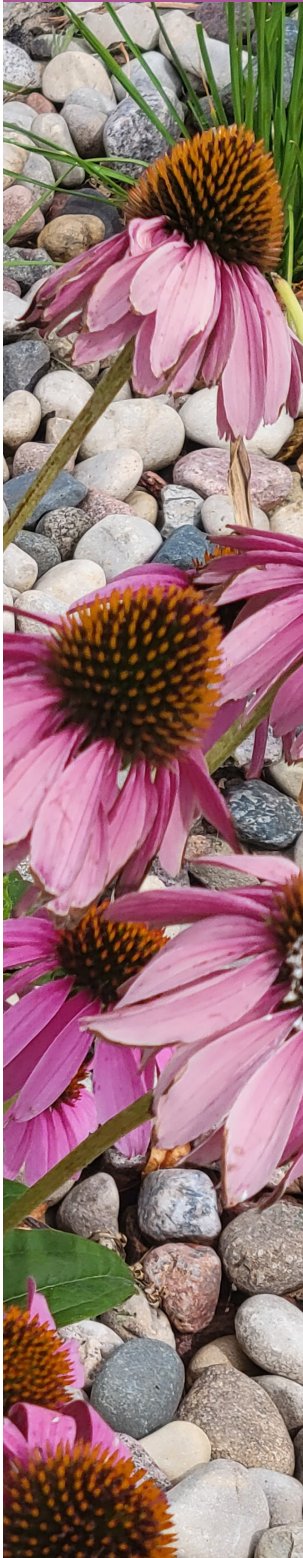


Plant Native



Why

Native plants are beautiful and protect nature

Native plants are species that grew naturally in a region before European settlement. Since native plants are adapted to their surroundings, they are more tolerant of drought and poor soil and more resistant to native insects and diseases than non-natives. Species native to Wisconsin include many attractive flowers, grasses, sedges, bushes and trees. In addition to providing food and habitat for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife, native plants filter water pollutants and store carbon.

How

Three strategies for incorporating native plants into your yard

- 1** Plant individual or small groupings of native flowers, shrubs, grasses, and/or trees into existing landscaping. This does not require special permission by the city.
- 2** Create a small native plant area with a boundary of some sort, like a stone edge, and plant natives within that boundary. Typically this does not require special permission by the city.
- 3** Apply to have your yard designated as a "Native Landscaping Area." Municipal Code 17-44.2 (B) states, "Native Landscaping Areas... are areas of grasses and flowering broad-leaf plants that are native to, or adapted to, the State of Wisconsin and that are commonly found in meadow and prairie plant communities. If a proposed landscape within the City includes native grasses that exceed or are expected to exceed eight (8) inches in overall height, the property owner must apply for and receive approval of the Native Landscaping Area." Municipal Code 17-44.2 (C) describes the process for receiving approval of a Native Landscaping Area within the City of Oshkosh.

Weeds

Some native plants, like milkweed have "weed" in their name, but this does not mean they are weeds. Weeds are any plants that are unwanted in their current location. So a native plant could be considered a weed, but so can a rose bush!

Invasives

Invasive plants present a big and growing problem in Wisconsin. They are so aggressive that they choke out more desirable plants. When developing a yard or landscape it is important to remove invasives and take care not to introduce any new ones.

City Codes

Commonly used native plants

Municipal Code Chapter 30 - Article IX - Land-scaping Requirements includes Figure 30-254a titled *Commonly-Used Appropriate Landscaping Species*. Native plants on this list are indicated with an * and receive an additional 10% added to point values for landscaping requirements in new commercial building. (Note, some plants on this list which are native to Wisconsin are not marked as native.)

Designated Native Landscaping Areas

Section 17-44.2 (C) of the Municipal Code Native Landscaping Areas describes the process for receiving approval of a native landscaping area within the City of Oshkosh. Contact the Parks Department at 920-236-5080 for more information.

Exemptions to weed cutting requirements

Section 17-44D of the Municipal Code lists several exemptions to weed cutting and lawn care requirements. Among the exemptions are vegetation on steep slopes that would be unsafe to mow, vegetation in natural wooded lots, vegetation near water, and approved "Native Landscaping Areas."

Native Plant Resources

City of Oshkosh Sustainability Plan

The City of Oshkosh Sustainability Plan includes a chapter titled "Environmental Conservation" which outlines policies on native landscaping in Oshkosh. www.oshkoshwi.gov/SustainableOshkosh

Rain gardens & storm water credits

Stormwater credits for installation of a rain garden are available. Municipal Code Section 30-255 describes standards for rain gardens and bioswales. Contact the Department of Public Works at 920-236-5065 if interested. The City of Oshkosh Residential Stormwater Utility Credit Policy can be found here: www.oshkoshwi.gov/StormWaterUtility

Websites

DNR • dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/endangeredresources/nativeplants

Guidance from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on native plants. This site includes a list of nurseries that sell native plants. Reputable nurseries will answer your questions about the source and characteristics of their plants.

Nurseries will help you identify plants that will be successful for a particular purpose and specific conditions found in a yard or garden. Many native plants are listed as endangered or threatened by the Wisconsin DNR. It is important to use native plants that are propagated and not gathered. Gathering native plants disrupts native plant communities. In addition, like all plants some natives are more aggressive than others.

Wild Ones • foxvalleyarea.wildones.org

As described on its website, Wild Ones "promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to increase biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities." The Fox Valley chapter provides many educational opportunities and hosts an annual native plant sale.

USDA | Plants Database • plants.usda.gov

Information on plants including whether a plant is a native or introduced species to regions within the United States

Xerces Society | Pollinator Conservation Resource Center: Great Lakes Region xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/great-lakes

Includes lists of native plants and information on creation of pollinator habitat.

Audubon • audubon.org/native-plants

Includes a native plant database to bring more birds to a yard or garden.

USDA | State Noxious-Weed Seed Requirements (Wisconsin is on page 90)

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/StateNoxiousWeedsSeedList.pdf>

Covers Wisconsin's invasive, introduced, and noxious weeds as well as endangered and threatened species. Includes an explanation of Wisconsin law.

Healthy Lakes & Rivers • healthylakeswi.com

Provides information on creating wildlife habitats on shoreland property.

Apps to help identify plant species: [Pl@ntNet](#) | [Seek](#) | [PictureThis](#)

Books at the Oshkosh Public Library

By Neil Diboll *The Gardener's Guide To Prairie Plants*

By Lynn Steinter *Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin*

By Douglas Tallamy

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard

The Nature of Oaks

Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens

By Benjamin Vogt *Prairie Up (ebook only)*

By Larry Weaner *Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change*