

Delaware Nature Society

ABBOTT'S MILL NATURE CENTER | ASHLAND NATURE CENTER | BUENA VISTA | COOCH-DAYETT MILLS | COVERDALE FARM PRESERVE | DUPONT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER



Native plants

What are native plants?

Native plants are plants that grow in the area or region where they evolved. These plants are specially adapted to the local climate, soil type, and wildlife. This means that they are more resistant to threats like pests, drought, frost, and disease than exotic (or non-native) plants.



Monarch on Butterfly Weed



Brandywine Possumhaw



Fringe Tree

Why are native plants important?

Native plants help maintain a healthy and well-balanced environment right in your backyard. Many species of local wildlife use native plants as food and shelter, and some may be completely dependent on them for survival.

Carefully chosen and located, native plants need less fertilizer and water than non-native species. This makes them less expensive to grow and easier to maintain while conserving water and using less chemicals.

How can I add native plants to my backyard?

Many of our native plants have been removed to make way for lawns, parking lots, and buildings. But by planting them in your garden, you can help preserve local biodiversity and protect the ecosystem around your home. For links on gardening with native plants and other resources, click [here](#). Learn more about the Delaware Nature Society's annual [Native Plant Sale](#).



Eastern Red Cedar



Fothergilla



Tiger Swallowtail on Great Blue Lobelia