

Planting Native Plants bring in Wildlife and Pollinators

Do you enjoy the sight of a turtle, or birds feeding their nestlings, or butterflies and fireflies in your yard? You are more likely to see nature when you plant more native plants, trees, and shrubs in your garden.

Our songbirds feed their nestlings exclusively on soft insects (caterpillars, spiders, etc.) and those insects feed on native plants, especially Keystone plants. A Keystone plant is one that hosts many insects.

Homegrown National Park now has listings of examples of Keystone trees, shrubs, and perennials for Michigan's three Level II ecoregions. These are great plants to try out in your garden.

How do I Find More Native Plants to Add to my Garden?

Understand your Ecoregion

Michigan has 3 Level I/II Ecoregions that are based on our geology, climate and soil that result in communities of plants.

The *BPlant* website lets you click on Michigan and drill down from Level I ecoregion to levels III / IV for more detail. It also gives you a list of native plants endemic to your ecoregion.

BPlant.org www.bplant.org (click on 'Regions' at top of page and then continue to click on your ecoregion to drill down to more detail.)

More Organizations with Native Plant Information

National Wildlife Federation and Wild Ones (which has chapters across Michigan) both have great information on natives. *Prairie Moon*, a mail order native plant nursery, has a range map for native plants and seed germination instructions (plus they sell native seeds and plants). Here are websites to check out:

Wild Ones www.wildones.org

National Wildlife Federation www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder
Native plants by Zip Code

Prairie Moon Nurserywww.prairiemoon.com

Wildflower Association of Michiganwww.wildflowersmich.org

Michigan State Universitywww.canr.msu.edu/nativeplants/

Remember to add your garden to Homegrown National Park!

Adding your native plantings to Homegrown National Park's "Get on the Map" is important to track our ecosystem health. Remember to click on the big "?" for a video on how to add your plantings to the HNP Map!

Current Homegrown National Park "Get on the Map"

Michigan Statistics (as of 4/23/24)

1,655 users (almost twice as many as 10/23)

2,750 acres planted

15th place ranking by state

Contact Sue for information, help, ZOOM talks, PowerPoint presentation.

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