

Why Native Plants?

A native plant is one that is naturally adapted to a particular area. It has evolved with the climate and other native plants and animals to form a balance, where each organism can thrive. A healthy native plant population provides food and shelter for our native wildlife, filters and manages stormwater, prevents erosion and provides the biodiversity needed to support a functioning ecosystem, even in the middle of the city! Many of the native plants in Pennsylvania are threatened by non-native, invasive plants and from loss of area to grow, so we are encouraging you to grow native plants right in your own yard!



Why Pollinators?

A pollinator is an animal that moves pollen from one part of a flower to another flower, often on a different plant. Without this process, the plant cannot produce fruit or seeds, and cannot reproduce. Pollinators are essential to farmers, since fruits and vegetables would not grow without them! Many pollinators also start out as caterpillars, which are a crucial food source for breeding birds. Some pollinators that you may see on your native plants include swallowtail or monarch butterflies, honey bees or hummingbirds!

The Container

You don't need to spend a lot of money to participate in native container growing. Many containers, such as tires, drawers, buckets, even shoes, can be repurposed, or "upcycled", and made into planters. Creating and decorating these containers can be a creative, fun activity for the whole family!



The Plants

A variety of native plants can thrive in containers, from shade to sun loving plants, from wildflowers to shrubs. Different plants attract different birds and pollinators, so there are many considerations when choosing your plants. Natives come in all shapes, sizes and colors, so no matter what your style, you are sure to find a beautiful combination of plants to brighten your home!



GRASSES

Chasmanthium latifolium Northern Sea Oats
Panicum virgatum Switchgrass

HERBACEOUS

Asclepias tuberosa Butterflyweed
Chelone glabra White turtlehead
Echinacea purpurea Purple coneflower
Eryngium yuccifolium Rattlesnake Master
Heuchera americana Alumroot
Phlox subulata Moss Pink
Rudbeckia fulgida Black-eyed susan
Solidago (various) Goldenrod

ANNUALS

Helianthus annuus Sunflowers
Salvia farinacea Mealy-cup sage
Verbena canadensis Homestead Purple verbena

FERNS

Onoclea sensibilis Sensitive fern
Osmunda cinnamomea Cinnamon fern

GRASSES

Chasmanthium latifolium Northern Sea Oats

HERBACEOUS

Aquilegia canadensis Eastern Columbine
Asarum canadense Wild Ginger
Chelone glabra White turtlehead
Eupatorium colestinum Mistflower
Heuchera americana Alumroot
Heuchera villosa Hairy Alumroot
Rudbeckia fulgida Black-eyed susan
Sedum ternatum Wild stonecrop
Tiarella cordifolia Foamflower
Viola labradorica Labrador Violet

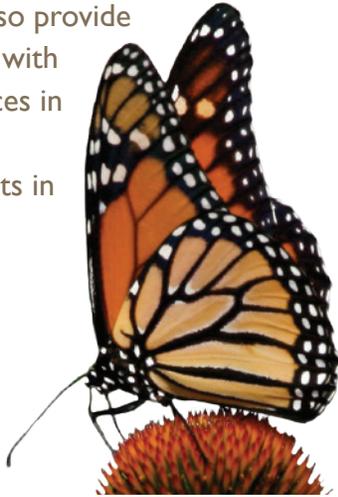
SHRUBS

Hydrangea quercifolia Oakleaf Hydrangea
Leucothoe fontanesiana Fetterbush
Vaccinium corymbosum Highbush blueberry

Sun / Part Sun
Shade / Part Shade

About Us

Audubon Pennsylvania's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity in Pennsylvania. We have a three tiered approach, including science, education and policy. Audubon PA works across Philadelphia to engage local residents in volunteer opportunities and programs that promote environmental stewardship. We also provide students of all ages with hands-on experiences in applying scientific principles to projects in their communities.



Marcia Tate is a garden coach, designer, photographer and writer specializing in native plants and sustainable gardening. Marcia is vice-president of the board of directors and active member of Friends of Glen Providence Park. She regularly leads restoration plantings, stream clean ups and educational community events in the park. Marcia's passion is gardening with environmental stewardship in mind and believes that it is possible to grow beautiful gardens where people, plants and wildlife thrive together in a healthy setting.

You Can Help!

Native plants at your home, work and school can provide much needed resources for the birds and insects that are native to Pennsylvania, many of which are in decline due to habitat loss. Adding natives connects you to local parks and other natural areas as birds, bees and butterflies travel through the region. You can help support these vitally important animals while enjoying the life native plants will bring to your patio, deck or garden bed.



Credit: Bill Thompson/USFWS

Join a Workshop!

Audubon At Home in the City workshops take place around Philadelphia throughout the year. Make and take home your own container full of native plants, and learn more about how you can attract and protect birds and pollinators! For more information, contact rgrech@audubon.org or find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/AudubonPAPhilly



Audubon At Home

In The City

Enhancing the urban landscape by using native plants to create habitat for birds, butterflies and more!



Container Growing