

# Rewilding for Pollinators:

Providing habitat for pollinators, birds and other essential wildlife



## RESOURCE SLIDES

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# Summary of Garden Practices that Support Biodiversity - p1

## Planting:

- Plant a minimum of 70% biomass of native flowering plants, grasses, trees and shrubs
- Plant in vertical layers (plants of different heights) and plant densely
- Choose plants to suit your site conditions
- Plan for a variety of native flowers in bloom from spring through fall
- Prioritize keystone plants and plants that support endangered insects

## Ecological Lawn care:

- Shrink your lawn to what you use for recreation and walking paths
- Allow flowering plants in the lawn you keep
- Mow every 2-3 weeks; allow grass to get 4" tall





# Summary of Garden Practices that Support Biodiversity - p2

## Providing habitat:

- Skip fall cleanup to protect overwintering insects.
- Leave plant stems and fallen leaves. (Nature provides safer shelter than bee hotels!)
- Provide dead wood, brush and leaf piles, rocks
- Provide a clean water source - can be a shallow dish with pebbles

## Habitat protection:

- Identify and remove invasive plants
- Avoid herbicide, pesticide and chemical fertilizers
- Minimize soil disruption (digging, tilling) to protect soil health
- Minimize night light: use low wattage warm spectrum bulbs (color is warm yellow, not cool blue); keep lights off or change to motion sensors



# Native Plant Spreadsheets

Spreadsheets are best viewed on a computer or with a google app



## **Comprehensive native plant spreadsheet - mostly of the Northeast**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1I7kqWQ8l6dDX4cdRrZHvIS5jtF2JFJMQgBmmclL\\_htY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1I7kqWQ8l6dDX4cdRrZHvIS5jtF2JFJMQgBmmclL_htY/edit?usp=sharing)

Includes plants that are recommended for Northeast gardens, and also plants for meadows and habitat restoration. See tabs at the bottom of the page for herbaceous perennials, shrubs, trees, grasses and sedges, ferns, vines, and for specific growing conditions. Use the links to see pictures and read more detailed descriptions.

## **Native Plant Spreadsheet for Northeast Gardeners - a shorter list suitable for gardens**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Oio25pKL8Ct2GSy1GZGb\\_s-rgOYsafWGp-l3DXEqISo/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Oio25pKL8Ct2GSy1GZGb_s-rgOYsafWGp-l3DXEqISo/edit?usp=sharing)

Scroll down to see perennials, grasses and sedges, shrubs and trees, all on the first page. The tree list is short and is appropriate for small gardens. Additional tabs show plants organized by spring, summer and fall bloom. On each of those pages, scroll down to see plants organized by height. See also tabs for compact tidy growth habit, and aggressive spreaders.

## **New England Native Plants for Containers**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AYM5P0MsprvmSr8\\_m3XO4GHJd\\_8d\\_n8prgcOo1NYxdY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AYM5P0MsprvmSr8_m3XO4GHJd_8d_n8prgcOo1NYxdY/edit?usp=sharing)

## **Spreadsheet of plants that support endangered insects in MA**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Als3Wv4NCRBvO\\_zWp3D8djS8hXwTLI5ZtwuqBZX-STo/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Als3Wv4NCRBvO_zWp3D8djS8hXwTLI5ZtwuqBZX-STo/edit?usp=sharing)

# Native Plant Lists

## Keystone plants of New England

[https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Keystone-Plants/NWF-GFW-keystone-plant-list-ecoregion-8-eastern-temperate-forests.pdf?sc\\_lang=en&hash=C475FADDFCC2622C7539F25935F5DAA1](https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Keystone-Plants/NWF-GFW-keystone-plant-list-ecoregion-8-eastern-temperate-forests.pdf?sc_lang=en&hash=C475FADDFCC2622C7539F25935F5DAA1)

## Native Pollinator Plants by Season of Bloom

<https://wildseedproject.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Pollinator-Plants-by-Season.pdf>

## Rugged native plants for replanting after invasive species removal








































<https://wildseedproject.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Invasives-to-Natives.pdf>

## Native Plant List by growing conditions

<https://wildseedproject.net/comprehensive-plant-list/>



Latin name	Common name	Bloom time										Bloom color	Height	Spacing	Sunlight			Moisture			Resistant to	Salt tolerant	Tidy growth habit
PERENNIALS		M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N				Full	Part	Shade	Moist	Med	Dry				
Achillea millefolium	Common yarrow				J	J	A	S			white/pink	12-18"	6"										
Acorus americanus	Sweet flag			M	J							2 ft											
Actaea rubifolia	Appalachian bugbane						A	S	O		white	30-48"	12- 24"							Deer Rabbit			
Agastache foeniculum	Anise hyssop				J	J	A	S			lavender	3 ft	12-16"							Deer Rabbit		yes	
Allium cernuum	Nodding onion					J	J				pink	18"	6"							Deer Rabbit		yes	
Allium stellatum	Prairie onion					J	A				purple-pink	14"	4 -8"										
Amorpha canescens	Lead plant				J	J	A				purple	3 ft	1 - 2 ft										
Amsonia hubrichtii	Thread-leaf bluestar		A	M	J						sky bue	3 ft	2 ft							Deer Rabbit		yes	
Amsonia tabernaemontana	Eastern bluestar		A	M	J						sky blue	3 ft	2 ft							Deer Rabbit		yes	
Anemone canadensis	Canada anemone			M	J						white	1 ft									yes		
Anemone virginiana	Tall thimbleweed				J	J	A				white	3 ft	18-24"										

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# Common Lawn “Weeds”

## TO PLANT

### Native

- wild Strawberry,  
*Fragaria virginiana*
- bluets,  
*Houstonia caerulea*
- common cinquefoil,  
*Potentilla simplex*

### Native and Non-Native

- violets,  
*Viola* spp.
- heal-all,  
*Prunella vulgaris*
- hawkweeds,  
*Hieracium* spp.

## ALLOW

### Non-Native & Innocuous

- clovers (white, red, hop, rabbit-foot),  
*Trifolium* spp.
- yellow wood sorrel,  
*Oxalis stricta*
- common dandelion,  
*Taraxacum officinale*
- creeping thyme,  
*Thymus serpyllum*
- Curly dock,  
*Rumex crispus*
- Plantain,  
*Plantago* spp.
- Chickweed,  
*Cerastium* spp.
- Crabgrass,  
*Digitaria* spp.

## REMOVE

### Non-Native & Aggressive

- bugleweed,  
*Ajuga* spp.
- gill-over-the-ground,  
*Glechoma hederacea*
- birds-foot trefoil,  
*Lotus corniculatus*

### Noxious / Invasive

- sheep sorrel,  
*Rumex acetosella*
- Creeping thistle (Canada thistle),  
*Cirsium arvense*
- creeping bellflower,  
*Campanula rapunculoides*

From Wild Seed Project

[https://apcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/DiversifyYourLawn\\_Handout\\_June2022.pdf](https://apcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/DiversifyYourLawn_Handout_June2022.pdf)



# What to Look for at Nurseries, in Catalogues, and From Landscapers

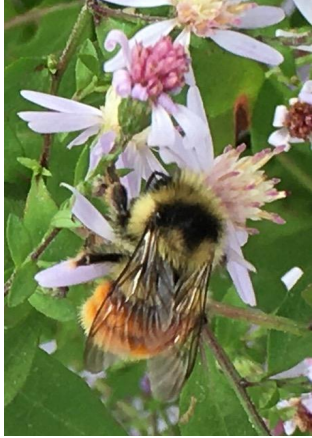
- Native plant species, not hybrids or cultivars (with few exceptions)
- Plants grown pesticide free
- Ideally, plants grown from seed
- Beware of marketing hype: “Plants for Pollinators” that don’t specify that plants or seeds are species native to our region
- Tell your nursery (and landscaper) what you want
- Safest to shop at native plant nurseries, but we can educate others
- **Spreadsheet of nurseries with native plants:**  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RLPLSbm4l\\_Ahx72EFCHD2ViN61aM7kTdm6FoJ8M2zGM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RLPLSbm4l_Ahx72EFCHD2ViN61aM7kTdm6FoJ8M2zGM/edit?usp=sharing)  
**Note: Second tab shows all-native nurseries**



Wing and a Prayer Nursery, Cummington



# Taking action on pesticides - organizations



## Education and ways to take action:

- Xerces Society - Pesticide work - <https://xerces.org/pesticides> - Pollinator conservation <https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation>
- Pollinator Pathway - Pesticide information <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/pesticides>
- NOFA - Northeast Organic Farmers Association - Organic farming - <https://nofa.org/topp/> - Healthy soils <https://nofa.org/soil-carbon/>

## Advocacy:

- Mass Pirg <https://pirg.org/massachusetts/topics/pesticides/>
- Environment Massachusetts <https://environmentamerica.org/massachusetts/topics/save-the-bees/>
- Conservation Law Foundation <https://www.clf.org/blog/bee-protection-table-massachusetts/>

# Problems in the Garden



## **Invasive Plants**

### **Invasive plants in Massachusetts**

file:///Users/amymeltzer/Downloads/MAInvasivesBooklet\_2023-2.pdf

### **What to plant after removing invasives**

<https://wildseedproject.net/2024/02/after-removing-disruptive-invasives-try-planting-these/>

## **Rabbits**

### **How to stop bunnies from eating your pollinator garden**

<https://sites.tufts.edu/pollinators/2022/06/how-to-stop-bunnies-from-eating-your-pollinator-garden/>

## **Jumping Worms**

### **Staying Ahead of Invasive Jumping Worms - from Native Plant Trust**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nVeJq8FMoAdNc-49W21XklSzTNpzy\\_xlfQG2QdtmrWg/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nVeJq8FMoAdNc-49W21XklSzTNpzy_xlfQG2QdtmrWg/edit?usp=sharing)

# Impact of honeybees on native bees and plants

**We need to talk about honeybees** -Xerces Society

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XMgphEP1M>

**Why getting a hive won't "Save the Bees"**

<https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/22-011.pdf>

**The Truth About Honey Bees**

Raising non natives does not "save the bees"—and may harm them.

<https://www.nwf.org/Home/Magazines/National-Wildlife/2021/June-July/Gardening/Honey-Bees>

**Honeybees disrupt the structure and functionality of plant-pollinator networks**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-41271-5>

**The Problem with Honey Bees**

They're important for agriculture, but they're not so good for the environment

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-problem-with-honey-bees/>

**Plants Pollinated by Honey Bees Produce Lower-quality Offspring**

[https://today.ucsd.edu/story/plants-pollinated-by-honey-bees-produce-lower-quality-offspring?\\_ga=2.240226432.209776918.1688047624-2003186901.1688047624](https://today.ucsd.edu/story/plants-pollinated-by-honey-bees-produce-lower-quality-offspring?_ga=2.240226432.209776918.1688047624-2003186901.1688047624)

**Is Beekeeping Wrong?**

[https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2023/08/28/is-beekeeping-wrong?utm\\_source=nl&utm\\_brand=tny&utm\\_mailing=TNY\\_Daily\\_082123&utm\\_campaign=aud-dev&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=tny\\_daily\\_digest&bxid=5eaffb03146f8375aa5fd66f&cndid=60980746&hasha=664a9910f95209eda337a32a58330bef&hashb=5078bd3acce736f8028b46c18aa4d14229e475f&hashc=5c7b29e7595800f1d2631c9c1b17247c9202113c84a236c819c8d92b66ff9f4c&esrc=OIDC\\_SELECT\\_ACCOUNT\\_PAGE&mbid=CRMNYR012019](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2023/08/28/is-beekeeping-wrong?utm_source=nl&utm_brand=tny&utm_mailing=TNY_Daily_082123&utm_campaign=aud-dev&utm_medium=email&utm_term=tny_daily_digest&bxid=5eaffb03146f8375aa5fd66f&cndid=60980746&hasha=664a9910f95209eda337a32a58330bef&hashb=5078bd3acce736f8028b46c18aa4d14229e475f&hashc=5c7b29e7595800f1d2631c9c1b17247c9202113c84a236c819c8d92b66ff9f4c&esrc=OIDC_SELECT_ACCOUNT_PAGE&mbid=CRMNYR012019)





# Where to Do Native Plant Research

Native Plant Trust Plant Finder

<https://plantfinder.nativeplanttrust.org/Plant-Search>

Excellent search tool. Experiment with how many variables you enter.

Prairie Moon Nursery <https://www.prairiemoon.com/>

Excellent for looking up plants. Get pictures, descriptions, cultural info, native geographical location, ecological benefits. Great search terms.

Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center

<https://www.wildflower.org/>

Good photos and descriptions, cultural requirements. Prairie Moon is more accurate for bloom time in our location.



# Organizations and Websites - Local

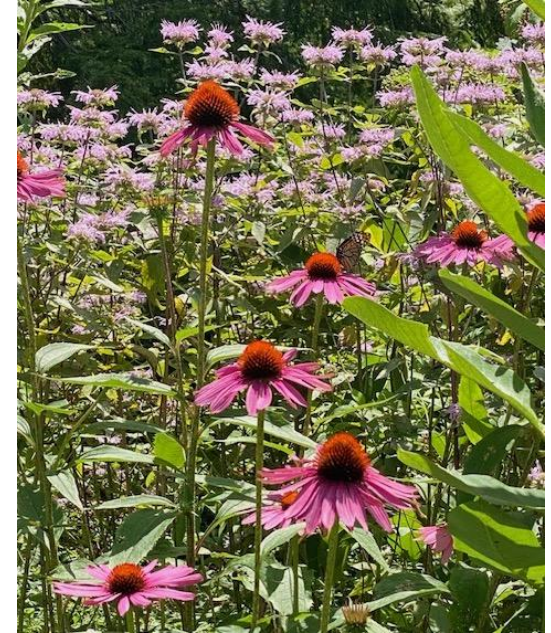
## Local organizations for education, resources & community

- Bee Friendly Williamstown <https://www.beefriendlywilliamstown.org/>
- Pollinator Friendly Resolution <https://www.clarksburgma.us/media/items/pdf/Resolution%20signed.pdf>
- Pollinator Friendly Resolution <https://northadams.com/story/66680/Berkshire-County-Pollinator-and-Native-Plant-Initiative.html>
- Massachusetts Pollinator Network <https://masspollinatornetwork.org/>  
Central hub of communication and education for MA pollinator groups (new website coming soon!)
- Grow Native Massachusetts <https://www.grownativemass.org/>  
Comprehensive, informative website; newsletter; speaker series; annual native plant sale
- Pollinator Pathways - Massachusetts <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/towns-1/massachusetts>  
Guidance for creating connected pollinator habitat in your town; website with good resources
- Native Plant Trust <https://www.nativeplanttrust.org/>  
Educational programs; native plant nurseries; garden plant finder online tool; beautiful habitat to visit
- Wild Seed Project <https://wildseedproject.net/>  
Located in Maine. Education, resources for planting native plants.



# Organizations and Websites - National

- Audubon Society - <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>
- Homegrown National Park - <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>  
Doug Tallamy's educational website for creating pollinator pathways with private gardens
- Wild Ones <https://wildones.org/>  
Wild Ones promotes native landscapes through education, advocacy, and collaborative action
- National Wildlife Federation - <https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/>  
Native plants by zip code
- Xerces Society - <https://xerces.org/>





# Newsletters: Native Plants and Healthy Habitats

- **Grow Native Massachusetts** <https://grownativemass.org/Join-Support/e-news>
- **MA Pollinator Network** <https://masspollinatornetwork.dreamhosters.com/newsletter/>
- **Lexington Living Landscapes** [www.lexingtonlivinglandscapes.org](http://www.lexingtonlivinglandscapes.org)
- **Rebecca McMackin** <https://www.rebeccamcmackin.com/newsletter>
- **Margaret Roach** <https://awaytogarden.com/about/about-my-email-newsletter/>



# Books

## Local native plant guides:

Uli Lorimer - [The Northeast Native Plant Primer](#) - Native Plant Trust

Dan Jaffe - [Native Plants for New England Gardens](#) - Native Plant Trust

Wild Seed Project Guide - [Native Trees for Northeast Landscapes](#)

Wild Seed Project Guide - [Native Ground Covers for Northeast Landscapes](#)

Wild Seed Project Guide - [Native Shrubs for Northeast Landscapes](#)

Wild Seed Project Guide - [Planting for Climate Resilience in Northeast Landscapes](#)

## Some how-to books

Kim Eierman - [The Pollinator Victory Garden](#)

Owen Wormser - [Lawns into Meadows](#)

Sue Reed - [Climate-Wise Landscaping: Practical Actions for a Sustainable Future](#)

Sarah Jayne - [Nature's Action Guide: How to Support Biodiversity and Your Local Ecosystem](#)

## Inspiring books on the research and principles of using native plants and trees

Dave Goulson - [Silent Earth](#)

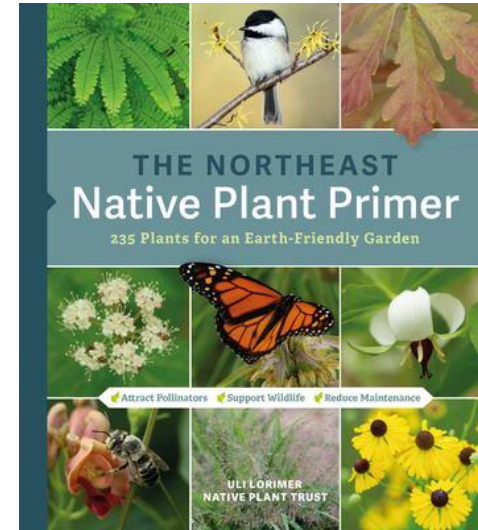
Doug Tallamy - [Bringing Nature Home](#)

Doug Tallamy - [Nature's Best Hope](#)

Groundbreaking researcher on the crucial connections between native plants/trees, insects and birds

Suzanne Simard - [Finding the Mother Tree](#)

Autobiographical, as well as covering her fascinating research on mycorrhizal/tree relationships.





Enjoy the wildlife attracted  
to your native plantings!

