



Why Native Plants?

By encouraging native plants or creating a native plant garden, each patch of habitat becomes part of a collective effort to nurture and sustain the living landscape for birds, insects and other animals.

Native plants provide shelter and food for wildlife and support pollinators




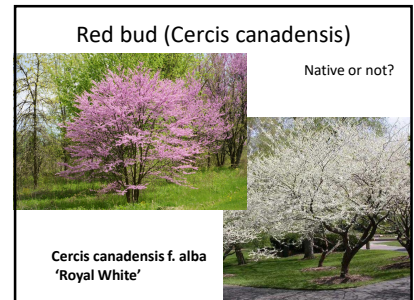
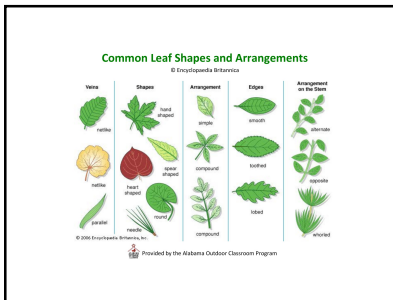
Some definitions

native vs. non native vs. naturalized vs. invasive

Native: a native species is indigenous to a given region or ecosystem if its presence in that region is the result of only natural processes, with no human intervention
 Ex. Sugar Maple


Naturalized: plants that spread into the non-native environments and are able to reproduce in their new home, and eventually establish a new population there.
 Ex. Daffodils

Invasive: A plant that is both non-native and able to establish on many sites, grow quickly, and spread to the point of disrupting plant communities or ecosystems
 Ex. Honeysuckle


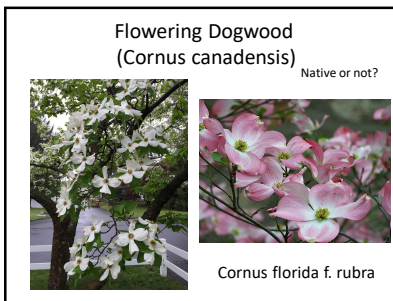



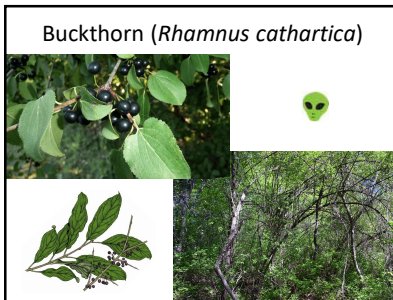
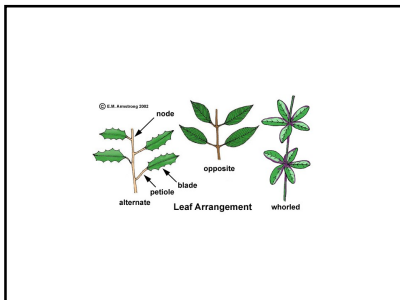
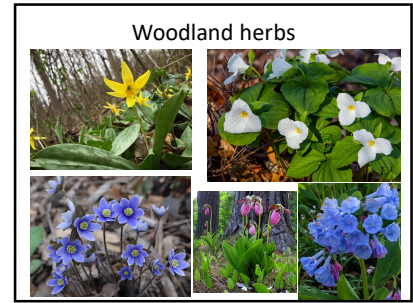
Horticultural Plants are typically one of the following:

- exotic (not native to the continent or region on which it is now found)
- hybrids
- cultivars, varieties or selections.
- They may or may not be invasive.





A **weed** is merely a **plant** growing where it is not wanted, or one that interferes with a landowner's management objective. ... A **plant species** is considered **invasive** if it is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health.

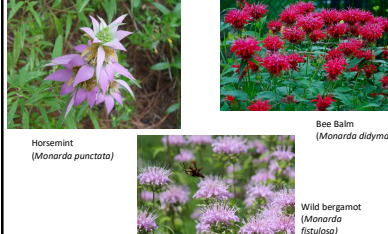





Vinca (or Myrtle)- Extremely Invasive

Native Plants for your borders




Horsemint
(*Monarda punctata*)

Bee Balm
(*Monarda didyma*)

Wild bergamot
(*Monarda fistulosa*)

Native Shrubs for your borders




Fothergilla

Ilex verticillata
(winterberry)

Cephalanthus occidentalis
(Button bush)


Vaccinium angustifolium
(Low bush blueberry)

Intersperse natives and keep invasives out of your perennial garden



Joe Pye-weed
(*Eupatorium maculatum*)... a native

Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)





Native Plants for your borders



Virginia bluebells
(*Mertensia virginiana*)

Buddlea (butterfly weed)

Native Plants for your borders




Native? Naturalized? Invasive?




Daylilies & Milkweed

Plants that provide nesting sites for Bees



plants with pithy or hollow stems

Plants with hollow stems you shouldn't encourage (but bundles of stems from these plants can serve as valuable nesting material)

Japanese Knotweed

Teasel

Purple Loose strife



Some native grasses that provide nesting sites and protection for bumble bee queens to overwinter.

Switchgrass (*Panicum* spp.)

Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)

Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Resources

Krisoy Boys
Natural Areas Horticulturist
kbf3@cornell.edu

Fingerlakes Native Plant Society
<https://fnps.org/>

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
<https://www.xerces.org/>
<https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/pollinator-friendly-plant-lists>
For more plant suggestions, see all [Plant Lists](#) in our [Publications Library](#), or check out our books [100 Plants to Feed the Bees](#) and [Gardening for Butterflies](#). Use our [Pollinator Conservation Resource Center](#) for everything from plant lists to habitat establishment guides.

The Plantsmen Nursery (big selection of Native Plants)
Groton, NY
607.533.7193 ; info@plantsmen.com



Ponds

Iris versicolor (blue flag)

Iris pseudacorus (yellow flag)

Butomus umbellatus (Flowering Rush)

