Native Plant Recommendations

Don’t remove plants from the wild. Taking wild plants devastates native plant populations and often the plants removed do not survive in backyards.

Basics About Using Native Plants
Maximize your success by matching the right plants with the right site conditions. Do your homework before planting:
- Assess the available light, moisture, and soil pH at your planting site.
- Have your soil tested to learn the pH and if the soil needs to be improved.
- Choose native plants that match your site conditions.

Use this list as a guide.

Remember, landscaping with native plants is art imitating nature. For ideas, look to nearby natural areas to observe how native plants occur naturally.

The Invasive Plant Dilemma
A very small number of nonnative plants have become highly invasive and destructive. These are plants that have been accidentally or deliberately introduced by people. The natural controls, such as disease and insects, that normally kept these plants “in check” in their homeland do not exist here. This gives these invasive plants an advantage, making it easy for them to grow out of control and take over the habitat of other plants. These invasives affect native wildlife and insects, too. The balance and diversity of our mountain environment will decline as these invasive plants continue to spread. Some of these invasive plants considered most destructive are:

Japanese honeysuckle – Lonicera japonica
Japanese barberry – Berberis thunbergii
Japanese spirea – Spirea japonica
Autumn-olive – Elaeagnus umbellata
Chinese Silvervgrass – Miscanthus sinensis
Multiflora rose – Rosa multiflora
Tree of heaven – Ailanthus altissima
Princess tree – Paulownia tomentosa
Oriental bittersweet – Celastrus orbiculatus
Chinese yam – Dioscora batatas, D. oppositifolia, D. bulbifera
Privet* – Ligustrum sinense, L. obusifolium and L. vulgare

*Varieties less invasive may be available; talk to your local nursery.

Wildflowers

FIELD Guide

r FULL & PART sun

soil MOISTURE

Wyler Planting Guide

*These plants can be vigorous growers and may need more management control.
What You Can Do:
- Learn more about native plants.
- Buy nursery propagated plant material.
- Don’t remove plants from the wild.
- Protect native plants and natural area habitats.
- Promote responsible landscaping practices.
- Avoid planting invasive plant species.

For more information:
Botanical Gardens at Asheville
151 WT Weaver Boulevard
Asheville, NC 28804
828/252/5190

Great Smoky Mountains National Park
107 Park Headquarters Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
423/436/1706

North Carolina Botanical Garden
Conservation Curator
CB 3375, Totten Center
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3375

Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council (SE-EPPC)
P.O. Box 50556
Nashville, TN 37205
www.se-eppc.org

Northern Appalachian Man and The Biosphere Cooperative
Contact your local County Cooperative Extension Service Office

Useful Websites:
Plants Database, usda.gov/about_plants/html
NC Native Plant Society-www.ncwildflower.org/
Center for Plant Conservation-www.centerforplant-conservation.org

For more information:

Botanical Gardens at Asheville
151 WT Weaver Boulevard
Asheville, NC 28804
828/252/5190

Great Smoky Mountains National Park
107 Park Headquarters Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
423/436/1706

North Carolina Botanical Garden
Conservation Curator
CB 3375, Totten Center
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3375

Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council (SE-EPPC)
P.O. Box 50556
Nashville, TN 37205
www.se-eppc.org

Southern Appalachian Man and The Biosphere Cooperative

www.samab.org

Contact your local County Cooperative Extension Service Office

Useful Websites:
Plants Database, usda.gov/about_plants/html
NC Native Plant Society-www.ncwildflower.org/
Center for Plant Conservation-www.centerforplant-conservation.org

Plant Conservation Alliance- www.nps.gov/plants/
Going Native (NCSU)-www.ncsu.edu/goingnative

Text, Maps and Plant List by
• Great Smoky Mountains National Park
• Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition
• Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Cooperative
• Tennessee Natural Areas Program—Natural Heritage Division
• U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
• U.S. Forest Service

Other Co-sponsors
• Botanical Gardens of Asheville

A Unique Region
The Southern Appalachians

Western North Carolina is composed of 23 counties that lie almost entirely within the Blue Ridge Mountains of the Southern Appalachians. Soils in this region tend to be well drained, loamy, strongly acidic, and low in natural fertility. Site conditions for plants are determined by the topography, soil pH and depth, elevation, amount of sunlight, and availability of water.

Blue Ridge Mountains
Western North Carolina is composed of 23 counties that lie almost entirely within the Blue Ridge Mountains of the Southern Appalachians. Soils in this region tend to be well drained, loamy, strongly acidic, and low in natural fertility. Site conditions for plants are determined by the topography, soil pH and depth, elevation, amount of sunlight, and availability of water.

LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

What Are Native Plants?
Native species are those that naturally occur in an area; they have not been introduced by human action. Native species have evolved over time with the physical and biological factors specific to their region, such as climate, soil, rainfall, and interactions with other plants, animals, and insects that live in the area. Thus, native species are uniquely adapted to the local conditions and wildlife, including important pollinators and migratory birds.

Benefits of Native Plants?
- Hardy and should withstand regional weather extremes when properly sited and planted.
- Promote wise stewardship of the land and the conservation of natural resources.
- Provide food and shelter for native wildlife.
- Inspire a ‘sense of place’ and pride in our mountain communities.
- Prevent future invasive plant introductions.

Native Plants for Wildlife
Using native plants in landscaping helps sustain native butterflies, beneficial insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, and other native species. Spring migrating and nesting birds rely on the insects in our lush forest to give them the energy to travel long distances and raise their young. Full migrating birds depend on high-energy fruits from flowering dogwood, spice bush, and Virginia creeper. Beech, oak, and hickory trees provide nesting habitat and important nuts and acorns for a variety of wildlife. In the winter, evergreen trees like American holly, white pine, and hemlocks provide important shelter and food.