

Native Plants in Your Garden

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WHAT'S GROWING IN VIRGINIA?

- Native plants
- Friendly non-native plants
 - Cultivated crops and garden plants
- Unfriendly non-native plants
 - Invasive plants

A CASE FOR PLANTING VIRGINIA NATIVES

Native Plants – What are They?

Occur naturally in a region, ecosystem or habitat without human introduction

- Thrive in soils, moisture and weather of their native areas
- Contribute to their native ecosystems

Native Plants - Where?

In nature

Replace cultivated landscape

Populate an underused area

Create a forest garden or a meadow

Reclaim a recently disrupted area

Replace a lawn

Mix with other garden plants

For pollinators and other wildlife

For beauty and interest

Native Plants – Why?

Requires – no fertilizer

- fewer pesticides than lawns
- less water than lawns

Help prevent erosion – deep roots

Habitat - Provide shelter and food for wildlife

Promote biodiversity

Beauty – Increase scenic value

Deep Roots of Native Plants

Survival

Draws moisture & nutrients from deep in the soil

Enhances ability to store food and water

Erosion control

Increases infiltration of rainwater into groundwater aquifer

Reduces runoff and flooding

Soil building

Decay – natural compost

Mycorrhizal associations

Habitat: Nature Friendly

Attracting Wildlife

Beauty in Nature or in the Garden

Not always the same in the garden as in nature

Selecting a Few for Your Garden

Color

Size and shape

Sun or shade

Habits: how it behaves in your garden

Growth

Reproduction

Persistence

Sturdiness

Bloom time & length

Longevity

Water requirement

Habitat: Nature friendly

Attracting bees, butterflies & birds

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BEAUTIFUL BLOOMING VIRGINIA NATIVE PLANTS

[New York Ironweed – *Vernonia noveboracensis*](#)

[Goldenrod \(fireworks\) – *Solidago rugosa*](#)

[Jack-in-the Pulpit – *Arisaema triphyllum*](#)

[Dutchman's Breeches – *Dicentra cucullaria*](#)

[Trout Lily - *Erythronium umbilicatum*](#)

[Bloodroot – *Sanguinaria canadensis*](#)

[Pink Lady Slipper - *Cypripedium acaule*](#)

[Wild Ginger - *Asarum canadense*](#)

[Mayapple - *Podophyllum peltatum*](#)

[Turk's-cap Lily - *Lilium superbum*](#)

[Wild Geranium – *Geranium maculatum*](#) - VNPS 2020 Wildflower of the year

[Black Cohosh - *Actaea racemosa*](#) - VNPS 201 Wildflower of the year

[Eastern Red Columbine – *Aquilegia canadensis*](#)

[Mistflower – *Conoclinium coelestinum*](#)

[Cardinal Flower – *Lobelia cardinalis*](#)

[Great Blue Lobelia – *Lobelia siphilitica*](#)

[Common Milkweed – *Asclepias syriaca*](#)

[Butterflyweed – *Asclepias tuberosa*](#)
[Dwarf Crested Iris – *Iris cristata*](#)
[Lyreleaf Sage – *Salvia lyrata*](#)
[Solomon's Seal – *Polygonatum biflorum*](#)
[Wild Quinine – *Parthenium integrifolium*](#)
[Blue-eyed Grass – *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*](#)
[Green and Gold – *Chrysogonum virginianum*](#)
[Maryland Golden Aster – *Chrysopsis mariana*](#)
[Black-eyed Sysan – *Rudbeckia hirta*](#)
[Common Violet – *Viola sororia*](#)
[Wild Strawberries - *Fragaria virginiana*](#)

More Exotic Perennials:

[Rattlesnake Master – *Eryngium yuccifolium*](#)
[Downy Rattlesnake Plantain – *Goodyera pubescens*](#) - VNPS 2016 Wildflower of the year

Shrubs / Bushes

[Beautyberry - *Callicarpa americana*](#)
[Black Chokeberry - *Aronia melanocarpa*](#)
[Common Winterberry - *Ilex verticillata*](#)
[Button Bush – *Cephalanthus occidentalis*](#) - VNPS 2022 Wildflower of the year
[Elderberry – *Sambucus canadensis*](#)
[Lowbush Blueberry - *Vaccinium pallidum*](#)

Vines

[Passion Vine – *Passiflora incarnata*](#)
[Coral Honeysuckle – *Lonicera sempervirens*](#) - VNPS 2014 Wildflower of the year

Trees

[Loblolly Pine - *Pinus taeda*](#)
[Eastern Red Cedar - *Juniperus virginiana*](#)
[Flowering Dogwood - *Cornus florida*](#) - VNPS 2018 Wildflower of the year
[American Holly - *Ilex opaca*](#)
[Southern Red Oak - *Quercus falcata*](#)
[Tulip-Poplar - *Liriodendron tulipifera*](#)

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RESOURCES: PLANTS AND INFORMATION

Plant Southern Piedmont Natives - <https://www.plantvirginiannatives.org/plant-southern-piedmont-natives>
Lady Bird Johnson's Wildflower Farm - <https://www.wildflower.org/plants-main>
Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora - <http://www.vaplantatlas.org>
North Carolina State University Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox - <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu>
Virginia Native Plant Society - <https://vnps.org>
The National Wildlife Federation – Habitat Certification - <https://www.nwf.org/garden-for-wildlife/certify>

Where to Get Native Plants

- Lewis Ginter Spring and Fall Plant Sales
- Native plant Societies and Master Gardeners Plant Sales
- Local nurseries - If they don't have a section for natives, ask them to get some.
- Local native plant specialists
- Online
- Best of all -- from friends!

Don't be afraid to invite native plants into your garden.

You will enjoy the rewards.

- Beauty of the flowers
- Increased wildlife, especially pollinators
- Contribution to soil health
- Personal satisfaction

Final Review: Why We Should Plant Natives

Low Maintenance

- Don't need to be watered (once established)
- Don't need fertilizer
- Mostly perennials

Ecological Services

- Food and habitat for wildlife
- Deep roots build soil, cleans water

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