What is the problem with Non-Native Plants?

Non-native plants are those species that do not naturally occur in our region and were introduced from other parts of the world. These species threaten the biodiversity, natural heritage, and environmental quality of the Ozarks because they have not evolved in the region over time, do not have natural controls, and can replace native plants by outcompeting them for sunlight, water, and nutrients.

How can you help?

Practice ecosystem gardening:

- ✓ Use native plants in your landscaping. Ask for Ozark native plants at your local nursery.
- ✓ Learn to identify and remove non-native, invasive plants.
- ✓ Diversify your landscaping by converting lawn space into native plant beds.
- ✓ Welcome wildlife into your landscaping by providing sources for food, water, shelter, and nesting sites. Go to **http://habitat.accessfayetteville.org** to learn more.

Together we can create attractive landscapes that provide for wildlife, protect our natural heritage, and create healthier neighborhoods.

Great places to increase wildscaping are:

- Place of Business
- Educational Institutions
- Park
- Golf Course
- Home
- Place of Worship

- ✓ 580 million gallons of gas are used in lawn mowers each year
- ✓ Nationwide, 1/3 of all residential water use is for landscape irrigation
- ✓ Potentially a lawn mower, in one hour, pollutes as much as driving a car 20 miles
- ✓ 80+ million pounds of pesticides are used on American manicured landscapes each year
- ✓ 97% of insects are beneficial and provide needed food for wildlife such as birds and fish

Beaver Water District

Beaver Watershed Alliance

CH2MHILL

Fayetteville natural heritage association

Illinois River Watershed Partnership

U of A Division of Agriculture Research & Extension, University of Arkansas System

Master Gardener, Washington County

Fayetteville in Bloom

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Wildscaping with Ozark Native Plants

protects wildlife habitat and preserves our unique natural heritage

What is wildscaping?

Wildscaping is a way of designing your home's landscape to attract and benefit wildlife, especially birds and butterflies, by providing the required food, water, and shelter. It is a way of managing your property not as an isolated patch of grass, but as part of a larger ecosystem.

What is Ozark Native?

Native plants and animals of the Ozarks are those that occur naturally in the region and its ecosystems. They have co-existed for thousands of years and are dependent on one another for successful reproduction.

When native plants start to disappear, the wildlife and environmental quality that depend on their presence also start to disappear.

Why are they important?

Native plants provide habitat for wildlife. Ozark native plants and trees provide the sources of food, shelter and nesting sites that our regional wildlife depend upon.

Native plants protect water quality. Native plants are suited to our climate and geology and therefore do not require fertilizer or pesticides, and require less water during times of drought. Their intricate root systems stabilize stream-banks and hillsides from the erosive effects of wind and water.

Native plants are part of our natural heritage. Native plants represent our history and heritage, giving us a picture of our past. They are the foundation of our Ozark ecosystems.

NATIVE WILDFLOWERS AND GRASSES

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	IMPORTANCE IN ECO-SYSTEM	GROWING CONDITIONS
Perennials			
Milkweed	Asclepias tuberosa & other cultivars	Only host plant for Monarchs, nectar source	Full sun, tuberosa dry, others prefer moist like incarnata
Purple Coneflower	Echinacea purpurea	Nectar, Pollen, seeds for birds and small mammals	Sun/beware of new cultivars the seeds can be sterile
Goldenrod	Solidago–many varieties	Nectar, Pollen, seeds for birds and small mammals	Full sun, 36", new cultivars are smaller
Black eyed Susan	Rubeckia	Nectar, Pollen, seeds for birds and small mammals	Full sun, can spread
Bee Balm	Monarda–several varieties	Great nectar for hummingbirds, bees other insects	Full sun, will spread
Blazing Star	Liatris–several species/cultivars	Great nectar for hummingbirds, bees other insects	Full sun, 30–48"
Turtlehead	Chelone obliqua/Chelone glabra	Late season nectar/Host Baltimore Checkerspot	Sun to part shade, will reproduce but not invasive
Sedum (numerous varieties)	Stonecrop–also groundcovers	Late season nectar, pollen	Full sun, most 12"–24", some shorter
Arkansas Blue Star	Amsonia hubrichtii	Nectar, Pollen, seeds for birds and small mammals, larval food	Full sun, 24"–36"
Wild Blue Indigo	Baptisa australis–other new cultivars	Nectar, Pollen, seeds for birds and small mammals, larval food	Full sun, 24"–36"+
Grasses			
Little Bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium	Cover for wildlife, seeds for wildlife	Full Sun/can be used as groundcover
Big Bluestem	Andropogon geradii	Cover for wildlife, seeds for wildlife, butterfly/moth host	Dry or moist soil, 48"+
Prairie dropseed	Sporobolus heterolepis	Seeds for birds and small mammals, cover for wildlife	Sun, dry, 12"–24"
Sea Oats	Chasmanthium latifolium	Seeds for birds and small mammals	Sun to shade, dry to moist, will reseed but not invasive
Indian Grass	Sorgastrum nutans	Seeds for birds and small mammals	Dry, tolerates clay soil, 48"+
Herbs			
Parsley	Petroselinum crispum	Host for Black Swallowtail Caterpillar	Annual, 12", plant extra for caterpillars
Bronze Fennel	Foeniculum vulgare	Host for Black Swallowtail Caterpillar	Perennial, 4 feet, will reseed, full sun
Groundcovers			
Winterberry	Gaultheria procumbens	Nectar and small fruit for wildlife	Part shade, low growing
Bugleweed	Ajuga–many varities	Bees and hummingbirds love the nectar	Light to moderate shade, moist to well drained soil
Vines			
Dutchman's Pipevine	Aristolochia tomentosa	Host for Pipevine Swallowtail	
Trumpet Vine	Lonicera sempervirens	Great for hummingbirds	Can grow quite large, buy only native, full sun
Passionvine	Passiflora species	Larval host for	Can grow quite large, buy only native, full sun
Annual Flowers			
Common Sunflowers	Helianthus annuus	Nectar, Pollen, seeds for birds and small mammals	