



# American Native Plants: why, what & how...

Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
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- Natives in our gardens - benefits beyond beauty – environmentally sound gardens – resources, flora & fauna, cost effective, beautiful, richer than traditional gardens
- Influential Designers – European and American
- Why - Doug Tallamy and “Nature’s Best Hope” – keystone plants
  - Keystone plant genera are unique to local food webs within ecoregions. Remove keystone plants and the diversity and abundance of many essential insect species, which 96% of terrestrial birds rely on for food sources, will be diminished. The ecosystem collapses in a similar way that the removal of the “key” stone in ancient Roman arch will trigger its demise. Tallamy, and his team at the University of Delaware have identified 14% of native plants (the keystones) support 90% of **butterfly and moth** Lepidoptera species. Additional research by horticulturist Jarrod Fowler has shown that 15% to 60% of North American native **bee** species are pollen specialists who only eat pollen from 40% of native plants.
  - Changing our ways – planting natives, pesticides, reducing energy use & water
- Lawn – less is more – convert to beds & plant a diversity of herbaceous and woody plants – 70% or more native
- Why – Heather Holm – more than just caterpillars, butterflies and moths
- What is a native? What is a cultivar? What is a “nativar”? Annie S. White, “How Native Plant Cultivars Affect Pollinators” (YouTube video). Sam Hoadley, Mt. Cuba Center Trial Garden
  - resources – online
    - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center <https://www.wildflower.org/>
    - Flora of Wisconsin Consortium of Wisconsin Herbaria <https://wisflora.herbarium.wisc.edu/>
    - National Wildlife Federation <https://www.nwf.org/>
    - Illinois Wildflowers <https://illinoiswildflowers.info>
- Garden Design & Maintenance
  - Goal is to create lasting plant communities that are easier to maintain and provide value to everyone and everything
  - Goal is 70% or more native plants in your garden – more is better
  - Cover the ground – all of it as quickly as possible - plant close together mimicking nature, perennial plugs, small trees & shrubs
  - Leave plants stand in winter, leave the leaves, minimal clean-up – be a little messy, 50 degree rule – 5 days in a row with temps above 50 degrees?, not true for all insects – “release piles”?
  - Mulching – LEAVE THE LEAVES

# Natives for Your Garden

\* U.S. native, but not Wisconsin

## Trees

1. *Acer x freemanii*, Freeman's maple
2. *Acer negundo*, boxelder
3. *Acer pensylvanicum*, moosewood
4. *Acer rubrum*, red maple
5. *Acer saccharinum*, silver maple
6. *Acer saccharum*, sugar maple
7. *Acer spicatum*, mountain maple
8. *Aesculus glabra*, Ohio buckeye
9. *Aesculus pavia*, red buckeye
10. *Alnus incana*, speckled alder
11. *Alnus incana ssp. rugosa*, mountain alder
12. *Amelanchier arborea*, downy serviceberry
13. *Amelanchier x grandiflora*, apple serviceberry
14. *Amelanchier laevis*, Allegheny serviceberry
15. *Asimina triloba* \*, common pawpaw
16. *Betula allegheniensis (lutea)*, yellow birch
17. *Betula lenta*, sweet birch
18. *Betula nigra*, river birch
19. *Betula papyrifera*, paper birch
20. *Betula populifolia* \*, gray birch
21. *Betula pumila*, bog birch
22. *Carpinus caroliniana*, muscledwood
23. *Carya cordiformis*, pignut hickory
24. *Carya ovata*, shagbark hickory
25. *Catalpa speciosa* \*, common catalpa
26. *Celtis occidentalis*, common hackberry
27. *Cercis canadensis* \*, eastern redbud
28. *Chionanthus virginicus* \*, fringetree
29. *Cladrastis kentukea (lutea)* \*, yellowwood
30. *Cornus alternifolia*, pagoda dogwood
31. *Cotinus obovatus* \*, smoketree
32. *Crataegus crus-galli*, cockspur hawthorn
33. *Crataegus mollis*, downy hawthorn
34. *Crataegus pruinosa*, frosted hawthorn
35. *Crataegus punctata*, dotted hawthorn
36. *Crataegus viridis* \*, green hawthorn
37. *Fagus grandifolia*, American beech
38. *Gleditsia triacanthos*, common honeylocust
39. *Gymnocladus dioicus*, Kentucky coffeetree
40. *Halesia tetraptera (carolina)* \*, Carolina silverbell
41. *Juglans nigra*, black walnut
42. *Juniperus communis*, common juniper
43. *Juniperus horizontalis*, creeping juniper
44. *Juniperus virginiana*, eastern redcedar
45. *Larix laricina*, tamarack or larch
46. *Malus angustifolia*, southern crabapple
47. *Malus coronaria*, sweet crabapple
48. *Malus ioensis*, prairie crabapple
49. *Nyssa sylvatica*, tupelo or black gum
50. *Ostrya virginiana*, ironwood
51. *Picea glauca*, white spruce
52. *Pinus banksiana*, jack pine
53. *Pinus resinosa*, red pine
54. *Pinus strobus*, white pine
55. *Platanus occidentalis*, sycamore
56. *Populus deltoides*, eastern cottonwood
57. *Populus grandidentata*, big-toothed aspen
58. *Populus tremuloides*, quaking aspen
59. *Prunus americana*, American plum
60. *Prunus pensylvanica*, pin cherry
61. *Prunus serotina*, black cherry

- 62. *Prunus virginiana*, choke cherry
- 63. *Ptelea trifoliata*, common hop-tree
- 64. *Quercus alba*, white oak
- 65. *Quercus bicolor*, swamp white oak
- 66. *Quercus ellipsoidalis*, northern pin oak
- 67. *Quercus macrocarpa*, bur oak
- 68. *Quercus muhlenbergii*, chinkapin oak
- 69. *Quercus palustris*, pin oak
- 70. *Quercus rubra*, red oak
- 71. *Quercus x bebbiana*, Bebb's Oak – *Q. alba* x *macrocarpa*
- 72. *Quercus x schuettei*, Schuett's Oak – *Q. bicolor* x *macrocarpa*
- 73. *Sassafras albidum*, sassafras
- 74. *Sorbus americana*, American mountain-ash
- 75. *Staphylea trifolia*, bladdernut
- 76. *Thuja occidentalis*, eastern arborvitae
- 77. *Tsuga canadensis*, eastern hemlock
- 78. *Ulmus americana*, American elm

## Shrubs

- 1. *Aesculus parviflora* \*, bottlebrush buckeye
- 2. *Amelanchier canadensis*, Canada serviceberry
- 3. *Amelanchier stolonifera*, running serviceberry
- 4. *Amorpha canescens*, lead plant
- 5. *Aronia arbutifolia*, red chokeberry
- 6. *Aronia melanocarpa*, black chokeberry
- 7. *Calycanthus floridus* \*, sweetshrub
- 8. *Ceanothus americanus*, New Jersey tea
- 9. *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, buttonbush
- 10. *Clethra alnifolia* \*, summersweet
- 11. *Cornus amomum*, silky dogwood
- 12. *Cornus racemosa*, gray dogwood
- 13. *Cornus sericea* (stolonifera), redosier dogwood
- 14. *Corylus americana*, hazelnut
- 15. *Corylus cornuta*, beaked hazelnut
- 16. *Diervilla lonicera*, bush-honeysuckle
- 17. *Diervilla sessilifolia* \*, southern bush-honeysuckle
- 18. *Dirca palustris*, leatherwood
- 19. *Fothergilla gardenii* \*, dwarf fothergilla
- 20. *Fothergilla major* \*, large fothergilla
- 21. *Hamamelis vernalis* \*, vernal witchhazel
- 22. *Hamamelis virginiana*, common witchhazel
- 23. *Hydrangea arborescens* \*, smooth hydrangea
- 24. *Hydrangea quercifolia* \*, oakleaf hydrangea
- 25. *Hypericum kalmianum*, St. John's wort
- 26. *Hypericum prolificum*, St. John's wort
- 27. *Ilex glabra*\*, inkberry
- 28. *Ilex verticillata*, winterberry
- 29. *Itea virginica* \*, Virginia sweetspire
- 30. *Lindera benzoin* \*, spicebush
- 31. *Myrica pensylvanica* \*, northern bayberry
- 32. *Physocarpus opulifolius*, ninebark
- 33. *Potentilla fruticosa*, shrubby cinquefoil
- 34. *Rhus aromatica*, fragrant sumac
- 35. *Rhus copallinum*, shining sumac
- 36. *Rhus glabra*, smooth sumac
- 37. *Rhus typhina*, staghorn sumac
- 38. *Ribes americanum*, American black currant
- 39. *Rosa arkansana*, dwarf prairie rose
- 40. *Rosa blanda*, smooth rose
- 41. *Rosa carolina*, Carolina rose
- 42. *Rosa setigera*, climbing prairie rose
- 43. *Rosa woodsii*, Wood's rose
- 44. *Rubus allegheniensis*, common blackberry

45. *Rubus idaeus*, red raspberry
46. *Rubus occidentalis*, black raspberry
47. *Salix candida*, sageleaf willow
48. *Salix discolor*, pussy willow
49. *Salix syrticola*, dune willow
50. *Sambucus canadensis*, American elderberry
51. *Sambucus racemosa* var. *pubens*, red elderberry
52. *Spiraea alba*, eastern meadowsweet
53. *Spiraea tomentosa*, steeplebush
54. *Symphoricarpos albus*, snowberry
55. *Symphoricarpos occidentalis*, western snowberry
56. *Taxus canadensis*, Canadian yew *Vaccinium angustifolium*, lowbush blueberry
57. *Vaccinium corymbosum*, highbush blueberry
58. *Vaccinium macrocarpon*, cranberry
59. *Viburnum cassinoides*, with-rod viburnum
60. *Viburnum dentatum*, arrowwood viburnum
61. *Viburnum lentago*, nannyberry viburnum
79. *Viburnum opulus* subsp. *trilobum*, American cranberrybush viburnum
80. *Viburnum prunifolium*, Blackhaw Viburnum
81. *Viburnum rafinesquianum*, Down Arrowwood Viburnum

## Vines

1. *Celastrus scandens*, American Bittersweet
2. *Clematis occidentalis*, purple clematis
3. *Clematis virginiana*, virgin's bower
4. *Lathyrus venosus*, veiny pea
5. *Lonicera dioica*, Limber Honeysuckle
6. *Lonicera sempervirens* \*, Trumpet Honeysuckle
7. *Parthenocissus inserta*, Grape Woodbine
8. *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, Virginia Creeper
9. *Vitis aestivalis*, Pigeon Grape
10. *Vitis riparia*, River Bank Grape
11. *Wisteria frutescens* \*, American Wisteria
12. *Wisteria macrostachya* \*, Kentucky Wisteria

## Grasses & Sedges

1. *Andropogon gerardii*, big bluestem
2. *Bouteloua curtipendula*, side-oats grama
3. *Bouteloua gracilis*, blue grama
4. *Carex albicans*, oak sedge
5. *Carex jamesii*, grass sedge
6. *Carex grayi*, bur sedge
7. *Carex grisea*, eastern narrow-leaved sedge
8. *Carex laxiculmis*, spreading sedge
9. *Carex muskingumensis*, palm sedge
10. *Carex pensylvanica*, Pennsylvania sedge
11. *Carex plantaginea*, plantain-leaved sedge
12. *Carex platyphylla*, broad-leaf sedge
13. *Carex radiata*, eastern star sedge
14. *Carex rosea*, rosy sedge

15. *Carex vulpinoidea*, fox sedge
16. *Deschampsia cespitosa*, tufted hair grass
17. *Diarrhena obovate*, beak grass
18. *Elymus hystrix*, bottlebrush grass
19. *Eragrostis spectabilis*, purple love grass
20. *Panicum virgatum*, switch grass
21. *Schizachyrium scoparium*, little bluestem
22. *Sorghastrum nutans*, Indian grass
23. *Sporobolus heterolepis*, prairie dropseed

## Forbs

1. *Actaea (Cimicifuga) pachydopa*, white baneberry
2. *Allium canadense*, wild garlic
3. *Anemone quinquefolia*, wood anemone
4. *Anemonella thalictroides*, rue anemone
5. *Agastache foeniculum*, anise hyssop
6. *Agastache nepetoides*, yellow giant hyssop
7. *Agastache scrophulariifolia*, purple giant hyssop
8. *Ageratina (Eupatorium) altissima*, white snakeroot
9. *Allium canadense*, wild garlic
10. *Allium cernuum*, nodding onion
11. *Allium stellatum*, prairie onion
12. *Allium tricoccum*, wild leek
13. *Amorpha canescens*, lead plant
14. *Amorpha fruticosa*, false indigo
15. *Apocynum cannabinum*, dogbane
16. *Apocynum sibiricum*, clasping dogbane
17. *Anemone canadensis*, meadow anemone
18. *Anemone cylindrica*, thimbleweed
19. *Anemone patens*, pasque flower
20. *Angelica atropurpurea*, great angelica
21. *Antennaria plantaginifolia*, pussytoes
22. *Aquilegia canadensis*, columbine
23. *Arisaema triphyllum*, Jack-in-the-pulpit
24. *Asclepias exaltata*, poke milkweed
25. *Asclepias incarnata*, swamp milkweed
26. *Asclepias purpurascens*, purple milkweed
27. *Asclepias sullivantii*, prairie milkweed
28. *Asclepias syriaca*, common milkweed
29. *Asclepias tuberosa*, butterfly milkweed
30. *Baptisia alba*, white wild indigo
31. *Baptisia australis*, blue wild indigo
32. *Baptisia leucantha*, white wild indigo
33. *Baptisia tinctoria*, small yellow wild indigo
34. *Boltonia astroideis*, false aster
35. *Cacalia atriplicifolia*, pale indian plantain
36. *Callirhoe triangulata*, clustered poppy mallow
37. *Camassia scilloides*, wild hyacinth (bulb)
38. *Campanula americana*, tall bellflower
39. *Campanula rotundifolia*, harebell
40. *Cassia (Senna) hebecarpa*, wild senna
41. *Castilleja coccinea*, Indian paintbrush
42. *Chamaecrista fasciculata*, partridge pea
43. *Cirsium discolor*, pasture thistle
44. *Coreopsis lanceolata*, sand coreopsis
45. *Coreopsis palmata*, prairie coreopsis
46. *Coreopsis tripteris*, tall coreopsis
47. *Corydalis sempervirens*, pale corydalis
48. *Dalea candida*, white prairie clover
49. *Dalea purpurea*, purple prairie clover
50. *Delphinium carolinianum* ssp. *virescens*, prairie larkspur
51. *Dicentra cucullaria*, Dutchman's Breeches
52. *Dodecatheon amethystinum*, amethyst shooting star
53. *Dodecatheon meadia*, midland shooting star

54. *Echinacea pallida*, pale purple coneflower
55. *Echinacea paradoxa*, yellow coneflower
56. *Echinacea purpurea*, purple coneflower
57. *Echinocystis lobata*, wild cucumber
58. *Eryngium yuccifolium*, rattlesnake master
59. *Eupatorium altissima*, tall boneset
60. *Euphorbia corollata*, prairie baby's breath
61. *Eurybia divaricata* \*, white wood aster
62. *Eurybia macrophyllus*, big-leaved aster
63. *Euthamia graminifolia*, grass-leaved goldenrod
64. *Eutrochium maculatum*, spotted Joe Pye weed
65. *Eutrochium purpureum*, purple Joe Pye weed
66. *Filipendula rubra*, queen of the prairie
67. *Fragaria virginiana*, wild strawberry
68. *Gentiana andrewsii*, bottle gentian
69. *Gentiana flavida*, cream gentian
70. *Geranium maculatum*, wild geranium
71. *Geum triflorum*, prairie smoke
72. *Helianthus mollis*, downy sunflower
73. *Helianthus occidentalis*, western sunflower
74. *Helenium autumnale*, common sneezeweed
75. *Heliopsis helianthoides*, false sunflower
76. *Hepatica acutiloba*, sharp-lobed hepatica
77. *Heuchera richardsonii*, prairie alumroot
78. *Hibiscus moscheutos*, swamp mallow
79. *Hydrophyllum virginianum*, Virginia waterleaf
80. *Hypericum punctatum*, spotted St. Johnswort
81. *Hypericum pyramidatum*, great St. Johnswort
82. *Impatiens capensis*, spotted touch-me-not
83. *Impatiens pallida*, yellow jewelweed
84. *Iris cristata*, dwarf crested iris
85. *Iris versicolor*, blue flag
86. *Lespedeza capitata*, round-headed bushclover
87. *Lespedeza violacea*, violet bushclover
88. *Liatris aspera*, rough blazing star
89. *Liatris cylindracea*, cylindrical blazing star
90. *Liatris pycnostachya*, prairie blazing star
91. *Liatris spicata*, marsh blazing star
92. *Liatris squarrosa*, scaly blazing star
93. *Lilium michiganense*, Michigan lily
94. *Lilium philadelphicum*, prairie lily
95. *Lobelia cardinalis*, cardinal flower
96. *Lobelia siphilitica*, giant blue lobelia
97. *Lobelia spicata*, pale spiked lobelia
98. *Lupinus perennis*, wild lupine
99. *Lythrum alatum*, winged loosestrife
100. *Maianthemum (Smilacina) canadense*, Canada mayflower
101. *Maianthemum (Smilacina) racemosum*, Solomon's Plume
102. *Maianthemum (Smilacina) stellatum*, starry Solomon's Plume
103. *Mertensia virginica*, Virginia bluebells
104. *Monarda bradburyana*, Eastern beebalm
105. *Monarda fistulosa*, wild bergamot
106. *Monarda punctata*, horse mint
107. *Napaea dioica*, glade mallow
108. *Oenothera macrocarpa*, Missouri evening primrose
109. *Oligoneuron (Solidago) ohioense*, Ohio goldenrod
110. *Oligoneuron (Solidago) rigidum*, stiff goldenrod
111. *Packera aurea*, golden ragwort
112. *Packera plattensis*, prairie ragwort
113. *Parthenium integrifolium*, wild quinine
114. *Pediomelum tenuiflorum*, scurfy pea
115. *Penstemon digitalis*, foxglove beardtongue
116. *Penstemon grandiflorus*, large-flowered beardtongue
117. *Penstemon gracilis*, slender beardtongue
118. *Penstemon hirsutus*, hairy beardtongue
119. *Physostegia virginiana*, obedient plant
120. *Phlox divaricata* ssp. *laphamii*, wild blue phlox

121. *Phlox glaberrima* ssp. *interior*, smooth phlox
122. *Phlox pilosa*, prairie phlox
123. *Physostegia virginiana*, obedient plant
124. *Podophyllum peltatum*, mayapple
125. *Polemonium reptans*, Jacob's ladder
126. *Polygonatum biflorum*, Solomon's seal
127. *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*, slender mt. mint
128. *Pycnanthemum virginianum*, mountain mint
129. *Ratibida pinnata*, gray-headed coneflower
130. *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *speciosa*, showy black-eyed Susan
131. *Rudbeckia hirta*, black-eyed Susan
132. *Rudbeckia laciniata*, wild golden glow
133. *Rudbeckia speciosa* var. *sullivantii*, showy black-eyed Susan
134. *Rudbeckia subtomentosa*, sweet black-eyed Susan
135. *Rudbeckia triloba*, brown-eyed Susan
136. *Ruellia humilis*, wild petunia
137. *Sanguinaria canadensis*, bloodroot
138. *Sanguisorba canadensis*, American burnet
139. *Scutellaria incana*, hoary skullcap
140. *Scutellaria ovata*, heart-leaved skullcap
141. *Silene regia*, royal catchfly
142. *Silene stellata*, starry campion
143. *Silene virginica*, fire pink
144. *Silphium integrifolium*, rosinweed
145. *Silphium laciniatum*, compass plant
146. *Silphium terebinthinaceum*, prairie dock
147. *Sisyrinchium campestre*, prairie blue-eyed grass
148. *Solidago caesia*, blue-stemmed goldenrod
149. *Solidago flexicaulis*, zig zag goldenrod
150. *Solidago nemoralis*, gray goldenrod
151. *Solidago speciosa*, showy goldenrod
152. *Symphotrichum cordifolium*, heart-leaved aster
153. *Symphotrichum ericoides*, heath aster
154. *Symphotrichum laeve*, smooth blue aster
155. *Symphotrichum novae-angliae*, New England aster
156. *Symphotrichum lateriflorum*, calico aster
157. *Symphotrichum oblongifolium*, aromatic aster
158. *Symphotrichum oolentangiense*, sky-blue aster
159. *Symphotrichum prenanthoides*, crooked-stemmed aster
160. *Symphotrichum sericeum*, silky aster
161. *Symphotrichum shortii*, Short's aster
162. *Symphotrichum urophyllum*, arrow-leaved aster
163. *Taenidia integerrima*, yellow pimpernel
164. *Teucrium canadense*, germander
165. *Thalictrum dasycarpum*, purple meadow-rue
166. *Thalictrum dioicum*, early meadow-rue
167. *Thaspium trifoliatum flavum*, meadow parsnip
168. *Tradescantia ohiensis*, common spiderwort
169. *Tradescantia virginiana*, Virginia spiderwort
170. *Uvularia grandiflora*, bellwort
171. *Uvularia sessilifolia*, sessile-leaf belwort
172. *Verbena hastata*, blue vervain
173. *Verbena stricta*, hoary vervain
174. *Vernonia baldwinii*, western ironweed
175. *Vernonia fasciculata*, common ironweed
176. *Veronicastrum virginicum*, culver's root
177. *Viola pedata*, bird's foot violet
178. *Viola pedatifida*, prairie violet
179. *Viola pubescens* var. *eriocarpa*, smooth yellow violet
180. *Viola sororia*, common blue violet
181. *Viola striata*, cream violet
182. *Zizia aptera*, heart-leaf golden alexanders
183. *Zizia aurea*, golden alexander

## Recommended Reading

- *The American Meadow Garden*, John Greenlee
- *Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden*, Jessica Walliser
- *Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide*, Heather N. Holm
- *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*, Douglas W. Tallamy
- *Garden Revolution: How our Landscapes can be a Source of Environmental Change*, Larry Weaner and Thomas Christopher
- *The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden*, Roy Diblik
- *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*, Rick Darke and Douglas W. Tallamy
- *Meadows*, Christopher Lloyd
- *Native Trees for North American Landscapes*, Guy Sternberg with Jim Wilson
- *Native Trees, Shrubs & Vines*, William Cullina
- *Naturalistic Planting Design – The Essential Guide*, Nigel Dunnett
- *The Nature of Oaks*, Douglas W. Tallamy
- *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard*, Douglas W. Tallamy
- *The Nature of Oaks*, Douglas W. Tallamy
- *Planting in a Post-Wild World*, Thomas Rainer and Claudia West
- *Planting The Natural Garden*, Piet Oudolf and Henk Gerritsen
- *Pollinators of Native Plants: Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants*, Heather N. Holm
- *Sowing Beauty: Designing Flowering Meadows from Seed*, James Hitchmough
- *Trees and Shrubs for Northern Gardens*, Dr. Leon C. Snyder
- *Wasps: Their Biology, Diversity, and Role as Beneficial Insects and Pollinators of Native Plants*, Heather N. Holm

## Recommended Podcasts & YouTube Series

- *The Native Plant Podcast*, John Magee
- *Growing Greener*, Thomas Christopher
- *A Way to Garden*, Margaret Roach
- *The Joe Gardener Show*, Joe Lamp'l
- Roy Diblik's YouTube channel, Roy Diblik
- Wild Ones, Native Plants, Natural Landscapes YouTube channel
- Xerces Society YouTube channel

**GET ON THE MAP! Homegrown National Park**

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>