Rudbeckia
- Prairie Dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*), Flowering Spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*) and more

## GO ALL OUT

### • Include signs of intent

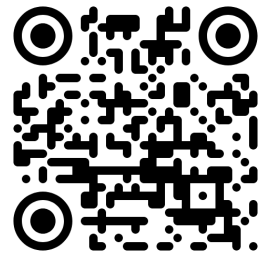
- Prairie Dock, Purple Coneflower, Culver's Root, Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium*), Flowering Spurge
- Blazing Star, Wild Quinine, Wild Bergamot
- Bee Balm, Anise Hyssop, Purple Coneflower
- Culver's Root, Wild Bergamot, Heliopsis
- Pale Purple Coneflower, Wild Quinine
- Wild Bergamot, Queen of the Prairie (*Filipendula rubra*)
- Wild Bergamot, Prairie Dropseed, Butterfly Weed
- Rattlesnake Master, Coreopsis, Joe Pye Weed
- Planting at Urban Ecology Center

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