

What Are Native Plants?

According to Rutgers Cooperative Extension, in general, native plants are species that were present at the beginning of the European settlement of North America. These plants, over time, have evolved to grow in a specific region.

Why Use Native Plants?

Native plants, when situated in the proper environment, support their ecosystems better than exotic or non-native ornamental plantings. While many homeowners have incorporated flowering plants into their landscapes to attract certain birds and butterflies, a habitat to support native insects and wildlife is greatly needed. We require insects to pollinate our food crops. A native plant garden can also put you in touch with the history of our region.

Why Native Plants Are Important.

- ◆ Resource conservation. Native plants do not need a lot of extra water. Many are drought resistant.
- ◆ Save on the use of fertilizers and pesticides. The plants already coexist with native insect populations and are not gross feeders.
- ◆ Native plants provide food, water and habitat for wildlife and pollinators.
- ◆ Native plants require very little long-term maintenance if they are properly planted and established.
- ◆ Native plants can be used to restore our land. They easily adapt to harsh conditions and have been used in the repair of streams, meadows, forests and other fragile landscapes.

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Our Native Plant Garden.

Our Native Plant Demonstration Garden demonstrates to the general public, school children and gardeners the best native plants for home landscape use in our region while teaching the value and beauty of native plants.

Visitors are invited to walk along the winding brick walkways to experience our native plants abuzz with pollinators and bright with flowers. The plants are grouped in designated areas for those that require sun or shade, plants that can tolerate acid soil or wet conditions, and plants that attract pollinators.

The garden in front of the Knippenberg Center for Education is made up of more than 200 native plants situated to create habitats. Plant types include herbaceous perennials, shrubs, grasses, ferns and trees that are native to the State of New Jersey, Passaic County and the Eastern United States.

The demonstration garden also contains unique exotic or non-native plants (noted in white on the garden map). They have been retained in the garden because they are not invasive and reflect the history of the area as designed by John and Dorothy Knippenberg many years ago.

Straight species of plants and cultivated varieties, or cultivars, are included in the garden. All are readily available from nurseries, garden centers and catalogs. Native plants should not be removed from the wild.

When considering the role of native plants in the residential landscape, it is necessary to identify the landscape goals and to assess conditions in the home landscape so the most appropriate native plants may be selected. By observing the native plants in our demonstration garden, visitors can begin identifying which native plants they would like for their own landscapes.

Lists of native plants by New Jersey county are available at the Native Plant Society of New Jersey website at www.npsnj.org.

About Laurelwood Arboretum.

Laurelwood Arboretum is a 30-acre botanically diverse property located in Wayne Township in northern New Jersey. Laurelwood features woodland trails and gardens, wildlife, two ponds, streams and hundreds of varieties of rhododendrons, azaleas and other unusual species of plants and trees. Gravel paths wind and connect through the arboretum, making it an ideal destination for nature lovers, runners, birdwatchers, hikers, artists and photographers.

Once a commercial nursery, Laurelwood Arboretum is now maintained as a public park through a partnership between the Township of Wayne and the non-profit organization Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum, Inc (FOLA).

FOLA was incorporated in 2003 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In 2007, a partnership was formed between FOLA and the Township of Wayne. FOLA assumed responsibility for maintaining and improving the arboretum's horticultural inheritance. This includes managing designated public funds and Laurelwood's employees and planning a variety of educational programs and activities for the community.

The FOLA Board of Directors oversees the activities of more than 200 volunteers, who contribute more than 10,000 hours of work in the arboretum each year. FOLA is funded by membership dues, plant sales, grants and donations from individuals and businesses.

Memberships, donations, grants, volunteer involvement and public funds all help ensure that this unique property will remain an oasis for generations of visitors who come to be inspired and renewed.

Laurelwood Arboretum
725 Pines Lake Drive West, Wayne, NJ 07470
973-202-9579
info@Laurelwoodarboretum.org



Native Plant Demonstration Garden

Self-Guided Tour



Rhododendron calendulaceum, Flame Azalea
Native to Passaic County
Yellow to Orange Flower
Several locations in Laurelwood Arboretum
Photo courtesy of Carl Lukens

Native Plant Demonstration Garden

LEGEND

NJ = New Jersey native plant PC = Passaic County native plant
 EC = East Coast (USA) native plant (white) = Color of flower
 'cultivars' = Single quotation marks denote cultivated variety

PLANTS THAT TOLERATE WET SOIL CONDITIONS (BLUE)

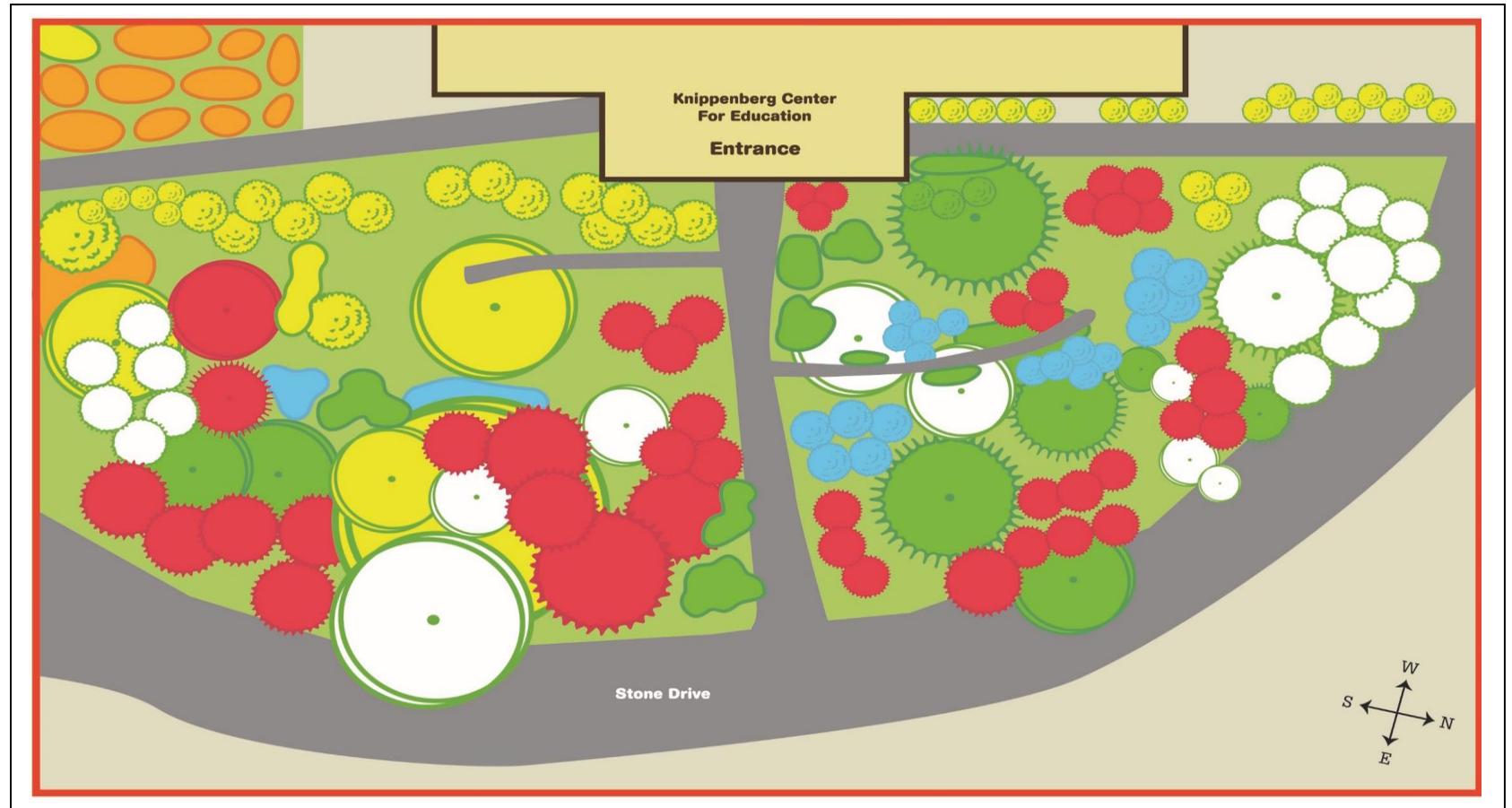
Actaea pachypoda (*Cimicifuga*), 'Misty Blue', Baneberry (white) PC
Clethra alnifolia, 'Ruby Spice', Summersweet (dark pink) PC
Cornus alba, 'Ivory Halo', Dogwood (green & white foliage) EC
Cornus sericea (*stolonifera*), 'Baileyi', Redosier Dogwood PC
Itea virginica, 'Henry's Garnet', Sweetspire (white) NJ
Lobelia cardinalis, Cardinal Flower (red) PC

PLANTS THAT ATTRACT POLLINATORS (ORANGE)

Amsonia x 'Blue Ice', Blue Star Flower (medium blue) NJ
Asclepias incarnata, Swamp Milkweed (white-to-pink) PC
Coreopsis grandiflora 'Early Sunrise', Tickweed (yellow) NJ
Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus', Coneflower (pink) NJ
Echinacea purpurea 'White Swan', Coneflower (white) NJ
Monarda didyma 'Grand Parade', Bee Balm (magenta-purple) NJ
Monarda didyma 'Jacob Cline', Bee Balm (bright red) NJ
Monarda didyma 'Petite Delight', Bee Balm (pink) NJ
Phlox paniculata 'Nicky', Fall Garden Phlox (deep magenta-purple) NJ
Salvia pratensis 'Eveline', Meadow Sage (pink) NJ
Sedum reflexum 'Blue Spruce', Stonecrop (yellow) NJ

PLANTS THAT TOLERATE ACID SOIL CONDITIONS (RED)

Ilex glabra, Inkberry Holly NJ
Ilex opaca 'Princeton Gold', American Holly (yellow fruit) NJ
Ilex verticillata 'Jim Dandy', Winterberry Holly (Male) PC
Ilex verticillata 'Red Sprite', Winterberry Holly (Female, red fruit) PC
Ilex verticillata, Winterberry Holly PC
Kalmia latifolia 'Bullseye', Mountain Laurel (pink with maroon edge) PC
Kalmia latifolia, 'EIF', Mountain Laurel (light pink bud/white) PC
Kalmia latifolia 'Olympic Fire', Mountain Laurel (red bud/pink) PC
Kalmia latifolia 'Pink Charm', Mountain Laurel (pink bud/pink) PC
Nyssa sylvatica, Black Gum or Tupelo PC
Rhododendron arborescens, Sweet Azalea (white to light pink) EC
Rhododendron atlanticum x *periclymenoides*, 'Choptank Rose' Azalea NJ/PC
Rhododendron calendulaceum, Flame Azalea (yellow to orange) EC
Rhododendron catawbiense, Catawba Rhododendron (lilac) NJ
Rhododendron viscosum, Swamp Azalea (white) PC
Vaccinium angustifolium, Blueberry-Lowbush (white) PC



SUN (YELLOW)

Betula populifolia, Gray Birch PC
Ceanothus americanus, New Jersey Tea (white) PC
Chionanthus virginicus, Fringe Tree (fluffy white) NJ
Dennstaedtia punctilobula, Hay-scented Fern PC
Diervilla lonicera 'Copper', Bush Honeysuckle (sulfur-yellow) PC
Fothergilla gardenii, Dwarf Fothergilla (white) EC
Lindera benzoin, Spicebush (yellow) PC
Liriodendron tulipifera 'Fastigiatum', Tulip Tree (white) PC
Magnolia grandiflora 'Edith Bogue', Southern Magnolia (white) EC
Muhlenbergia capillaris, Pink Muhly Grass (rose-purple) PC
Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal', Switchgrass (blue-green) PC
Physocarpus opulifolius 'Coppertina', Ninebark (light pink) NJ
Viburnum dentatum 'Crimson Tide', Arrowwood Viburnum (white) NJ
Viburnum nudum 'Winterthur' Smooth Witherod/Viburnum (white) NJ
Viburnum prunifolium, Blackhaw Viburnum (white) PC

SHADE (GREEN)

Adiantum pedatum, Maidenhair Fern PC
Amelanchier laevis, Serviceberry - Allegheny (white) PC
Athyrium filix-femina 'Lady in Red', Lady Fern PC
Callicarpa americana, American Beautyberry (magenta berry) EC
Cornus florida, Dogwood (white) NJ
Dicentra eximia 'Aurora', Fringed Bleeding Heart (white) NJ
Osmunda cinnamomea, Cinnamon Fern PC
Osmunda regalis, Royal Fern PC
Polystichum acrostichoides, Christmas Fern PC
Taxus canadensis, Yew PC
Tiarella cordifolia 'Brandywine', Foam Flower (white) PC
Tiarella x 'Crow Feather', Foam Flower (white) PC
Tiarella x 'Pink Skyrocket', Foam Flower (pink) PC
Trillium erectum, Red Trillium PC
Tsuga canadensis, 'Coles Prostrate' and 'Jervis', Hemlock NJ