

# What are Native Plants?

Native plants are species that were present at the beginning of the European settlement of North America. These plants have evolved to grow in a specific region. Generally, native plants naturally occur within a radius of 100 miles of your area.

## Why Consider Native Plants?

Native plants have evolved to thrive in a specific region and within specific ecosystems. These plants, when situated in the proper environment, support their ecosystems more diversely than exotic plantings.

The reliance on standard exotic landscape plants leads to predictable landscapes regardless of the region. This creates a loss of regional aesthetic identity. Homeowners who desire pristine landscapes have created residential properties devoid of leaf and plant litter. With proper planning, you can maintain a more natural landscape using native plants, saving money on fertilizers and achieving a lower maintenance landscape.

## Goals

- ❖ Reduce maintenance and use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- ❖ Provide habitat for certain native species to successfully reproduce.
- ❖ Provide a food source for native wildlife and insects.

## Conditions for planting

What type of soil do you have?

What amount of sunlight is available throughout the day? Full sun: 6+ hours of direct sunlight, part sun: 4 to 6 hours of direct sunlight, part shade: 2 to 4 hours of direct sunlight, and shade: less than 2 hours of direct sunlight.

## Picking the Right Plants

Keep in mind that your native plants, if situated properly, will grow readily, so consider buying smaller-sized plants.

## Where to Buy Native Plants

It is important that you do not acquire native plants from the wild. Purchase your plants from a reputable dealer using plant species native to your area.