



Otsego Conservation District

# Native Plant Nursery

2025 Informational Guide & Catalog

800 Livingston Blvd., Ste. 4A  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
989-732-4021  
www.otsegoed.org  
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Species Name	Circle Size	Quantity	Price Each	Total
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## Planning Your Native Plant Garden

Mixing plants of different heights, bloom colors, and foliage textures in odd-numbered groupings can produce an aesthetically pleasing garden while also attracting pollinators to the area. Consider choosing a variety of plants that bloom at different times to ensure summer-long beauty and various food sources and shelter for birds, beneficial insects and wildlife. For planning made easy, see our plant recommendations for gardens based on sun, soil moisture and pollinator attractiveness.

## Planting Your Native Plant Garden

Once you have determined which plants will do best on your site, prepare the soil by removing any unwanted vegetation to eliminate competition and crowding. Make sure to get all the roots also. If needed, amend the soil with organic materials such as shredded leaves or compost. Native plants perform best when planted after the last killing frost in spring through early fall. Plants need time to get established and store energy in their roots before their first winter. The general rule for spacing perennials is to plant them 12 inches apart.

## Caring for Your Native Plant Garden

Native plants (even the drought-resistant ones) must be watered during their first growing season to ensure their roots become well established. The best way to water your new native perennials is with long soakings in the morning. This ensures that moisture soaks farther into the soil and encourages deeper root growth. Watering in the morning also allows water to evaporate off the leaves during the day reducing moisture-related foliage damage.

## Pollinator Garden

Native plants attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies as well as natural enemies to garden pests. The plants listed below have proven to be highly attractive to pollinators based on research conducted by Michigan State University.

Boneset - Very High  
Canada Anemone - High  
Culver's-Root - Very High  
Cup Plant - Very High  
Dotted Mint/Horse Mint - Very High  
Golden Alexanders - Very High  
Great Blue Lobelia - Very High  
Hairy Beard-Tongue - High  
Meadowsweet - Very High  
Missouri Ironweed - High  
New England Aster - Very High  
Nodding Wild Onion - Average

Riddell's Goldenrod - Very High  
Sand Coreopsis - High  
Showy Goldenrod - Average  
Smooth Aster - High  
Swamp Milkweed - High  
Yellow Coneflower - Very High



### Prices

Plug (Single Plant in a 2"x2"x4" Bands)	\$4.50
Quart (Single Plant in a 3"x3"x 6" Bands)	\$7.00
Full Tray (36 Plugs single or mixed species)	\$110.00
Full Tray (16 Quarts single or mixed species)	\$110.00
Full Tray (5 or more trays, single species per tray)	\$100.00

## Why Landscape with Native Plants?

Native plants are easy to grow and maintain because they are well adapted to our soils and climate. Plants native to our state will thrive in your yard without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. Thanks to their extensive root systems, native plants, once established, will require less water than non-native plants.






By landscaping with native plants you will attract butterflies, birds, and other beneficial organisms to your yard and provide them with the food and habitat they need to thrive. With increasing development and the disappearance of natural habitat, our yards and rural properties become crucial to the survival of native species.

Landscaping with native plants not only lowers water use; it improves water quality. Native plants are much more effective than lawn grass at slowing down storm water and filtering out chemicals contained within it. The deep roots of many native species are able to absorb, hold, and gradually release this water—water that would otherwise rush into nearby bodies of water, eroding banks and delivering pollution.

This year marks the twelfth year of Otsego Conservation District's Native Plant Nursery. We realized the need for a local source of Michigan genotype native plants for restoration projects, encouraging the comeback of pollinators, improved water quality, an alternative to invasive species, and nature-friendly landscaping. Over 50 species of native flowers and grasses are grown onsite and available to help enhance your backyard (and front-yard) habitat.

Information for all our species can be found in this booklet. We have also designed gardens based on shared characteristics to ensure the health of your garden and make planning your garden easier. The gardens featured include: Butterfly Garden, Sun Garden, Shade Garden, Riparian Sun Garden, Riparian Shade Garden and Pollinator Garden.

## Factors To Consider

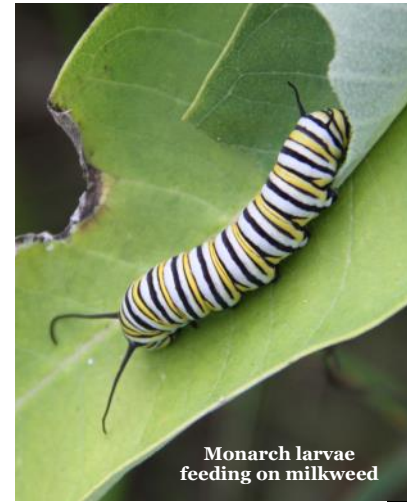
-  **Sun vs. Shade:** How much sun will your garden get?
-  **Wet vs. Dry:** How moist is your soil? Are you planting in a wetland or a dry area?
-  **Riparian:** Are you near water? Are you planting a buffer strip on a lakeshore or stream bank? Native plants provide wildlife habitat and filter contaminants from water leaving your property and entering a stream or lake. Their deep root systems minimize erosion and you won't have to mow there again!
-  **Attracting Beneficial Insects:** Do you want to attract butterflies, pollinators, or natural enemies of garden pests?
-  **Aesthetics:** When will your flowers bloom, what colors will they be and how tall are they?

## Create A Butterfly Garden

To create a landscape that is inviting for butterflies consider their lifecycle. They begin as eggs, hatch into caterpillars that eat plants, spend time as a chrysalis, and eventually transform into winged adults that flit around looking for food, mates, and places to lay more eggs. During each of these stages butterflies have very different needs. The more of these needs you can supply, the greater the chance that your backyard will become a home for butterflies.

### Caterpillar/Larvae Food: Host Plants

The caterpillars of each species have their own limited menu of plants upon which they will dine. Female butterflies lay their eggs on or near these plants and will be attracted to your backyard if you supply their host plants. A greater variety of host plants yields a greater variety of butterfly species. Host plants also provide cover and protection for all life stages of a butterfly's life.



Monarch larvae feeding on milkweed



A Monarch Butterfly enjoys nectar from a New England Aster

### Pupation Sites

The transformation stage from caterpillar to adult is called pupation and is done within the protection of a chrysalis or cocoon. Before building a chrysalis a caterpillar searches out a safe site. Depending upon the species, this haven could be a bush, tall grass, piles of leaves or sticks, house siding, tree bark, or another location. If you provide these features in your yard you will encourage butterflies to stay in the area.

### Adult/Butterfly Food: Nectar, Fruit and Sap

Adult butterflies need sugar to fuel their search for mates and egg-laying sites. The main source of sugar is nectar from flowers. However, some butterflies such as the Mourning Cloak get sugar from rotten fruit or sap leaking from wounded trees. Be-

cause butterflies need warmth to fly, nectar flowers and larval host plants should be grown in open, sunny areas protected from the wind by large shrubs, a hedgerow, a fence or other type of windbreak. Providing large, flat rocks gives the butterflies a place to warm themselves as the rocks absorb the sun's heat. Shallow dishes or puddle stones provide a safe source for water.

**Protecting Wetlands:** A riparian area is the diverse habitat adjacent to water such as banks of a river, stream, wetland, or lake. Maintaining a natural vegetation strip, shoreline buffer or greenbelt of native plants helps create an ideal ecosystem. Extensive root systems absorb nutrients, clarify water and help prevent erosion by stabilizing soil. Having a natural transition between water and land (versus a seawall) absorbs wave action resulting in less scouring of the bottom and less churning of sediment (water cloudiness). Vegetation provides habitat for wildlife, including aquatic species such as fish, and helps cool water temperatures.

Listed below are riparian gardens divided by sun requirements. Within these groups, some species need wet, soggy soil and do well in or near water. Others prefer wet mesic soil which is soil heavy with moisture for long periods, but can dry up in the summer. These species would be planted higher on the bank where it is dryer. Each species below is listed with its soil moisture recommendation.

### ☼ Riparian Sun Garden: Full-Partial Sun

Big Bluestem - WM-D	Missouri Ironweed - WM-M
Black-Eyed Susan - WM-D	Monkey-Flower - W-WM
Blue Vervain - W-M	New England Aster - W-DM
Boneset - W-WM	Nodding Wild Onion - WM-DM
Canada Anemone - WM-M	Purple Meadow-Rue - WM-M
Cardinal-Flower - W-WM	Purplestem Angelica - WM-D
Culver's-Root - WM-DM	Riddell's Goldenrod - W-M
Cup Plant - WM-DM	Stout Blue-Eyed-Grass - WM-DM
Fireweed - WM-DM	Swamp Milkweed - W-M
Golden Alexanders - WM-DM	Switch Grass - WM-D
Great Blue Lobelia - W-M	Tall Coreopsis - WM-DM
Indian Paintbrush - WM-DM	Turtlehead - W-WM
Joe-Pye-Weed - W-WM	Wild-Bergamot - WM-D
Marsh-Marigold - W-WM	Wild Blue Flag - W-M
Meadowsweet - W-M	Yellow Coneflower - WM-D



### ☼ Riparian Shade Garden: Part Sun-Shade

Big Bluestem - WM-D	Meadowsweet - W-M
Big-Leaved Aster - WM-D	Missouri Ironweed - WM-M
Black-Eyed Susan - WM-D	Monkey-Flower - W-WM
Blue Vervain - W-M	New England Aster - W-DM
Boneset - W-WM	Nodding Wild Onion - WM-DM
Canada Anemone - WM-M	Purple Meadow-Rue - WM-M
Cardinal-Flower - W-WM	Purplestem Angelica - WM-D
Culver's-Root - WM-DM	Stout Blue-Eyed-Grass - WM-DM
Early Meadow-Rue - WM-DM	Switch Grass - WM-D
Fireweed - WM-DM	Tall Coreopsis - WM-DM
Golden Alexanders - WM-DM	Turtlehead - W-WM
Great Blue Lobelia - W-M	Wild-Bergamot - WM-D
Indian Paintbrush - WM-DM	Wild Blue Flag - W-M
Joe-Pye-Weed - W-WM	Yellow Coneflower - WM-D
Marsh-Marigold - W-WM	Zigzag Goldenrod - WM-DM

#### Soil Key:

**W** = Wet - Soggy wet

**WM** = Wet Mesic - Heavy with moisture for long periods, but can dry up in summer

**M** = Mesic - Medium moisture

**DM** = Dry Mesic - Moisture drains readily

**D** = Dry - Extremely dry

## Sun Garden

These native plants do well in full to partial sun in upland dry areas. Please check the chart in the center of this booklet for comprehensive soil moisture recommendations.

Big Bluestem	Little Bluestem
Black-Eyed Susan	Meadowsweet
Blue Vervain	Missouri Ironweed
Bluestem Goldenrod	New England Aster
Boneset	Nodding Wild Onion
Butterfly-Weed	Northern Blazing-Star
Canada Anemone	Pale Coneflower
Canada Wild Rye	Purple Meadow-Rue
Culver's-Root	Purplestem Angelica
Cup Plant	Riddell's Goldenrod
Cylindrical Blazing Star	Sand Coreopsis
Dotted Mint/Horse Mint	Showy Goldenrod
False Sunflower	Smooth Aster
Fireweed	Stout Blue-Eyed-Grass
Foxglove Beard-Tongue	Swamp Milkweed
Golden Alexanders	Switch Grass
Great Blue Lobelia	Tall Coreopsis
Hairy Beard-Tongue	Western Sunflower
Hoary Vervain	Wild Columbine
Indian Grass	Woodland Sunflower
Indian Paintbrush	Wild Lupine
Joe-Pye-Weed	Wild-Bergamot
June Grass	Yellow Coneflower

Depending on the species, butterflies may overwinter or hibernate as eggs, larvae, pupae or even adults. You might find them on plants around the garden, under leaf litter, under loose bark, or in piles of logs and other debris. To help hibernators, a little untidiness goes a long way. Before severe cold sets in, clean up only the leaves and garden debris that you must and pile up some logs or leaves around the edges of your yard for extra cover.

Please remember to avoid insecticides, pesticides and herbicides in your garden and yard. These can have a devastating effect on all life stages of butterflies and pollinators. Search out alternative, safe methods for controlling garden pests and weeds. By providing native plants, beneficial predatory insects are also encouraged to live in the area and control pests.



Joe-Pye-Weed  
*Eutrochium maculatum*

## Shade Garden

All of these native plants do well in partial shade. Those that can withstand full shade are also noted below. Please check the chart in the center of this booklet for soil moisture recommendations.

Big Bluestem	Little Bluestem
Big-Leaved Aster - Shade	Meadowsweet - Shade
Black-Eyed Susan	Missouri Ironweed
Blue Vervain	New England Aster
Bluestem Goldenrod - Shade	Nodding Wild Onion
Boneset	Northern Blazing-Star
Butterfly-Weed	Pale Coneflower
Canada Anemone	Purple Meadow-Rue
Canada Wild Rye	Purplestem Angelica
Culver's-Root	Showy Golderod
Dotted Mint/Horse Mint	Smooth Aster
Early Meadow-Rue - Shade	Stout Blue-Eyed-Grass
False Sunflower	Switch Grass
Fireweed	Tall Coreopsis
Foxglove Beard-Tongue	Wild-Bergamot
Golden Alexanders	Wild Columbine - Shade
Great Blue Lobelia - Shade	Wild Geranium
Hairy Beard-Tongue	Wild Lupine
Hoary Vervain	Woodland Sunflower - Shade
Indian Paintbrush	Yellow Coneflower
June Grass	Zigzag Goldenrod - Shade

## Butterfly Garden

These native plants encourage butterflies by providing food and/or shelter during all phases of the butterfly life cycle. Plants with *Larvae* are larval food hosts for butterfly caterpillars. These plants also provide shelter and places to lay eggs. Plants with *Adult* provide a nectar source for butterflies.

Big Bluestem - Larvae	Missouri Ironweed - Adult
Big-Leaved Aster - Larvae, Adult	New England Aster - Larvae, Adult
Black-Eyed Susan - Larvae, Adult	Northern Blazing-Star - Adult
Blue Vervain - Adult	Pale Coneflower - Adult
Bluestem Goldenrod - Adult	Purplestem Angelica - Larvae
Boneset - Adult	Riddell's Goldenrod - Adult
Butterfly-Weed - Larvae, Adult	Sand Coreopsis - Larvae, Adult
Cardinal-Flower - Adult	Showy Goldenrod - Adult
Culver's-Root - Adult	Smooth Aster - Larvae, Adult
Cup Plant - Adult	Swamp Milkweed - Larvae, Adult
Cylindrical Blazing-Star - Adult	Switch Grass - Larvae
Dotted Mint/Horse Mint - Adult	Tall Coreopsis - Adult
False Sunflower - Adult	Turtlehead - Larvae
Foxglove Beard-Tongue - Larvae	Western Sunflower - Larvae, Adult
Golden Alexanders - Larvae	Wild-Bergamot - Adult
Hairy Beard-Tongue - Larvae	Wild Blue Flag - Adult
Hoary Vervain - Adult	Wild Columbine - Larvae
Indian Grass - Larvae, Adult	Wild Lupine - Larvae
Joe-Pye-Weed - Adult	Woodland Sunflower - Larvae
Little Bluestem - Larvae	Yellow Coneflower - Adult
Meadowsweet - Adult	Zigzag Goldenrod - Adult

# 2025 Plant List

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	SUN	SOIL	BLOOM	COLOR	HEIGHT	ATTRACTS	SIZES
<b>Aster Family (Asteraceae)</b>								
Big-Leaved Aster	<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>	●	WM-D	Aug.-Oct.	White	1-3'		P Q
Black-Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	○●	WM-D	June-Sept.	Yellow	1-3'	W	P Q
Bluestem Goldenrod	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	○●●	M-D	Aug.-Oct.	Yellow	1-3'	W	
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	○	W-WM	July-Sept.	White	3-5'	W W	P Q
Dense Blazing Star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	○●	M-D	June-Aug.	Purple	2-5'	W W	Y P
Cup Plant*	<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	○	WM-DM	July-Sept.	Yellow	4-8'	W W	Y P Q
False Sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	○●	M-D	June-Aug.	Yellow	3-6'	W	P
Joe-Pye-Weed	<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i>	○●	W-WM	July-Sept.	Pink	4-6'	W	P
Missouri Ironweed*	<i>Vernonia missurica</i>	○●	WM-M	Aug.-Sept.	Purple	4-6'	W W	Q
New England Aster	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	○●	W-DM	Aug.-Oct.	Purple	3-5'	W W	Y P
Northern Blazing-Star	<i>Liatris scariosa</i>	○●	M-D	Aug.-Sept.	Purple	2-4'	W	Y Q
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea pupurea</i>	○●	M-D	July-Sept.	Purple	2-3'	W W	Y P
Riddell's Goldenrod*	<i>Solidago riddellii</i>	○	W-M	Aug.-Sept.	Yellow	2-4'	W W	P Q
Sand Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	○	DM-D	May-Aug.	Yellow	1-2'	W W	Y P
Showy Goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	○	M-D	July-Sept.	Yellow	2-3'	W W	P Q
Smooth Blue Aster	<i>Symphotrichum laevis</i>	○●	M-D	Aug.-Oct.	Blue	2-5'	W W	Y P Q
Tall Coreopsis*	<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	○●	WM-DM	July-Aug.	Yellow	4-7'	W	Y P Q
Western Sunflower	<i>Helianthus occidentalis</i>	○	M-D	Aug.-Sept.	Yellow	2-4'	W	Y P Q
Yellow Coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	○●	WM-D	July-Sept.	Yellow	3-6'	W W	Y P Q
<b>Bellflower Family (Campanulaceae)</b>								
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	○●	W-WM	July-Aug.	Red	2-5'	W	Y P
Great Blue Lobelia	<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>	○●●	W-M	July-Sept.	Blue	1-4'	W	Y P Q
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	○●●	M-DM	July-Sept.	Purple	6-8"	W	P
<b>Buttercup Family (Ranunculaceae)</b>								
Canada Anemone	<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	○●●	WM-M	May-Aug.	White	1-2'	W	Q
Wild Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	○●●	M-D	May-July	Red/Yellow	1-3'		Y P Q
<b>Carrot Family (Apiaceae)</b>								
Golden Alexanders	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	●	WM-DM	May-June	Yellow	2-3'	W	P Q
<b>Evening Primrose Family (Onagraceae)</b>								
Fireweed	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	○●	WM-DM	July-Sept.	Pink	2-6'		Y P Q
<b>Figwort Family (Scrophulariaceae)</b>								
Culver's-Root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	○●	WM-DM	July-Sept.	White	3-6'	W W	P Q
Hairy Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	○●●	DM-D	June-July	Pink-Purple	1-3'	W	Y P Q
Foxglove Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	○●	M-DM	June-July	White	3-5'	W	Y P Q
Monkey-Flower	<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	○●	W-WM	June-Sept.	Purple	1-3'		Y P
<b>Grass Family (Poaceae)</b>								
Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	○●	WM-D	July-Aug.	Green	5-8'		Y P Q
Canada Wild Rye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	○●	M-D	June-Aug.	Green	3-5'		Y P Q
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	○	M-D	August	Green	4-8'		Y P Q
Junegrass	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	○●	DM-D	May-June	Green	1-2'		P Q
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	○●	M-D	August	Green	2-4'	W	Y P
River Oats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	●●	W-M	July-Sept.	Green	2-5'	W W	Y P
Side-Oats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	○●	M-D	Aug.-Sept.	Purple	1-3'	W	Y P
Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	○●	WM-D	July-Aug.	Green	3-5'		Y P Q
<b>Iris Family (Iridaceae)</b>								
Wild Blue Flag	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	○●	W-M	May-Aug.	Blue	2-3'	W	Q
<b>Legume Family (Fabaceae)</b>								
Wild Lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	○●	DM-D	May-June	Purple	1-2'	W	Q
<b>Lily Family (Liliaceae)</b>								
Nodding Wild Onion	<i>Allium cernuum</i>	○●	WM-DM	July-Aug.	Purple	1-2'	W	P Q
<b>Milkweed Family (Asclepiadaceae)</b>								
Butterfly-Weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	○●	M-D	June-Aug.	Orange	1-3'	W	Y P
Common Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	○	DM-D	June-Aug.	Pink-Purple	2-4'	W W	P
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	○	W-M	July-Aug.	Pink	3-4'	W W	P
<b>Mint Family (Lamiaceae)</b>								
Dotted Mint/Horse Mint	<i>Monarda punctata</i>	○●	DM-D	July-Aug.	Purple	1-3'	W W	Y P Q
Obedient Plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	○	M-DM	June-Sept.	Pink-Purple	2-3'		Y P Q
Wild-Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	○●	WM-D	July-Aug.	Purple	2-4'	W	Y P Q
<b>Rose Family (Rosaceae)</b>								
Meadowsweet	<i>Spiraea alba</i>	○●●	W-M	June-Aug.	White	3-6'	W W	P Q
<b>Verbena Family (Verbenaceae)</b>								
Blue Vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	○●	W-M	July-Sept.	Purple	3-6'	W	P Q
Hoary Vervain	<i>Verbena stricta</i>	○●	DM-D	July-Sept.	Purple-Blue	2-4'		Y P Q

*Native to Southern Michigan	○ Full Sun	Soil: W = Wet - Soggy wet WM = Wet Mesic - Heavy with moisture for long periods, but can dry up in summer	M = Mesic - Medium moisture DM = Dry Mesic - Moisture drains readily D = Dry - Extremely dry	W = Pollinators and Beneficial Insects B = Butterflies (Adult and/or Larva) Y = Humming Birds S = Song Birds	SIZES Available: P = Plug Q = Quart
	● Partial Sun				
	● Shade				