

Native Landscapes Creating Low-Maintenance Gardens

Native plants are an excellent option if you are looking to create a low maintenance, easy care, hardy landscape. Native species have adapted to local soils and climate and are ideal for a home garden. These plants are resistant to local pests and climate conditions hence don't require pesticides, extra watering or fertilizers to grow beautifully in any urban garden. Their diversity makes it easy to choose perfect combination for an attractive garden ecosystem that will become an oasis for bird, butterflies and other wildlife. Native species will provide 3 essential wildlife requirements: cover, water and food. Here is a small list to get you started.

Where to find them?

Ask for native plants at your local garden centre. Make sure the plants you purchase have not been harvested from the wild. Nursery-propagated plants grown from local stock assures a hardier plant adapted to local conditions and does not damage natural areas. There are many sources of Native plants you can consider. Here are a few to try. The following list is not complete. If you know of others who would like to be on this list please call 905-540-8787 ext. 18.

Native Plant Sources

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| <p>Sweet Grass Gardens RR. 6, Hagersville, ON, NOA 1 H0 (519) 445-4828 www.sweetgrassgardens.com</p> | <p>Connon Nurseries P.O. Box 200 Waterdown, ON, L0R 2H0 (905) 628-3155</p> |
| <p>Onp: Ontario Native Plants 4965 Westney Road Clarendon, ON, L1Y 1A2 (905) 649-8210 www.nativeplants.ca</p> | <p>Pterophylla Mary E. Gartshore & Peter J. Carson RR. 1, Walsingham, ON, N0E 1X0 (519) 586-3985</p> |
| <p>Acorus Restoration RR#1, Walsingham, ON, N0E 1X0 (519) 586-2603 www.ecologyart.com</p> | <p>Groen's Nursery LTd. 1512 Brock Rd. R.R. # 4 Dundas, ON, L9H 5E4 Tel: (905) 659-7072</p> |
| <p>Native Plant Source 318 Misty Cres. Kitchener, ON, N2B 3V5 (519) 748-4021 www.nativeplantsource.com</p> | <p>Orford Ridges Native Plants RR#1 Muirkirk, ON N0L 1X0 (519) 678-3866 www.carolinianplants.com</p> |
| <p>Native Plant Nurseries 47 Fawcett Trail Scar, ON, M1B 3B6 (416) 281-1959 nativeplantnurseries@hotmail.com</p> | <p>William Dam Seeds 905-628-6641 279 Hwy #8 West Flamborough (Hamilton), ON (905) 628-6641 www.damseeds.com</p> |

Call the **Yard Improvement Helpline** at 905-540-8787 ext. 18 for tips on natural lawn and garden care.
Contact the City of Hamilton call center at 905-546-CITY (2489) for information on the **Municipal Pesticide Bylaw**.
Visit www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/land/pesticides for updates to the Ontario Pesticide Ban.

Food source for: birds, butterflies

Trees

- American Beech** (*Fagus grandifolia*) – smooth grey bark, leaves turn light brown in fall & persist winter
- Black Cherry** (*Prunus serotina*) – full sun, range of soils, largest of cherries in Ontario, white blooms in May to June,
- Red Maple** (*Acer rubrum*) – tolerant of a wide habitat range, red fall foliage,
- Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*) – fast growing, sandy soil, full sun,
- Sycamore** (*Platanus occidentalis*) – fast growing shade tree, ornamental bark, leaf yellow/brown in fall
- Trembling Aspen** (*Populus tremuloides*) – great wind chime tree,
- Tulip Tree** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) – yellow tulip shaped flowers in spring, yellow fall foliage
- White Birch** (*Betula papyrifera*) – fast growing hardy tree
- Eastern Red Cedar** (*Juniperus virginiana*) – full sun, water-efficient, good as windbreak
- Eastern White Pine** (*Pinus resinosa*) – tree of Ontario, fast growing,
- White Spruce** (*Picea glauca*) – hardy, drought tolerant tree,

Shrubs

- Chokecherry** (*Prunus virginiana*) – very hardy, sour edible cherries,
- Elderberry** (*Sambucus canadensis*) – fast growing, clusters of dark blue berries in fall,
- Highbush Cranberry** (*Viburnum trilobum*) – tolerant for damp soils, red clusters of berries, foliage red in fall,
- Hop Hornbeam** (*Ostrya virginiana*) – shaggy bark, full sun to shade, water-efficient
- Nannyberry** (*Viburnum lentago*) – dry- wet soils, white blooms May to June, red foliage in fall,
- Red Osier Dogwood** (*Cornus stolonifera*) – red branches for winter interest, tolerant for wet soils,
- Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier sp.*) – white spring flowers, drought tolerant, edible berries,
- Snowberry** (*Symphoricarpos albus*) – less than 1 m tall, white berries persist over winter, dry soils,
- Wild Black Current** (*Ribes americanus*) – moist soils, sun to part shade, edible berries,
- Witch-hazel** (*Hamamelis virginiana*) – average soil, full sun to part shade, blooms April-May,

Vines

- Bittersweet** (*Celastrus scandens*) – climbing vine with colourful berries
- Virginia Creeper** (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) – shade tolerant, blue berries and red fall foliage,
- Wild Grape** (*Vitis riparia*) – clusters of sour berries,

Grasses

- Big Blue Stem** (*Andropogon gerardii*) – clay soil tolerant, full sun to partial shade
- Indian Grass** (*Sorghastrum nutans*) – clay soil tolerant, full sun
- Little Blue Stem** (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) – clay soil tolerant, xeriscaping, full sun
- Side-oats Grama** (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) – clay soil tolerant, native to eastern Ontario, full sun to partial shade

Forbs (wildflowers)

- Anemone** (*Anemone canadensis*) – forests, meadows, wetlands, blooms June, great for mass growing
- Bloodroot** (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) – part shade to sun, woodland/forests, spring bloom
- Cardinal Flower** (*Lobelia cardinalis*) – wetlands, damp soil or shade, early August, red blooms, ,
- Culver's Root** (*Veronicastrum virginicum*) – meadow, wet to moist soil, sun to part shade, blooms white in July to Aug.,
- Early Meadow Rue** (*Thalictrum dioicum*) – forest, shade tolerant, blooms May, early nectar source for bees
- False Solomon's Seal** (*Maianthemum racemosum*) – rich moist soils, shade to part sun, red berries appear in summer,
- Harebell** (*Campanula rotundifolia*) – Xeriscaping, blue blooms from July to Sept., full sun to light shade
- New England Aster** (*Aster novae-angliae*) – clay soils, partial shade, fall blooms, purple flower,
- White Beardtongue** (*Penstemon digitalis*) – meadow, full sun to part shade, white June blooms, ,
- Wild Columbine** (*Aquilegia canadensis*) – clay soil tolerant, woodland, June blooms,
- Wild Bergamont** (*Monarda fistulosa*) – xeriscaping, partial shade, pale mauve blooms, ,
- Wild Strawberry** (*Fragaria virginiana*) – good groundcover, moderate shade
- Zigzag Goldenrod** (*Solidago flexicaulis*) – forest, does well in dry shade

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Visit www.naturallyhamilton.ca for links to the Ministry of the Environment's Cosmetic Pesticide Ban.