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 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 plantings. While many homeowners have incorporated non-native flowering plants into their landscapes for their beauty or to attract certain birds and butterflies, habitats to support native insects and wildlife are 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 native 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.

Our Native Plant Garden

The Native Plant Demonstration Garden is located in front of the Knippenberg Center for Education and 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 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 based on need for sun or shade, tolerance for acid soil or wet conditions, and attraction of pollinators.

Garden designed by Elaine Fogerty, Executive Director of Laurelwood Arboretum

The Native Plant Demonstration Garden has been made possible by grants from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust and the Ira A. Roschelle, MD Family Foundation.

Native Plant Demonstration Garden Brochure First Edition, 2015 Printed with a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust Second Edition, 2019 Third Edition, 2020 Printed by Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum

The demonstration garden also contains unique exotic or nonnative 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 and cultivated varieties (or "cultivars") of plants 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 on 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. Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum is responsible 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 Board of Directors of Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum oversees the activities of more than 200 volunteers, who contribute more than 10,000 hours of work in the arboretum each year.

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.

Follow us:







Native Plant

Demonstration Garden



Native to New Jersey



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Friends of Laurelwood Arboretum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

LEGEND

NJ = New Jersey native plant

PC = Passaic County native plant

EC = East Coast (USA) native plant

() = Color of flower or fruit

'cultivars' = Single quotation marks denote cultivated variety

(= non-native plant

PLANTS THAT TOLERATE WET SOIL CONDITIONS (BLUE)

Actaea pachypoda (Cimicifuga), Baneberry (white) PC Clethra alnifolia 'Ruby Spice', Summersweet (dark pink) PC Cornus sericea, Red Twig Dogwood (white) PC Itea virginica 'Henry's Garnet', Sweetspire (white) NJ Lobelia cardinalis, Cardinal Flower (red) PC Lobelia siphilitica, Blue Lobelia (blue) PC

PLANTS THAT ATTRACT POLLINATORS (ORANGE)

Amsonia x 'Blue Ice', Blue Star Flower (medium blue) NJ Asclepias incarnata, Swamp Milkweed (white-to-pink) PC Aster novi-belgii, New York Aster (lavender) NJ Coreopsis verticillata 'Zagreb', Tickseed (yellow) NJ Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus', Coneflower (pink) NJ Echinacea purpurea 'White Swan', Coneflower (white) NJ Eryngium yuccifolium, Sea Holly (white) NJ Liatris spicata, Blazing Star (rose-purple) PC Liatris spicata, Blazing Star var. alba (white) PC 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, Fall Garden Phlox

(deep magenta-purple) NJ

Salvia x sylvestris 'May Night', Sage (purple) EC Solidago canadensis, Goldenrod (gold) PC

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 'Elf', 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

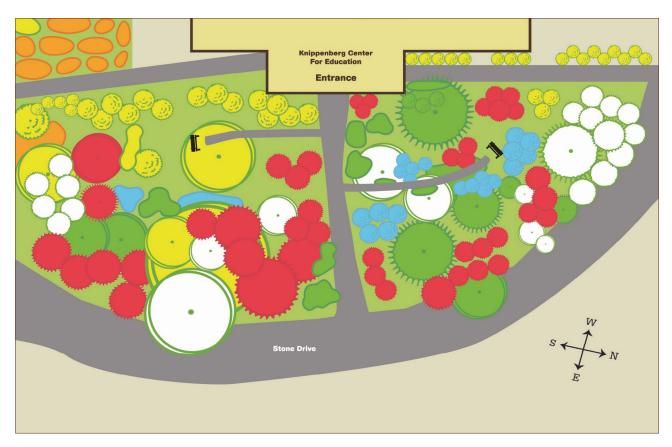
Rhododendron atlanticum x periclymenoides 'Choptank Rose', Azalea (pink) NJ

Rhododendron calendulaceum, Flame Azalea (yellow to orange) EC

Rhododendron catawbiense, Catawba Rhododendron (lilac) NJ Rhododendron viscosum, Swamp Azalea (white) PC

Vaccinium angustifolium, Lowbush-Blueberry (white) PC

Native Plant Demonstration Garden



SUN (YELLOW)

Betula populifolia, Gray Birch PC

Callicarpa americana, American Beautyberry (magenta berry) EC

Chionanthus virginicus, Fringe Tree (fluffy white) NJ Dennstaedtia punctilobula, Hay-scented Fern PC

Diervilla Ionicera 'Copper', Bush Honeysuckle

(sulfur-yellow) PC

Fothergilla gardenii, Dwarf Fothergilla (white) EC

Halesia carolina 'Rosea', Silverbell (pink) NJ

Lindera benzoin, Spicebush (yellow) PC

Liriodendron tulipifera 'Fastigiatum', Tulip Tree (white) PC

Magnolia grandiflora 'Edith Bogue', Southern Magnolia

(white) EC

Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal', Switchgrass (blue-green) PC Physocarpus opulifolius 'Coppertina', Ninebark (light pink) NJ

Viburnum dentatum 'Crimson Tide', Arrowwood Viburnum

Viburnum nudum 'Winterthur', Smooth Witherod/Viburnum

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

Chelone glabra, Turtlehead (white) NJ

Cornus florida, Dogwood (white) NJ

Leucothoe fontanesiana 'Rollissonii' EC

Osmunda cinnamomea, Cinnamon Fern PC

Osmunda regalis, Royal Fern PC

Podophyllum peltatum, Mayapple (white) EC

Polystichum acrostichoides, Christmas Fern PC

Rhododendron catawbiense 'Chionoides' (white) EC

Taxus canadensis. Yew PC

Trillium erectum, Red Trillium (red) PC

Tsuga canadensis 'Coles Prostrate' and 'Jervis', Hemlock NJ