

# Guide to Native Planting



Native plants are an excellent choice for your garden. Their drought tolerance makes them easy to maintain, and they provide habitat for pollinators like butterflies and bees. Their long roots allow water to soak into the ground instead of flowing to the storm sewer, helping protect our water resources and reduce flooding.

Use this guide to learn more about native plant selection and care, growing conditions and site preparation.



Scan for more information  
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# Gardening tips

## Understanding Growing Conditions

- **Evaluate how many hours of sunlight the area receives.** Use the Full Sun to Shade graphic on next page for reference.
- **Determine the soil type, moisture, and drainage conditions.**  
Sandy soils drain quickly, while clay soils hold water longer. Mesic soils drain well and can hold moisture. Select plants for your soil type.

## Planting

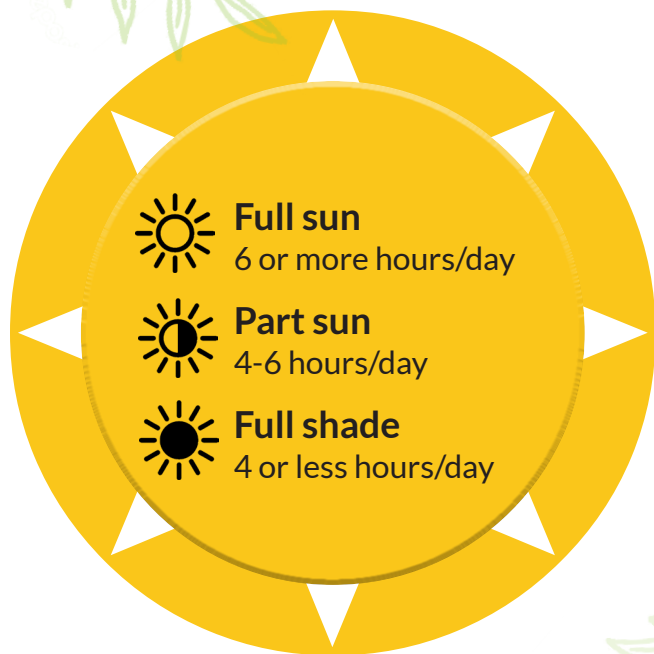
- **Plant a mix** of grasses, shrubs, and flowers with a variety of bloom times. We recommend using 5 different plants in your garden. For lower maintenance gardens, focus on grasses and shrubs.
- **Spring and fall are the best times to plant** with cooler temperatures, making sure to avoid the frost. Summer plantings will require more watering for plants to thrive.
- **Group similar plants together** for easier maintenance and weed identification.
- **Leave 6-18 inches of space in between plants**, depending upon species, to reduce weeds.
- **Add mulch in between plants** to reduce weeds, prevent erosion, and retain soil moisture.

## Watering

- **After planting, water every day for one week** unless it rains that day. During the first growing season, water weekly with 1 inch of water.



# Recommended native plants



## Maintenance

Please refer to the Maintenance Plan attached to your project's grant agreement.

## Resources

For native plant nurseries and other resources to help with your native planting project, visit [capitolregionwd.org/project-maintenance](http://capitolregionwd.org/project-maintenance)

Native Species	Light Exposure	Height	Bloom Months
Alumroot	☀ ☀ ☀	6 inches	May – June
Black-Eyed Susan	☀	1-2 feet	June – September
Blue Flag Iris	☀ ☀	3 feet	June – July
Blue Vervain	☀ ☀	3-4 feet	July – September
Butterfly Weed	☀ ☀	2 feet	June – August
Cardinal Flower	☀ ☀	3 feet	May – September
Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle	☀ ☀ ☀	4 feet	June – August
Fox Sedge	☀ ☀	2 feet	May – June
Golden Alexander	☀ ☀	3 feet	May – July
Jacob's Ladder	☀ ☀	1-2 feet	May – June
Joe-Pye Weed	☀ ☀	5-6 feet	August – September
Little Bluestem	☀ ☀	3 feet	July – September
New England Aster	☀ ☀	3-6 feet	August – October
Pennsylvania Sedge	☀ ☀ ☀	9 inches	April – June
Pink Turtlehead	☀ ☀	3 feet	July – September
Prairie Blazing Star	☀	4-5 feet	July – August
Prairie Dropseed	☀ ☀	1-2 feet	August – October
Sensitive Fern	☀ ☀	2-4 feet	May – October
Swamp Milkweed	☀ ☀	3-4 feet	June – August
Wild Columbine	☀ ☀ ☀	3 feet	May – July
Wild Geranium	☀ ☀	1-2 feet	May – June



# Installing your garden

1

Contact Gopher State One Call to have utility locations marked prior to any digging. Avoid planting in those areas to reduce future soil compaction and damage to plants.

2

Remove weeds without using an herbicide to clear the area.

- Hand pull or dig out the weeds and remove as much of the root system as you can.
- Then cover your site with a clear plastic tarp, cardboard, newspaper, or mulch for 2 to 3 weeks during hot summer months to kill unwanted plants.

3

If needed, add compost or garden soil to improve drainage and add nutrients to the existing soil.

4

Install your new native plant garden. Add mulch in between plants and water every day for the first week.

Tools can be rented from the MN Tool Library and many home improvement stores.

## Note:

You are responsible to review local ordinances and obtain required permits, if applicable.

## Common Garden Weeds

Remove weeds when young and small, especially tree seedlings before the root systems become established.



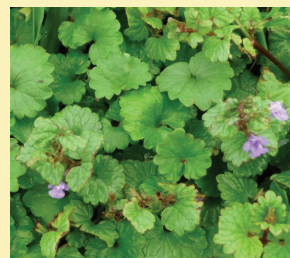
Dandelion



Crabgrass



Plantain



Creeping Charlie



Reed Canary Grass



Clover



Thistle



Prickly Lettuce



Creeping Bellflower