



## Benefits of Native Plants

- ◆ **Lower Maintenance.** Though all plantings require some maintenance, landscapes utilizing native plants generally require much less care than traditional landscapes, thereby saving time and money. Native plants are adapted to local climates, and when grown in an appropriate area, require very little, if any, fertilizer and supplemental water once established. They are also more resistant to insects and diseases and therefore do not require pesticide treatments.
- ◆ **Add Beauty to the Landscape.** Native plants offer a variety of color, form, and texture to gardens and landscapes. Many native plants produce showy flowers, berries or seeds, and have brilliant fall foliage.
- ◆ **Reduce Pollution to Lakes and Streams.** Utilizing native plants in your landscape will greatly reduce or eliminate the need to apply fertilizers and pesticides, whose excessive use in the landscape can be a source of pollution in lakes, streams, and wetlands. The deep root systems of native plants help to filter polluted runoff and stabilize soil to prevent erosion.

### Other Homeowner Tips for Reducing Pollution

- ◆ **Increase Wildlife Habitat.** As our area continues to grow in population, natural habitats are being replaced by urban and suburban development. By returning native plants to our yards, we are helping to re-establish the plants that originally grew there and provide the habitat that wildlife needs to thrive. With the right diversity of native plants in your landscape, you can provide food and shelter for many mammals, birds, and beneficial insects that have evolved to depend on local native plant communities for survival.

[Read why native plant landscapes play a critical role in wildlife protection](#)-by Doug Tallamy

**Prevent the Introduction of Invasive Plants.** Invasive species are a major contributor to habitat loss. Invasive plants multiply and spread aggressively, displacing native plants and thereby decreasing wildlife habitat. Many of the invasive, exotic plant species present in natural areas today were introduced as landscape plants decades ago. Continued introduction of new exotic plants into our landscapes may result in many new invasive plants in the future. The use of only native plants in your landscape helps limit the chances that potentially invasive, exotic plant species will be introduced into natural environments.