



# ROOTING FOR NATIVE PLANTS









Native wildflowers, shrubs and trees occur naturally in the regions where they grow, promote biodiversity, and are well adapted to the local environment. They allow landscapes to coexist with nature creating more sustainable landscapes. Many native plants are drought resistant which reduces the amount of watering required to keep the plants healthy. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that a household can save 20-50% of their outdoor watering needs by converting to a water-efficient landscape through the use of drought-resistant plants and careful design. You can also decrease the use of chemicals by planting native plants, which are so well-adapted to their native ecosystems that they often do not require extra nutrients or protection from pests.

Non-native, invasive, or exotic plants introduced from other parts of the world have degraded many natural ecosystems. Some of these non-native plants were brought here intentionally for their medicinal, ornamental, or food value. Others hid in soil, crop seed, or ballast water. Although many non-native plants are considered beneficial and containable, it is difficult for most gardeners to know the risks of every ornamental plant.

*Native plants are adapted to local conditions, have deep roots which help to soak up stormwater and are easy to maintain once established.*

## NATIVE PLANTS

Planting natives promotes a productive yard and surrounding environment with a variety of benefits.

	Reduce mowing		Mitigate flooding
	Protect the local soil		Attract pollinators
	Keep the air clean		Add beauty to your yard
	Conserve water		Provide habitat for wildlife

# INVASIVE PLANTS

Invasives can promote a competitive and unfavorable habitat and have drawbacks such as:

- Spreading rapidly
- Few or no natural measures of control or competition
- Out-competing native vegetation
- No systems for soil stabilization
- Inability to provide wildlife habitat
- Having few species of wildlife that eat them
- A reduced ability to clean our air and water

## COMMON MARYLAND NATIVE WILDFLOWERS:



Joe Pye Weed  
Cardinal flower  
Black-Eyed Susan  
Eastern Columbine  
Bergamot



## Resources //

### Native Plants and Natural Landscaping:

Potomac Conservancy - Growing Native  
Marylanders Plant Trees Program  
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Bayscapes  
University of Maryland Extension  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
Maryland Native Plant Society  
Audubon Society of Central Maryland

### Invasive Species:

The Maryland Invasive Species Council  
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
University of Maryland Extension



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