



## Why Native Plants Matter

Restoring native plant habitat is vital to preserving biodiversity. By creating a native plant garden, each patch of habitat becomes part of a collective effort to nurture and sustain the living landscape for birds and other animals.



There is information here for the beginning, average or even experienced gardener. You don't have to have a native garden all at once, start with one, two or three and build from there! Find out the why, what, how and where of what is native, aggressive and invasive plants.

You can do something for the ecosystem AND have beautiful flowers, bees and birds all at once, just give it a try!

### **Landscape Invasives and Native Alternatives - 2019 Four Seasons Gardening Webinar**

By Kelly Allsup - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q71AuWUU3r0> (47 min)  
Kelly is a University of Illinois horticulture Educator. Her video educates us to what invasive species do to our ecosystem and why and how using native plants can be positive to both our own yard and the earth at the same time.



**Planting for Pollinators** – Some simple steps and tips on how to plan and design your home landscape using natives to make it interesting yet not weedy or unruly.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vhsrl62IUUg> (3 min)

### **Other Good Websites:**

- The Land Conservancy of McHenry County – Has some good programs coming up to take advantage <https://www.conservemc.org/>
- A website that explains in detail about natives and how and what you can do to have more [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ro0v5CL9\\_Yw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ro0v5CL9_Yw)
- University of Illinois Extension's Master Gardener Website – Tons of ideas and advice on sustainable gardening. <https://extension.illinois.edu/global/horticulture>
- Make a Pollinator Victory Garden!  
<https://ngb.org/2020/04/22/pollinator-victory-garden-2-0/>

## Handouts & Other Resources

<https://www.thewppc.org/portfolios/native-flowers/>



The WPPC is a group of native plant and gardening enthusiasts who strive to share their knowledge and expertise with anyone who will listen. This page is designed to display some of the beautiful and useful native plants that can be grown in the home garden

<https://iiseagrant.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/1-ILLINOIS-NATIVE-PLANTS-FOR-THE-HOME-LANDSCAPE.pdf>

This brochure is a guide to the characteristics and benefits of selected Illinois plants to help home gardeners choose native plants appropriate for site-specific conditions.

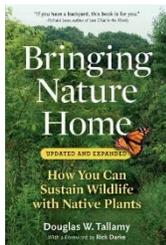
<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildflowers/nativeplants.cfm>

This website was developed to help gardeners incorporate wildflowers into their gardens by giving information on various native wildflowers. The idea is not to “recommend” plants but rather to give enough information to make your own decision as to whether a certain wildflower suits your needs.



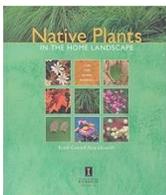
I HIGHLY recommend a visit to Native’s Haven in Harvard. It’s such a unique place, setting and the owner is passionate and devoted to natives. It’s most definitely worth the drive out just to visit and walk around the property he has developed. He has limited hours, check out his website,

<http://www.nativeshaven.com/the-benefits-of-native-plants.html>



**Bringing Nature Home** by Douglas Tallamy

an excellent book, every gardener or all who care about the earth and plants should read it!



**Native Plants in the Home Landscape** -Keith Nowakowski (U of I Extension)

Great resource with wonderful pictures too.