



Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants

EASY WAYS TO INCREASE NATURAL BIODIVERSITY

- Reduce lawn area by increasing low maintenance native plantings.
- To encourage butterflies and moths you must have nectar and favorite caterpillar food. Butterflies lay their eggs on the caterpillar’s preferred food. No eggs, no butterflies or moths.
- Add plants that host insects and their larva to provide food for birds, spiders and other insects.
- Allow leaf litter to remain in your garden beds to provide insect habitat and return nutrients to the soil. It’s free mulch!

BENEFITS OF NATIVE PLANTS FOR BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

NATIVE PLANT	SPECIES IT HOSTS
Oaks-Quercus (esp. white oak)	534 butterflies and moths, including Luna moth
Willow-Salix	456 butterflies and moths, including Tiger Swallowtail
Cherry-Prunus	456 butterflies and moths, including Cecropia moth
Milkweeds, butterfly weeds-Asclepias	Monarch butterflies
Alternate leaf dogwood-cornus alternifolia	Kingbird-mature birds love the berries
Violets-Viola	Great spangled fritillary butterfly

From *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy

Think of your yard as a Jenga block construction.

The individual species in our ecosystem all play a role in supporting the whole. Removing blocks—or reducing biodiversity—eliminates food for vital species and causes the ecosystem to wobble. As David Tallamy writes in *Bringing Nature Home*, “Each block supports the tower in some way. How vital that support is depends on which other blocks are present in the tower at any given time. Every time a block is removed, the relative importance of the remaining blocks changes.” At any given time almost any species can play a keystone role. Just as with an arch, remove the keystone, the arch collapses.

Undisturbed habitat is a requirement for survival of our native plants, mammals, reptiles, birds and invertebrates. Scientists estimate that only 3-5% of our lower 48 states’ land remains undisturbed. Species extinction adjusts to that available land area we will have lost 95-97% of the species here when the pilgrims arrived. All our native species evolved together creating efficient, biodiverse ecosystems. Energy passes up the food chain from sun to plant to insect/herbivore to carnivore/omnivore.



Native Plants to Replace Invasive Plants

When you have a choice, go Native!

NATIVE PLANTS (LATIN NAME)	INVASIVE PLANTS (LATIN NAME)
Red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)	Norway maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>), Sycamore-leaved maple (<i>Acer pseudoplatanoides</i>)
Yellowwood (<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>)	Tree of heaven (<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>)
Northern catalpa (<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>)	Princess tree (<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>)
Kentucky coffee tree (<i>Gymnocladis dioica</i>)	Black locust (<i>Robinia pseudo acacia</i>)
Allegheny serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>)	Callery pear (<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>)
Witchalder (<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>) NJ tea (<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>)	Japanese barberry (<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>)
Highbush blueberry (<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>)	Burning bush (<i>Euonymous alata</i>)
Blackhaw (<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>)	Privet (<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>)
Winterberry (<i>Ilex verticillata</i>) Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>) Red osier dogwood (<i>Cornus sericea</i>)	Honeysuckle shrubs (<i>Lonicera</i> ***)
Scarlet honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>)	Japanese honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera japonica</i>)
American bittersweet (<i>Celastrus scandens</i>)	Oriental bittersweet (<i>Celatrus orbiculatus</i>)
	Wineberry (<i>Rubus phoenicalasius</i>)
American wisteria (<i>Wisteria frutescens-macrostachya</i>)	Wisteria, Japanese and Chinese (<i>Wisteria sinensis</i> , <i>Wisteria floribunda</i>)
Climbing prairie rose (<i>Rosa setigera</i>)	Multiflora rose (<i>Rosa multiflora</i>)
Fireweed (<i>Chamerion/Epilobium angustifolium</i>) Prairie blazing star (<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>) Queen of the prairie (<i>Filipendula rubra</i>) Swamp milkweed (<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>) Blue vervain (<i>Verbena hastata</i>)	Purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)
Green-and-gold (<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>)	Lesser celandine (<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>)
	Garlic mustard (<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>) Mugwort (<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>)
Goatsbeard (<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>) Ocean spray (<i>Holodiscus discolor</i>)	Japanese knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>)
	Japanese stilt grass/Nepalese brown top (<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>)
	Mugwort (<i>Artemesia vulgaris</i>)