Western New York Guide to Native Plants for your Garden
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This guide was developed under the guidance of Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper's staff and volunteers. Despite considerable research by our team there may be errors in this guide. Please contact us if you do find an error so our next edition may be more accurate.

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**RIVERKEEPER®** is a community-based organization dedicated to protecting the quality and quantity of water while connecting people to water.

Riverkeeper is a member of the global WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE.

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Letter from the Executive Director

Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER® is pleased to offer Western New Yorkers a guide for using native plants in their garden. As a leading water advocacy not-for-profit, we recognize the important role native plants play in the sustainability and biodiversity of our watershed.

Landowners play a significant role in the stewardship of our local waters especially as to the way they design, plant and care for their property. Utilizing native plants creates a more sustainable landscape that requires less maintenance while fostering water conservation and pollutant reduction.

In this guide you’ll find a detailed overview of over 90 different plants native to Western New York, 6 different native garden planting plans, planning design considerations to take into account and proper planting instructions.

We encourage you to utilize this guide to incorporate native plants in your garden and improve the health and sustainability of our waterways.

Yours for Clean Water,

Jill Jedlicka
Executive Director
Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER
Why Garden with Native Plants?

Native Plants (also called indigenous plants) are plants that have evolved over thousands of years in a particular region, adapting to the geography, hydrography and climate of that region. As a result, communities with healthy populations of native plants are more sustainable and resilient, producing cleaner water and a diversity of wildlife in a thriving ecosystem.

By gardening with native plants you not only bring the beauty of these plants into your own landscape, you can feel good about the numerous benefits they provide. The plants presented in this guide have all been documented as native to Western New York by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Save Water

Native plants are acclimated to local weather patterns and rainfall. Once planted and established they require minimal additional watering beyond normal rainfall. Native plants are definitely a smart choice for water conservation, saving you time and money!

Less Maintenance

Utilizing native plants in your landscaping will help reduce the amount of additional maintenance needed to keep your property looking great. Native plants typically do not need fertilizers, pruning, or pesticides to flourish in your garden.

Reduce Pesticides

Native plants have developed their own defenses against many pests and diseases, and they support beneficial insects which help to counteract insect pests, negating the need for pesticides. Numerous beneficial insects, such as butterflies and pollinating bees, depend on native plants. Since pesticides kill indiscriminately, using fewer pesticides ultimately benefits beneficial insects.

Improve Water Quality

Lessening the use of fertilizers and pesticides is beneficial to the water quality of our waterways. When it rains, stormwater collects these chemicals and excess nutrients which are then conveyed into area streams, rivers and lakes. Too many chemicals and nutrients in our waters can have negative consequences, limiting safe and healthy waters to swim, fish and drink.
Save Time & Money with Native Plants!

Invite Wildlife
Native plants occur in communities where they have coevolved with other local flora and fauna. As a result, native plant communities provide excellent habitat for a variety of local wildlife, such as songbirds and butterflies, and are a key part of the food chain.

Support Biodiversity
Diversity in an ecosystem is imperative for sustainability. Habitat biodiversity creates a variety of food and shelter options, ensures a system of checks and balances that withstand environmental stresses and promotes the health and resiliency of life.

Help educate your friends and neighbors about the importance of saving water, reducing pollution from fertilizers and pesticides, and improving our natural environment by using native plants in your garden!

For more information on native plants please visit our website:
www.bnriverkeeper.org
Symbol Key

SUNLIGHT EXPOSURE:

**Full Sun:** The site is in direct sunlight for at least six hours a day during the growing season

**Partly Shaded:** The site receives approximately three to six hours of direct sunlight

**Full Shade:** The site receives less than three hours of direct sunlight or filtered light.

Full sun or part shade

Part shade or full shade

Full sun, part shade or full shade

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS:

**Dry:** Areas where water does not remain after a wet weather event.

**Moist:** Areas where the soils are damp and may be occasionally saturated.

**Wet:** Areas where the soil is saturated for much of the growing season, except in droughts.

Dry to moist soil

Moist to wet soil

Dry, moist or wet soil
Symbol Key

SOIL TYPES:

Clay: Soil which is composed of very fine textured particles which impede the drainage of water. Many plants have difficulty growing in clay soil.

Loam: Soil which is composed of medium-textured soils that contain a mix of mostly silt and sand but does contain a small amount of clay.

Sand: Soil which is composed of coarse-textured soils with larger particles, which can support the flow of water.

WILDLIFE BENEFITS:

Supports Pollinators

Supports Hummingbirds

Supports Pest-Eating Insects

Supports Birds or Mammals

Supports Butterflies