

WAYS YOU CAN HELP TO PROTECT YOUR WATERSHED

Go Native!

Use native plants within your
built landscape to enhance
our ecosystem and as a tool
for water quality.



Poultney Mettowee
Natural Resources
Conservation District



By using native plants you can help to:

Increase the biological diversity of an area.

Protect vulnerable species through native community preservation.

Maintain the local food web (native plants support a high diversity of beneficial insects!)

Protect water quality by incorporating them into riparian areas and in projects such as rain gardens.

Only 20-30% of species growing in a typical residential neighborhood are native.

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Tips:

- Begin small by incorporating native plants into existing gardens and **replacing invasive species** in your yard. Native plants tend to be more low maintenance and **resilient** than many non-native traditional landscape plants.
- Do your **research**. Make sure you know what zone and **ecoregion** you live in.
- Match the plant to the **environment** and the **function** you are trying to achieve. Look at elements such as flowering period, root structure, water tolerance, and soil preferences.
- **Get outside** and see what is growing nearby. Be inspired by nature!



Learn More!

PLANT SPECIES IDENTIFICATION AND GENERAL PLANT
HABIT INFORMATION [PLANTS.USDA.GOV](https://plants.usda.gov)

SHOWS WAYS TO INCORPORATE NATIVE PLANTS
ONTO THE LANDSCAPE IN THE NEW ENGLAND AREA
[WWW.NATIVEPLANTTRUST.ORG](https://www.nativeplanttrust.org)

MATCHES NATIVE PLANTS WITH THE INSECTS THAT
UTILIZE THEM [NATIVEPLANTFINDER.NWF.ORG](https://nativeplantfinder.nwf.org)

NATIVE PLANTS BY LOCATION WITH BIRD HABITAT
FOCUS [WWW.AUDUBON.ORG/NATIVE-PLANTS](https://www.audubon.org/native-plants)

SOURCE FOR INCORPORATING
NATIVE PLANTS INTO
FUNCTIONAL SPACES
THE VERMONT RAINGARDEN
MANUAL

