



# Why Plant Native?

Native plants aren't a trend—they're how nature works best.

For thousands of years, native plants have supported the bugs, birds, and ecosystems that define our region. They are adapted to local soils and weather. They belong here.

## REASON #1 TO PLANT NATIVE

### Native Plants Feed Wildlife

Without native plants, food webs collapse. When you plant native, you help rebuild them—right in your own yard or park.

→ Many native plants are host plants, meaning many bugs and butterflies rely on them to survive.

HOST PLANT EXAMPLE: Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed.

→ Iconic birds like hummingbirds, goldfinches and others rely on the nectar and seeds of native flowers and grasses.

#### SAD REALITY:

**Most American landscapes are the opposite of native**

- Lawns use **non-native grasses** that require constant mowing, chemical inputs, and huge amounts of water.
- **Invasive species** (like butterfly bush) may look pretty, but they don't support local wildlife.

## REASON #2 TO PLANT NATIVE

### Native Plants Are Easy

Once established, native plants:

- Thrive with normal rainfall
- Don't need fertilizer or chemicals
- Require less maintenance than a lawn

## How to Get Started

Native plants don't require a botany degree. They've been growing here without human help for centuries.

- Replace a lawn patch with bee balm or milkweed.
- Plant a native tree instead of a non-native one.

**Every native plant counts.**



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