

# A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO NATIVE LANDSCAPING

Many of the grasses planted most often for lawns aren't the best for protecting water quality. Native plants—those naturally found in Michigan landscapes—actually help improve water quality, and they're an attractive alternative to turfgrass. Natives generally have deeper roots, which absorb runoff and break down pollutants that would otherwise go straight into storm drains and rivers. Native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers encourage a healthy yard, and require much less maintenance than nonnatives or turfgrass!

## What are some other reasons to plant natives?



While many non-native plants, such as purple loosestrife, are colorful and attractive, they are considered "invasive" because they out-compete native species and disrupt wildlife habitat. Native plants, on the other hand, offer nesting sites and food for wildlife. A garden of prairie wildflowers, for instance, will attract butterflies and hummingbirds to your backyard. Best of all, natives are adapted to our local soils and climate, so they do not need watering and require very little fertilizer or pesticides, which can pollute our waterways. Find out more about native plants through MSU Master Gardener Hotline, or get a copy of "Landscaping for Water Quality", a series of booklets available through your local MDEQ office or from the Center for Environmental Study @ 616-988-2854.



**Some nurseries specialize in native plants, and local conservation districts offer free**



**site assessments to determine what plants will work best in your yard!**

Call Michigan State University Extension Offices in to get a list of nurseries in your area.



## What plants are native to Michigan?

Here's just a small sampling of plants that are native to our area and easy to find.

### Ferns

Christmas  
Cinnamon  
Lady

Maidenhair  
Ostrich  
Royal

### Grasses

Big bluestem grass  
Cordgrass  
Indian grass

Junegrass  
Purple lovegrass  
Wool-grass

### Shrubs

Blueberry  
Buttonbush  
Dogwood  
Fragrant sumac  
Elderberry

Michigan holly  
(Winterberry)  
Serviceberry  
Spicebush  
Raspberry

### Trees

American beech  
Ash (Red, Green)  
Blackgum  
Black walnut  
Canada hemlock  
Douglas fir  
Flowering dogwood  
Hawthorn

Hickory  
Maple (Red, Sugar)  
Oak (Red, White)  
Ohio buckeye  
Paw paw  
Sycamore  
Tuliptree  
White pine

### Wildflowers

Anemone  
Black-eyed Susan  
Blazing star  
Butterfly weed

Columbine  
Coral bells  
Purple coneflower  
Woodland poppy

For more information, visit our website: [www.vicksburgmi.org](http://www.vicksburgmi.org)

