

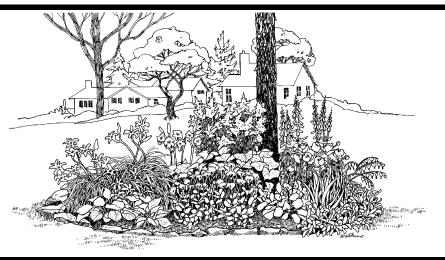


To see how you can make a difference at home and in your community, contact the Clinton River Watershed Council and ask for the complete stormwater tip card series. Or, for more information, visit our website at **www.crwc.org**.

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A Citizen's Guide to Native Landscaping

A any of the grasses planted most often for lawns aren't the best for protecting water quality. Native plants—those naturally found in Michigan landscapes—actually help improve water quality, and they're an attractive alternative to turfgrass. Natives generally have deeper roots, which absorb runoff and break down pollutants that would otherwise go straight into storm drains and rivers. Native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers encourage a healthy yard, and require much less maintenance than nonnatives or turfgrass!



What are some other reasons to plant natives?

While many non-native plants, such as purple loosestrife, are colorful and attractive, they are considered

"invasive" because they out-compete native species and disrupt wildlife habitat. Native plants, on the other hand, offer nesting sites and food for wildlife. A garden of prairie wildflowers, for instance, will attract butterflies and hummingbirds to your backyard. Best of all, natives are adapted to our local soils and climate, so they do not need watering and require very little fertilizer or pesticides, which can pollute our waterways. Find out more about native plants through MSU Master Gardener Hotline, or get a copy of "Landscaping for Water Quality", a series of booklets available through your local MDEQ office or from the Center for Environmental Study @ 616-988-2854.

Some nurseries specialize in native plants, and local conservation districts offer free



site assessments to determine what plants will work best in your yard!

Call Michigan State University Extention Offices in to get a list of nurseries in your area.



What plants are native to Michigan?

Here's just a small sampling of plants that are native to our area and easy to find.

Ferns

Christmas Cinnamon Lady Maidenhair Ostrich Royal

Grasses

Big bluestem grass Cordgrass Indian grass Junegrass Purple lovegrass Wool-grass

Shrubs

- Blueberry Buttonbush Dogwood Fragrant sumac Elderberry
- American beech Ash (Red, Green) Blackgum Black walnut Canada hemlock Douglas fir Flowering dogwood Hawthorn

Michigan holly (Winterberry) Serviceberry Spicebush Raspberry

Trees

Hickory Maple (Red, Sugar) Oak (Red, White) Ohio buckeye Paw paw Sycamore Tuliptree White pine

Wildflowers

Anemone Black-eyed Susan Blazing star Butterfly weed Columbine Coral bells Purple coneflower Woodland poppy