

What is a Native Plant?

Information from O.S.U Extension, Bulletin # 865

All native plants once grew in the wild, but many plants currently found in the wild may not be native. The following general definitions might help clarify the difference between native plants & others.

NATIVE: a plant that grows in the wild without human intervention.

EXOTIC: a plant that was introduced by human intervention from another area or country (accidentally or purposefully)

NATURALIZED: an exotic plant that has escaped from cultivation and now grows in the wild.

INVASIVE: a plant that competes vigorously and takes over habitat.

NOXIOUS: a plant that is so invasive it is regulated by state or federal laws.

Benefits of native plants used correctly are:

- They require less maintenance.
- They increase value to wildlife

provide four seasons of interest.

- They have better adapted to local environmental conditions.
- They preserve native species and biodiversity.
- They are a good choice for an informal landscape.

NOTE: Plants may be listed by being native to North America, specific region or state.

Ohio native herbaceous plants available at Knollwood Garden Center are:

- Aruncus dioicus (Goatsbeard)
- Asarum canadense (Wild Ginger)
- Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed)
- Asclepias incarnate (Butterfly Weed)
- Aster novae-angliae (Aster)
- Aquilegia canadensis (Columbine)
- Baptisia australis (False Blue Indigo)
- Carex muskingumensis (Sedge Palm)
- Carex plantaginea (Wide Leaf Sedge)
- Delphinium exaltatum (Larkspur)
- Echinacea purpurea (Coneflower)
- Eupatorium purpureum (Joe-Pye-Weed)
- Iris cristata (Dwarf Crested Iris)
- Lobelia cardinalis (Cardinal Flower)
- Mertensia virginica (Virginia Bluebells)
- Penstemon digitalis (Beard Tongue)
- Phlox subulata (Creeping Phlox)
- Physostegia virginiana (Obedient Plant)
- Podophyllum peltatum (Mayapple)
- Rudbeckia hirta (Black-eyed Susan)
- Tiarella cordifolia (Foam Flower)
- Tradescantia (Spiderwort)
- Trillium grandiflorum (White Trillium)
- Viola (Violet)
- Adiantum pedatum (Maidenhair)
- Athyrium filix-femina (Lady Fern)
- Dryopteris marginalis (Leatherwood)
- Matteuccia pensylvanica (Ostrich Fern)
- Onoclea sensibilis (Sensitive Fern)
- Osmunda regalis (Royal Fern)
- Osmunda cinnamomea (Cinnamon Fern)



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Defining Native Plants



Mertensia virginica (Virginia Bluebells)

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