



NATIVE GARDENS

-Nature is resilient -

What is a Native Plant?

Native plants have evolved over thousands of years in a particular region. They have adapted to the geography, hydrology, and climate of that region. Native plants occur in communities, that is, they have evolved together with other native plants and species. As a result, a community of native plants provides habitat for a variety of native wildlife species such as songbirds, bees, and butterflies and benefit the soil and surrounding environment.



Benefits of Native Gardens

- **Habitat**– Provide for bees, butterflies, birds, and other wildlife who use the plants for cover and food.
- **Low Maintenance**-Native plantings typically require no fertilization or watering. Fertilization and watering can be expensive, time-consuming procedure that can encourage undesirable vegetation. Costs associated with lawn irrigation, maintenance and chemical applications are reduced.
- **Resist Weeds**-Native species naturally resist weed invasion more effectively than introduced grasses.
- **Good for the Soil**-Extensive fibrous root systems of native prairies reduce erosion by holding soil and slowing runoff and pollutants. Deep root systems also build soil and restore soil health by opening the subsoil to water percolation and aeration, replenishing the soil with organic matter.

More questions on establishing a Native Garden?
Contact Carlton Soil and Water Conservation District
Free technical assistance is available!



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More Resources on Native Plantings

- **Blue Thumb**—Native Plant Gardens
<https://bluethumb.org/native-plant-gardens/>
- **NE MN Bee Friendly Corridor**
<https://oacc.us/programs/bee-friendly-corridor/>
- **MN Wildflowers**— Field Guide
<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/>