

# Native Plants

## What are Native Plants?

- trees
- grasses
- ferns
- mosses
- flowering plants

that were here before European settlement.

## Not all wildflowers are native.

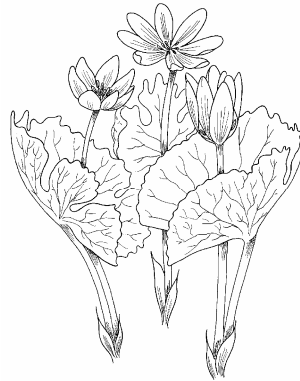
- purple coneflower-native
- Queen Anne's lace-not native

Nurseries sometimes select and propagate individual plants of a species because of their color or shape. These cultivar descendants are still native—even though they may not look like their wild grandparents.



## Where can I get Native Plants?

For native plant suppliers check the  
**Grow Native!** website at:  
<http://www.grownative.org>

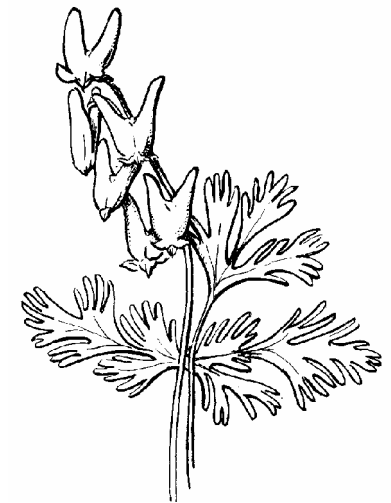


## How do Native Plants compare?

- may be better adapted to climate and soil conditions
- may require less care than non-natives
- most prairie & roadside species have deep roots and can withstand droughts, harsh winters, high winds, grazing and fire better than non-natives
- may have a higher resistance to insects, diseases & sun scorch
- may attract a wider variety of wildlife, including butterflies and other insects, hummingbirds, and seed eating birds

## What can I expect from Native Plants in my garden?

- may require less care than non-natives
- wide variety that can provide flowers from spring through fall
- may take 2 to 3 years to flower
- individual species may flower only a few weeks a year
- selected cultivars may be more suitable for small or formal gardens
- mix with non-natives to get the best of both worlds
- natives may be aggressive and out-compete non-natives
- some have long stems and may not fit in a small garden.



## To Read More About Native Plants

*The Bird Garden*, Stephen W. Kress, Dorling  
Kindersley, 1996.

*Landscaping with Wildflowers: An Environmental  
Approach to Gardening*, Jim Wilson,  
Houghton Mifflin Company, 1992.

*Missouri Wildflowers*, Edgar Denison, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.,  
Missouri Department of Conservation, 1998.

*The National Wildlife Federation's Guide to  
Gardening for Wildlife*, Craig Tufts and Peter  
Laewer, Rodale Press, 1996.

*The Native Plant Primer: Trees, Shrubs, and  
Wildflowers for Natural Gardens*, Carole  
Ottesen, Harmony Books, 1996.

*The Natural Garden*, Ken Druse, Potter, 1989.

*Planting Noah's Garden*, Sara Stein, Houghton  
Mifflin, 1997.

*Wildflowers Handbook*, National Wildlife  
Research Center, Voyager Press, 1992.

*The Wild Lawn Handbook: Alternatives to the  
Traditional Front Lawn*, Stevie Daniels,  
MacMillan, 1996.

*Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People*,  
Dave Tylka, Missouri Department of  
Conservation, 2002

## About the Missouri Native Plant Society

MoNPS is devoted to the conservation  
and study of plants growing wild in  
Missouri, to the education of the public  
about the significance of the native flora  
and its habitat, and to the publication of  
related information. MoNPS was  
founded in 1979.

Our chapters are:

Hawthorn (Columbia)  
Kansas City  
Osage Plains (Clinton)  
Ozark (West Plains)  
St. Louis

For more information on MoNPS, becoming a  
member, and a chapter in your area, write to:

**Missouri Native Plant Society**  
**PO Box 20073**  
**St. Louis, MO 63144-0073**

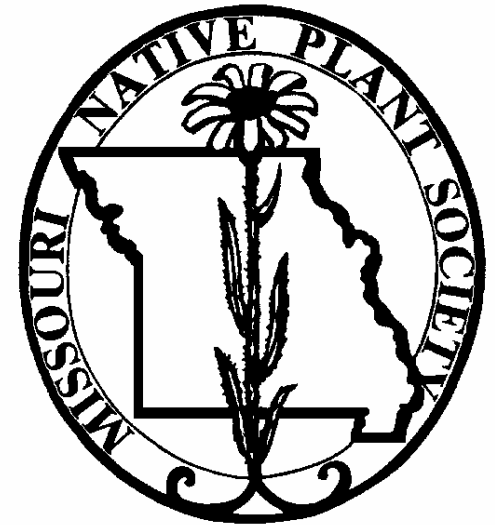
or check our website at:  
[http://www.missouri.edu/~umo\\_herb/monps](http://www.missouri.edu/~umo_herb/monps)

This is one in a series of information  
brochures on native plants in Missouri.  
Check our website for new brochures  
as they become available.

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## Fact Sheet

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**Missouri Native Plant Society**