

Nature Newsflash – August 3, 2023

Native Plants

Native plants add beauty, help pollinators and improve soils

Question: How can you add beauty to your outdoor space - with bright flowers, intriguing plant textures and busy, colorful pollinators - while also doing less work than you do for your lawn and helping out our local ecosystem?

Answer: Plant native plants! Once your plants get established, they will not need much watering, mulching or mowing, and will provide nectar for pollinators, habitat for other wildlife and deep roots that hold the soil, help control stormwater runoff, prevent erosion and provide habitat for wildlife.

There are easy ways to get started with native plants, or learn how to do a better job of nurturing the native plants you planted or just found in your yard. Check out:

- [University of Minnesota Extension's Native Plants](#) or [Creating a butterfly garden](#)
- [Minnesota State Horticulture Society](#), especially:
 - [Building a Pollinator Garden - Minnesota State Horticultural Society](#)
 - [How to be a Backyard Hero](#)(Learn how to be a pollinators champion)
- [Landscaping with native plants | Minnesota DNR](#)
- [Minnesota Wildflowers](#) (great picture-based guide to native and non-native plants)
- [Pollinator Conservation Resources: Great Lakes Region | Xerces Society](#)

If you need financial or technical assistance for your native planting project, consider grants:

- [Apply for Lawns to Legumes Assistance - Blue Thumb](#) or
- [Clean Water Project Grants - CRWD](#)

Need inspiration? Head to Minneapolis Wirth Park, to the [Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary](#), where you can have volunteers answer your questions about the abundant native plants and pollinators you will see there.

Want to learn by volunteering with native planting and non-native plant eradication? Help the City of Roseville transform its parks at [Natural Resources Management - Eco Restoration](#)

I got interested in native plants by watching what grew in my heavily wooded, shady yard. I remember my delight at finding foot-tall [Arisaema triphyllum \(Jack-in-the-Pulpit\)](#).

Let the Environment Commission know what else you'd like to know about in our new column.

Submitted by Beth Mercer-Taylor, resident of Falcon Heights and chair of the Environment Commission

Is there something you want to see in the Nature Newsflash, or are you an expert and want to be included in future articles? Send your ideas over to Hannah Lynch, Community Development Coordinator, at hannah.b.lynch@falconheights.org.