

Native Plant Landscaping

Native plants are plants that have evolved naturally in the region and were not introduced from distant places. They are more adaptable to local conditions and require less maintenance to thrive. There are approximately 2,100 species native to Pennsylvania.



Red Maple



Redbud



Pin Oak

Benefits

Reducing your lawn size by landscaping with native plants promotes groundwater recharge. Traditional lawn vegetation consists of shallow rooted non-native grasses which have higher runoff rates than native plant alternatives.

Native plants require less watering during summer months because they are more adaptable to local climate conditions.

Deeper rooted native vegetation helps bind the soil, and reduce erosion and runoff.

Native plants provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies, and other desirable wildlife.

Native landscaping saves money. The National Wildlife Federation estimates that it costs approximately \$700 annually to maintain an acre of lawn. A native wildflower garden costs only \$300 to maintain.

Maintenance of conventional lawns creates significant amounts of air pollution. Gas powered mowers emit high amounts of carbon monoxide, VOCs and nitrogen oxides, creating up to 5% of the Country's air pollution.



Common Pennsylvania Native Plants

Trees

Red Maple, *Acer Rubrum*
River Birch, *Betula Nigra*
Tulip Poplar, *Liriodendron tulipifera*
Pin Oak, *Quercus palustris*

Shrubs

Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*
Serviceberry, *Amelanchier arborea*
Mountain Laurel, *Kalmia latifolia*
Arrowwood, *Viburnum dentatum*

Flowering Plants

Sunflowers, *Helianthus sp.*
Black-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia Hirta*
New England Aster, *Aster novae-angliae*
Cutleaf Coneflower, *Rudbeckia lacianata*

Grasses

Lurid Sedge, *Carex lurida*
Virginia Wild-rye, *Elymus virginicus*
Switch grass, *Panicum virgatum*
Little bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*

Additional plant lists can be found at;
<http://www.pawildflower.org/>

