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

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.

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
To Read More About Native Plants

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


The Natural Garden, Ken Druse, Potter, 1989.


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

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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