

GO NATIVE

IN YOUR YARD TO SUPPORT WILDLIFE AND WATER



Native plants inhabited Ohio before Europeans arrived.

Their color, shape, and bloom time have provided feeding cues to local insects and birds for centuries. Native plants offer food to animals through nectar, pollen, leaves, fruit, and seeds.

Native plants are adapted to local climate and soils.

Native gardens require limited watering and fertilizer. Since native plants feed wildlife, avoid pesticide and herbicide use. Good news for you, pollinators, and Lake Erie!



For information about Friends of Euclid Creek or the garden, contact City of Euclid, Keep Euclid Beautiful, 216.289.2700.



Friends of Euclid Creek Native Plant Garden, Sims Park, Euclid, Ohio

The Friends of Euclid Creek Native Plant Garden was established in 2019 to demonstrate the beauty and importance of growing native plants. Many homeowners believe that native plants are “weedy” and hard to control. We teach that is not the case by showcasing our garden through public events and lectures.

We also host local native plant sales next to the garden. Our garden volunteers are right there to show the plants and discuss how to grow them.

Bring the kids! Children love our garden. They like our “bugs”!

Why Native Plants are So Important

- ❖ Pollinators are mostly dependent on native plants for survival.
- ❖ Established natives rarely need to be watered and require no fertilizers or amendments.
- ❖ Their deep roots hold soil and water helping to prevent erosion and flooding.
- ❖ Those deep roots filter and clean pollution and can sequester CO2.
- ❖ Their nectar and seeds feed bees, butterflies, and birds (baby birds need caterpillars to survive).
- ❖ Native plants and pollinators are critical links to support our food web. No bugs, no food, no us.

How to Get Started Planting Natives

- ❖ Know the growing conditions in your yard for the right plants. Sunny, part shade, shade? Wet/dry?
- ❖ Many natives can be grown in containers but will require additional watering.
- ❖ Plant a few or a variety of native plants common in our area and encourage your neighbors to do the same. (Bumble bees can only travel 1 mile for food. Smaller pollinators not even that far. If there is no food around uh-oh!)
- ❖ Make a commitment to not use fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides all of which can harm pollinators and other creatures (including you!) Many pollinators nest and pupate underground so lawn chemicals can really hurt. Use a certified organic lawn care service.
- ❖ Remove as many invasive plants as you can and replace with natives. (Keep your favorite non-native plants if they are not invasive.)

For more information on Friends of Euclid Creek and to see how we built our garden go to friendsofeuclidcreek.com. Sign up for our monthly newsletter. Contact us at friendsofeuclidcreek@gmail.com.



Getting Started with Native Plants in the Home Garden

Growing native plants is an easy and important way to support pollinators including bees and butterflies. Plant them in your existing garden and keep your favorite non-native plants (unless they are invasive).

Buying Native Plants

- ❖ When buying native plants make sure they are true natives. The tag should have the *common name* and the *genus/species name* such as Purple Cone Flower (common name), Echinacea Purpurea (genus/species name). Commercially named cultivars such as Purple Cone Flower “Pow-Wow Wild Berry” may no longer have the qualities needed by pollinators.
- ❖ Many “Big Box” stores sell plants from growers that use harmful insecticides such as neonicotinoids. When buying any kind of plant be it native or cultivar, ask about pesticides.
- ❖ Many native plants are “deer resistant” once they are established. Deer dislike plants that have a smell or a texture. However, if a deer is hungry, they will eat almost anything.
- ❖ Do some research to determine which plants are best for your yard.

Good Gardening Practices:

- ❖ Although natives are drought tolerant, they need to be watered until established.
- ❖ Soil does not usually need to be amended. You can find natives that will grow in clay soil.
- ❖ Avoid mulch as native bees often nest in the ground.
- ❖ Leave an overgrown spot in the yard to create insect habitat.
- ❖ Keep some leaves in the garden beds. They enrich the soil and provide habitat. Wait to clean up until Spring. Pollinators often pupate in stems and leaves until temperatures are in the 50’s. In the spring, cut stems back to about 6” only. Some bees lay their eggs inside stems all summer.

Ohio Native Plant Sales & Information

Many local organizations sell native plants. Contact Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland Natural History Museum, Holden Arboretum, Shaker Lakes Nature Center, and many others. The websites below provide a wealth of information on growing native plants. See also their facebook pages.

Meadow City Nursery, N. Collinwood, Cleveland
www.meadowcitynursery.com
216.282.6911

Plant it Native! Nursery Willoughby Outdoor
Market, Saturday a.m. only
www.plantitnativeohio.com
440.201.9204

Ohio Prairie Nursery (Seeds only)
www.opnseed.com
330.569.3380

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District
www.cuyahogawcd.org/
216.524.6580

For a list of other Ohio Native Plant growers
www.leapbio.org/resources/native-plants

Mail Order Plants & Seeds (sell plants native to our region but not grown locally)

Prairie Nursery (mail only)
www.prairienursery.com
800.476.9453

Prairie Moon Nursery (mail only)
www.Prairiemoon.com
866.417.8156

Friends of Euclid Creek is an all-volunteer organization working to secure the health of the Euclid Creek watershed through public education.

