



FACT SHEET

GUIDE NO. 9
USE NATIVE PLANTS WHERE POSSIBLE



Photo: sharptail I believe by wxman 1952

Native plants save us time and money and they are beneficial for the environment.

Why Native Plants?

Native plants have adapted to the natural climate of an area, therefore, they do not require as much care in regard to fertilizers or watering once they are well established.

A native landscape does not need to be mowed like a conventional lawn. This reduces the demand for non-renewable resources and improves the water and air quality.

Landscaping with native wildflowers and grasses helps return the area to a healthy ecosystem which brings with it a wide varieties of birds and butterflies that are attracted to the native plants, thus enhancing the biodiversity of the area.

The beauty of native wildflowers and grasses creates a sense of place, both at home and work.

Native plants increase our connection to nature, help educate our neighbors, and provide a beautiful, peaceful place to relax.

Native Plant Resources

Don't hesitate to ask for native plants at your favorite nursery or home store. If they don't carry native varieties of your favorites, check out the following resources.

Michigan Native Plant Producers Association

Lists nurseries that grow and sell Michigan native plants including trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and ferns:

<http://www.mnppa.org/>

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

A full listing of native flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs can be obtained by clicking on the following link:

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12146---,00.html

Avoid Invasive Plants

What are invasive plants? Invasive plants, sometimes called alien species, non-indigenous or exotic, are any species including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that can cause harm to that ecosystem. They are plants that are not native to that ecosystem, or in other words, invasive plants are plants that have been introduced to an area either intentionally or by accident.



FACT SHEET

GUIDE NO. 9
USE NATIVE PLANTS WHERE POSSIBLE

Why don't we want them in our landscape?

Because invasive species are not indigenous they pose several issues including:

- They may require large amounts of water and fertilizers to look appealing.
- They may find the conditions so conducive they grow at an accelerated rate overcrowding and displacing native plants, or worse, endangered plants.
- On a larger scale invasive species can cause changes in soil chemistry and replace a healthy, diverse, ecosystem with a single species.

How can I identify invasives in my yard?

There are a great many invasive plants that pose a problem in southeast Michigan (some of them may surprise you.) Additional information and a complete list can be found at:

Michigan Invasive Plant Council

<http://www.invasiveplantsmi.org/>

Michigan Native Plant Producers Association

<http://www.mnppa.org>

