

Helpful Hints

- * Start out small. Add natives to your existing gardens a little at a time. Consider converting areas of your lawn to native plants.
- * Look at your garden. Is it sunny or shady? Is it wet or dry? Choose plants that match these conditions.
- * Which plants grow best together? Call your nearest nature center or The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College to learn more about plant communities.
- * Talk to your neighbors about what you are doing. You may inspire others.
- * Buy your native plants from a reliable, local nursery or support your community native plant sales. Determine that the plants have been nursery-propagated.
- * Protect native plants. Leave them in the wild.



Illustration and Design: Edward Henry



For More Information on Native Plants

The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College, (914)785-7870 www.nativeplantcenter.org.

Westchester County Parks' Nature Centers:

Cranberry Lake Preserve, (914) 428-1005
Croton Point Park, (914) 862-5297
Lenoir Preserve, (914) 968-5851
Marshlands Conservancy, (914) 835-4466
Read Sanctuary, (914) 967-8720
Trailside Museum, (914) 864-7322

Westchester County Soil and Water Conservation District, (914) 995-4422 www.westchestergov.com

Cornell Cooperative Extension; (914) 285-4640
www.hort.cornell.edu/gardening

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center,
www.wildflower.org

New York Department of Environmental Conservation, www.dec.state.ny.us

New England Wild Flower Society, www.newfs.org

Books

Cullina, William. *Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines: A Guide to Using, Growing, and Propagating North American Woody Plants*

Cullina, William. *The New England Wild Flower Society Guide to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada*

Johnson, Lorraine N. *100 Easy to Grow Native Plants for American Gardens in Temperate Zones*

Stein, Sara. *Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Back Yards*

Taylor, Patricia A. *Easy Care Native Plants: A Guide to Selecting and Using Beautiful American Flowers, Shrubs, and Trees in Gardens and Landscapes*

Westchester
gov.com

Andrew J. Spano, Westchester County Executive
County Board of Legislators

Go Native



Recommended Westchester County Native Plants For Homeowners and Landscapers

PARKS
WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Joseph A. Stout, Commissioner

WHAT IS A NATIVE PLANT ?

A native plant is one that naturally occurs in a region without being introduced from elsewhere by people. Westchester County has many plants that have originated here and are considered "Westchester natives." Plants native to Westchester include ferns and clubmosses, grasses, sedges, rushes, flowering perennials, trees, shrubs, and vines.

"Wherever I go in America, I like it when the land speaks its own language in its own regional accent."

- Lady Bird Johnson

WHY GO NATIVE ?

It's easy!

Native plants, properly sited and planted, are hardy and adapted to our normal weather extremes. Once established, they're usually low maintenance.

It's good for the environment!

Native plants usually do not need pesticides or fertilizers. Pesticides can run off lawns and contaminate rivers and lakes. Fertilizers accelerate algae growth and deplete oxygen in our waterways, affecting our water supply.

It's good for wildlife!

Native plants provide food and shelter for 10 to 15 times more species of birds, butterflies, and other local wildlife than non-native plants.

It saves water!

Native plants normally get the moisture they need from rain, while a 1,000-square-foot turf grass lawn requires 10,000 gallons of water per summer to keep it green.

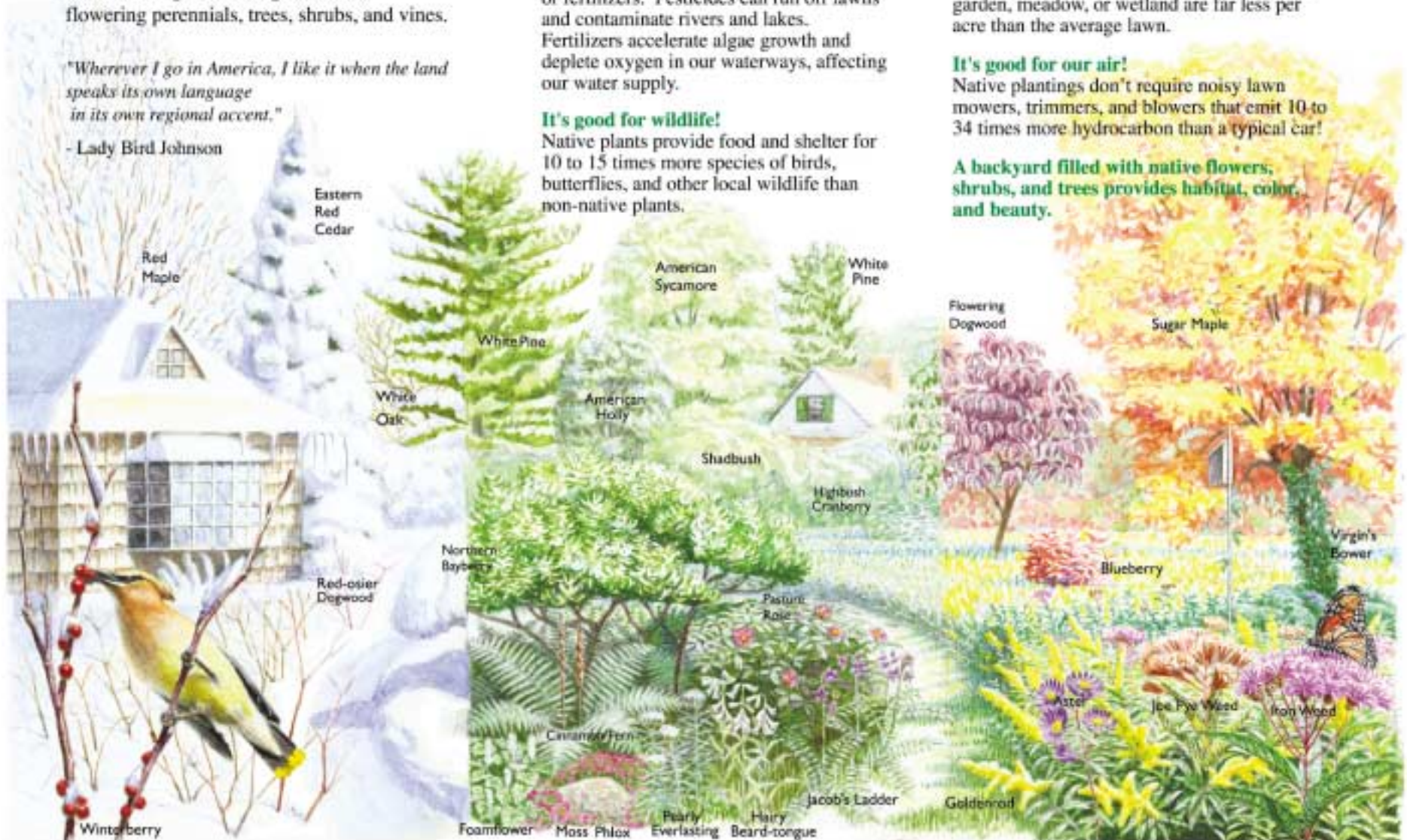
It saves money!

The cumulative costs of maintaining a native garden, meadow, or wetland are far less per acre than the average lawn.

It's good for our air!

Native plantings don't require noisy lawn mowers, trimmers, and blowers that emit 10 to 34 times more hydrocarbon than a typical car!

A backyard filled with native flowers, shrubs, and trees provides habitat, color, and beauty.



Recommended Native Plants for Landscaping in Westchester County

Source: Revised Checklist of New York State Plants; Richard S. Mitchell, Gordon C. Tucker

Trees

Common Name	Scientific Name	Bloom Period	Wildlife Value	Bloom Color	Light Preference		Soil Moisture Preference			Height in feet	Notes
					Sun	Shade	Wet	Moist	Dry		
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	March-April	high	red	☀️	🌿	💧	💧	💧	40-60	First to flower in spring; fall color
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	April-May	very high	yellow	☀️	🌿		💧		60-75	Yellow flowers in spring; fall color; maple syrup
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	May-June	very high	green	☀️			💧		60-90	Tasty nuts; attractive bark
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	May	high	white	☀️			💧	💧	30-50	Attracts butterflies; blue berries
American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	April-May	very high	green	☀️	🌿		💧		50-70	Edible nuts; attractive bark
American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	June	very high	white	☀️	🌿		💧	💧	30-50	Evergreen; provides habitat; fragrant flowers; red berries
Eastern Red Cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	May	very high	green	☀️			💧		40-50	Evergreen; blue berries; provides cover
Tulip Tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	May-June	intermediate	green	☀️	🌿			💧	75-100	Straight trunk; fast growth
Black Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	June	very high	green	☀️			💧	💧	30-50	Blue berries; fall color
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>		very high		☀️	🌿		💧	💧	50-80	Evergreen conifer; prunes well
American Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	April-May	low		☀️	🌿				75-100	Showy bark; drops fruits and leaves in summer
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	May-June	very high	white	☀️	🌿		💧		30-50	Edible berries; fall color
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	May	very high	green	☀️	🌿				50-80	Majestic form; keeps leaves in winter
Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	April-May	very high	green	☀️	🌿			💧	60-80	Hardy, long-lived tree; fall color
American Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	May-June	high	green	☀️	🌿		💧		60-80	Flowers aromatic
Eastern Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>		high			🌿		💧		40-70	Evergreen conifer; check for pest problems

Shrubs & Small Trees

Shadbush	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	March-April	very high	white	☀️	🌿		💧	💧	15-20	Edible berries; fall color
Devil's Walking Stick	<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	July-August	very high	white	☀️	🌿		💧		12-20	Purple berries; trunk covered in spines
Chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	March-July	high	red	☀️	🌿		💧	💧	3-6	Multi-stemmed; red berries; fall color
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	May-Sept	intermediate	white	☀️	🌿		💧	💧	3	Multi-stemmed; tough; fixes nitrogen; attracts butterflies
Sweet Pepper Bush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	July-Sept	high	white	☀️	🌿		💧		10	Very fragrant
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	April-June	very high	white	☀️	🌿		💧		10-30	White bracts in spring; red berries
Red-osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	May-June	very high	white	☀️	🌿		💧		7-9	White berries; red stems in winter
Witch-Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Sept-Nov	low	yellow		🌿		💧		20-30	Multi-stemmed; fragrant; herbal uses
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	June	high	white	☀️	🌿		💧	💧	10-12	Red berries all winter
Mountain Laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	May-June	low	white/pink	☀️	🌿		💧	💧	10	Evergreen; showy blossoms; multi-stemmed
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	March-April	high	yellow/green		🌿		💧	💧	6-12	Berries (on females); food plant for Spicebush Swallowtail caterpillar
Northern Bayberry	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	May-July	high	yellow	☀️			💧	💧	10	Aromatic twig, leaves, and bark; waxy berries
Pinder Azalea	<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	May	low	pink		🌿		💧	💧	4-8	Beautiful blossoms
Swamp Azalea	<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	July	low	white		🌿		💧		6-10	Very fragrant
Dwarf Sumac	<i>Rhus copallina</i>	July-August	high	green/yellow	☀️			💧	💧	10-20	Shiny leaves; red berries; fall color
Pasture Rose	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	June-July	high	pink	☀️			💧	💧	2-3	Long bloom period; crimson rose hips
American Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	June-July	very high	white	☀️	🌿		💧	💧	5-15	Multi-stemmed; edible red berries and flowers
Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	May-June	very high	red/white	☀️	🌿		💧	💧	6-12	Multi-stemmed; edible berries; fall color
Maple-leaved Viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	May-June	high	white	☀️	🌿		💧		6	Pink fall foliage; blue berries
Arrow-wood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	May-June	high	white	☀️	🌿		💧		15	Blue berries in fall
Highbush Cranberry	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	May-July	high	white	☀️	🌿		💧		12	Showy flowers; red berries all winter

Ferns

Maidenhair Fern	<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>		intermediate			🌿		💧		1-2	Grows in clumps; delicate texture
Ladyfern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>		intermediate			🌿		💧		1-3	Lacy; attractive foliage
Cinnamon Fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>		intermediate			🌿		💧		2-4	Grows in clumps; distinctive spore fronds
Interrupted Fern	<i>Osmunda claytonia</i>		intermediate			🌿		💧		2-4	Grows in clumps; distinctive fronds
Christmas Fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>		intermediate			🌿		💧		1-2	Evergreen; grows in clumps
Marginal Wood Fern	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>		intermediate			🌿		💧		1-3	Evergreen; forms clumps; arching fronds

Flowering Plants

Pearly Everlasting	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	July-Sept	intermediate	white	●	●	●	●	●	1-3	Showy flowers; dry arrangements; food plant for American Lady caterpillar
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	April-June	very high	red /yellow	●	●	●	●	●	1-3	Spreads by seed; attracts hummingbirds
Jack-in-the-Pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	April-June	intermediate	green/purple	●	●	●	●	●	1-3	Unusual flowers; red, inedible berries
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	June-Aug	very high	pink	●	●	●	●	●	2-4	Attracts butterflies; food plant for Monarch caterpillar
White Wood Aster	<i>Aster divaricatus</i>	Sept-Oct	high	white	●	●	●	●	●	1	Showy flowers in fall
New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	Aug-Oct	very high	purple	●	●	●	●	●	2-6	Showy; attracts butterflies
New York Aster	<i>Aster novi-belgii</i>	July-Oct	very high	violet	●	●	●	●	●	2-4	Showy; attracts butterflies
Virgin's Bower	<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	Aug-Sept	intermediate	white	●	●	●	●	●	20	Showy flowers; vine
Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Aug-Sept	very high	purple	●	●	●	●	●	3-6	Attracts pollinators
Wild Geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	April	intermediate	rose	●	●	●	●	●	1-2	Ground cover; long bloom time
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Aug-Oct	high	yellow	●	●	●	●	●	2-6	Showy flowers; herbal uses
Hepatica	<i>Hepatica americana</i>	March-April	intermediate	purple/white	●	●	●	●	●	6"	Lovely; early blooms
Rose Mallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Aug-Oct	high	pink	●	●	●	●	●	4-5	Tolerates salt; showy flowers
Turk's-Cap Lily	<i>Lilium superbum</i>	June-Aug	intermediate	orange	●	●	●	●	●	3-8	Showy; up to 40 flowers on one plant
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Aug-Sept	very high	scarlet	●	●	●	●	●	2-5	Long bloom time; attracts hummingbirds
Great Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Aug-Sept	intermediate	blue	●	●	●	●	●	1-3	Late bloomer with attractive blue spikes
Trumpet Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	May-Sept	high	red/yellow	●	●	●	●	●	12-20	Showy vine; attracts hummingbirds
Bee Balm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	July-Aug	very high	red	●	●	●	●	●	2-5	Aromatic; showy; attracts hummingbirds; herbal uses
Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	July-Aug	very high	violet	●	●	●	●	●		Showy flowers; attracts hummingbirds
Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	June-July	high	white	●	●	●	●	●	20	Vine; striking fall foliage; blue berries
Hairy Beard-tongue	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	June-July	intermediate	white	●	●	●	●	●	1-3	Deer resistant; easy to grow
Moss Phlox	<i>Phlox subulata</i>	April-May	intermediate	white, pink, purple	●	●	●	●	●	2-6"	Ground cover; masses of flowers
May Apple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	May	intermediate	white	●	●	●	●	●	1-2	Ground cover; edible fruit, other parts poisonous
Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium van-bruntiae</i>	April-June	intermediate	blue	●	●	●	●	●	1	Attractive flowers; slow spreader; herbal uses
Solomon's-seal	<i>Polygonatum pubescens</i>	April-June	intermediate	yellow	●	●	●	●	●	1-3	Easy; blue berries; attractive foliage
Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	April-May	intermediate	white	●	●	●	●	●	6	Ground cover; attractive foliage
Blue-stem Goldenrod	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	Aug-Oct	very high	yellow	●	●	●	●	●	1-3	Very hardy; shade loving; not aggressive
Showy Goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Aug-Oct	very high	yellow	●	●	●	●	●	2-6	Showy flowers; not aggressive
Foamflower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	April-June	intermediate	white	●	●	●	●	●	1-2	Attractive, long-blooming flower
Trillium	<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	May-June	intermediate	white	●	●	●	●	●	1	Showy flowers
Iron Weed	<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	Sept-Oct	high	purple	●	●	●	●	●	4-6	Attracts pollinators; showy flowers
Violet	<i>Viola sororia</i>	April-May	high	violet	●	●	●	●	●	8	Edible flowers; food plant for Fritillary caterpillar
Golden Alexanders	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	April-June	high	gold	●	●	●	●	●	1-2	Showy flowers; attractive foliage

Grasses

Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	June-Sept	high		●	●	●	●	●	3-5	Clumps; attractive; winter interest
Purple Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	Aug-Sept	intermediate	purple	●	●	●	●	●	1	Delicate purple seed heads
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	July-Sept	high		●	●	●	●	●	2-4	Clumps; tolerates poor soil; winter interest; food plant for Skipper caterpillar
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Aug-Sept	high		●	●	●	●	●	4-7	Bird food and shelter; grows in most soils
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Aug-Sept	intermediate		●	●	●	●	●	2-9	Striking tall grass