

Create a Buzz!
Visit Prickly Ed's Cactus Patch
Native Plant Emporium to find:

Native Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus,
our signature plant!

The area's largest selection of beneficial
Northeast Native Plants (perennials,
shrubs, grasses, vines & more)

Organic heirloom herb & veggie plants

Pollinator-friendly flowering annuals
including cuphea, fuchsia, garden salvia,
groovy begonia and hummingbird mint

Moon garden favorites including cleome,
yarrow, clethra & flowering tobacco

Earth friendly hardgoods like Earth Care
Farm Compost & buckwheat hulls mulch

Gifts for the eco-conscious gardener

A community of like-minded neighbors
working to build back habitat at home



Learn More

Our website is chock full of the resources and tools you need to start building vibrant habitat at home. Dig in at www.pricklyeds.com. While there be sure to sign up for our monthly educational newsletters.

For daily garden inspirations follow us:
Facebook @PricklyEdsCactusPatch
Instagram @PricklyEdsCactusPatch

Contact us at any time:
pricklyedscactuspatch@gmail.com
401.248.4785



We are on a mission to
bring life back to area
yards and gardens.
Will you join us?

Visit us at the Big Red Barn
located on Barneyville Road right
at the border of Barrington, RI
and Swansea, MA



Let's Talk About the Birds and the Bees



Biodiversity is declining at an alarming rate, faster than at any time in history. Pollinators including native bees, butterflies and moths are in peril with many facing extinction. At the same time, North America has lost nearly 1/3 of its bird population. Right here in New England we are experiencing declines of even our favorite backyard birds. Some might ask, why does this matter? These are indicator species, canaries in the coal mine, pointing to broader ecosystem collapse. All creatures play a vital role in the web of life and when we lose individual species, threads in the web unravel. Our own lives and livelihoods ultimately depend on vibrant biodiversity.

But, there is good news. We all have power to make a real difference right outside our own doors; we just have to make the choice to do so. In fragmented landscapes defined by buildings, roadways and manicured lawns, pollinators and other beneficial creatures cannot find sufficient food and shelter to sustain life. By simply converting parts of yards currently filled with turf grass and non-native plantings into spaces designed to support the web of life, suddenly "stepping stones" for species are created between larger patches of habitat and nature can rebound. Success depends on action that comes from the ground up, starting in your own yard, neighborhood and community.

Why Native Plants?

Native plants evolved with native wildlife over millions of years, and therefore offer the most sustainable habitat for songbirds, pollinators and many other wonderful creatures. A plant is considered native if it occurred naturally in a region, ecosystem, or habitat without human introduction. Extensive research has shown that exotic plants that evolved in other parts of the world or were cultivated by humans into forms that don't exist in nature do not support wildlife as well as native plants. Occasionally, they can even escape into the wild and become invasive exotics that destroy natural habitat.

Native plants are also at the root of resilient gardening. They are adapted to our climate and soil types and most have very low water requirements once established. And in a healthy native plant landscape there is no need to use the artificial fertilizers, pesticides or other chemical interventions that are negatively impacting our health, the environment and our beloved Bay.

Despite these many benefits, studies have shown that less than 15% of plants sold in conventional nurseries are "native" plants. That's why at Prickly Ed's we focus nearly exclusively on filling this important market niche. We hope if more people have access to high quality bird and pollinator friendly plants that in turn more people will begin to build back habitat at home.



Dig In Right At Home



Shrink your lawn area and work towards having at least 70% native plants in your landscape. Plant in layers and drifts to mimic nature. Add nectar rich flowers with season long bloom.



PESTICIDE FREE

Eliminate pesticides on your property. Americans use 10x more pesticides in yards than farmers use on crops. Lawn treatments kill 7 million birds annually, cause harm to wildlife (and pets) and let's not forget their impacts on our own health and the environment. 95% of insects are beneficial but pesticides kill indiscriminately.



Help nature thrive, go easy on tidying up. Create places for shelter, nesting and perching by leaving things a bit messy! Fallen leaves, spent plant stems, brush piles, dead trees (snags) and branches support life with shelter and food.



Buy bee safe! When buying plants choose ones grown without pesticides and herbicides. Celebrate holes in the leaves of plants, it means they are supporting life.



Embrace the night! Nocturnal creatures play a vital role in a healthy habitat. Don't forget to include night blooming flowers in your garden plan. Use outdoor lights sparingly and keep bulbs in warm tones. Learn more at www.darksky.org



Add water sources, even simple bird baths and butterfly puddlers help. Include varying depths and heights.



Celebrate and enjoy all of the life that buzzes back to your yard! You will be amazed how quickly nature rebounds.