

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 Henrey



For More Information on Native Plants

The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College, (914) 606-7870 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*

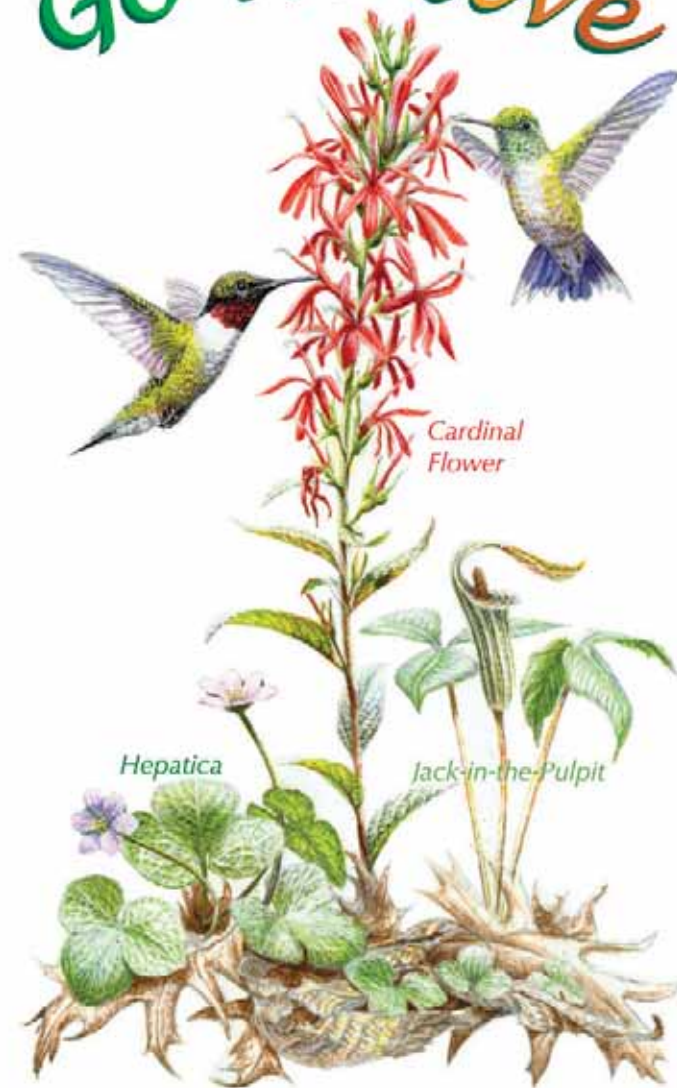
Cullina, William. *The New England Wild Flower Society Guide to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada*

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*

Go Native



Recommended

Westchester County Native Plants
For Homeowners and Landscapers

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

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.

WHY GO NATIVE ?

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.

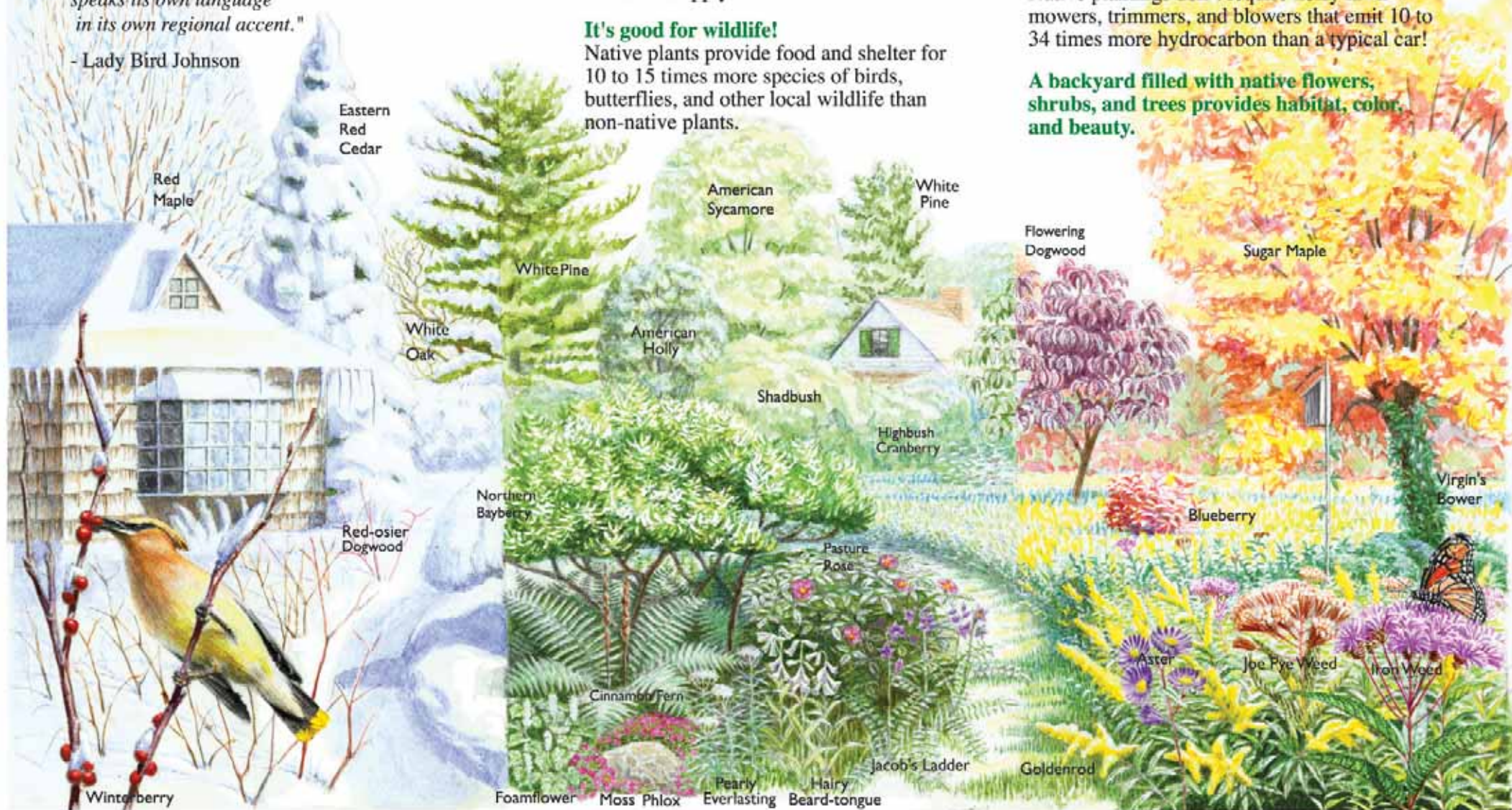
It saves money!

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.












































































Recomended Native Plants for Landscaping in Westchester County

* Denotes plants well suited for municipal plantings 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>	Mar - Apr	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
Eastern Red Cedar*	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	May	very high	green						40-50	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
Am. Sycamore*	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	April -May	low							75-100	Showy bark; drops fruits
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								60-80	Flowers aromatic
Eastern Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>		high							40-70	Evergreen conifer

Shrubs & Small Trees






































































Shadbush	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Mar-Apr	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>	Mar-Jul	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
Witch-Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Sept-Nov	low	yellow						20-30	Multi-stemmed; fragrant;; herbal uses
American Holly*	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	June	very high	white						30-50	Evergreen, provides habitat, fragrant flowers, red berries
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
Spice Bush*	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Mar-Apr	high	yellow-grn						6-12	Berries (on females), food for spicebush swallowtail caterpillar
Northern Bayberry*	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	May-July	high	yellow						10	Aromatic twig, leaves, and bark; waxy berries
Scrub Oak	<i>Quercus ilicifolia</i>	April May	very high	green						8-10	Nuts eaten by many species; food for Edward's Hairstreak caterpillar
Pinxter Azalea*	<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	May	low	pink						4-8	Beautiful blossoms
Swamp Azalea*	<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	July	low	white						8-10	Very fragrant
Dwarf Sumac	<i>Rhus copallina</i>	July-Aug	high	green/yellow						10-20	Shiny leaves; red berries; fall color
Pasture Rose	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	June	high	pink						1	
Am. Elderberry*	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Jun-Jul	very high	white						5-15	Multi-stemmed; edible red berries and flowers
High Bush 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>		high							1-2	Grows in clumps; delicate texture
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Ladyfern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>		high				1-3	Lacy; attractive foliage
Cinnamon Fern*	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>		high				2-4	Grows in clumps; distinctive spore fronds
Interrupted Fern	<i>Osmunda claytonia</i>		high				2-4	Grows in clumps; distinctive fronds
Christmas Fern*	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>		high				1-2	Evergreen; grows in clumps
Marginal Shield Fern	<i>Polystichum marginalis</i>		high				1-3	Evergreen; forms clumps; attractive

Flowering Plants

Marsh Mallow*	<i>Althaea officinalis</i>	Aug-Oct		pink				2-4	Tolerates salt; showy flowers
Pearly Everlasting*	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	July-Sept		white				1-3	Showy flowers; dry arrangements; food plant of American Lady caterpillar
Columbine*	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	April-June		red /yellow				1-3	Spreads by seed; attracts hummingbirds
Jack-in-the-Pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	April-June		green/purple				1-3	Unusual flowers; red inedible berries
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	June-Aug	high	pink				2-4	Attracts butterflies; food plant of Monarch caterpillars
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	high	purple				2-6	Showy; attracts butterflies
New York Aster	<i>Aster novi-belgii</i>	July-Oct	high	violet					Showy; attracts butterflies
Virgin's Bower*	<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	Aug-Sept		white				20	Showy flowers; vine
Joe Pye Weed*	<i>Eupatorium dubium</i>	Aug-Sept	high	purple				3-6	Attracts pollinators
Wild Geranium*	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	April		rose				1-2	Ground cover; long bloom time
Hepatica	<i>Hepatica americana</i>	March-Apr		purple/white				6"	Lovely early blooms
Turk's-Cap Lily*	<i>Lilium superbum</i>	June-Aug		orange				3-8	Showy; up to 40 flowers on one plant
Cardinal Flower*	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Aug-Sept		scarlet				2-5	Long bloom time; attracts hummingbirds
Great Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Aug-Sept		blue				1-3	Late bloomer with attractive blue spikes
Bee Balm*	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	July-Aug		red				2-5	Aromatic; showy; attracts hummingbirds; herbal uses
Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	July-Aug		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		white				1-3	Deer resistant; easy to grow
Creeping Phlox	<i>Phlox stolonifera</i>	April-May		blue				10"	Ground cover, spreads quickly
May Apple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	May		white				1-2	Ground cover; edible fruit, other parts poisonous
Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium van-bruntiae</i>	April-June		blue				1	Attractive flowers; slow spreader; herbal uses
Solomon's-seal	<i>Polygonatum pubescens</i>	April -June		yellow				1-3	Easy; blue berries; attractive foliage
Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	April-May		white				6"	Ground cover, attractive foliage
Blue-stem Goldenrod	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	Aug-Oct		yellow				1-3	Very hardy, shade loving, not aggressive
Showy Goldenrod*	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Aug-Oct		yellow				2-6	Showy flowers, not aggressive
Foamflower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	April-June		white				1-2	Attractive, long-blooming flower
Trillium	<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	May-June		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		violet				8	Delicate plant and flower; edible
Golden Alexanders	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	April-June		gold				1-2	Showy flowers; attractive foliage

Grasses

Big Bluestem*	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	June-Sept						3-5	Clumps, attractive, winter interest
Purple Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	Aug - Sept		purple				1	Beautiful, delicate purple seed heads
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Jul-Sept						2-4	Clumps, tolerates poor soil, winter interest, food plant for Skipper caterpillars
Wool Grass	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	Aug-Sept						5	Ornamental sedge: winter interest
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Aug-Spt						2-9	Striking tall grass