

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH FACT SHEET

BENEFITS OF NATIVE PLANTS

Rouge River Series



Black Eyed Susan *Ann Arbor Road Corridor 2007*
Rudbeckia fulgida *Downtown Development Authority*

What are Native Plants?

The most basic and simple definition of a native plant is:

Any plant which is a member of a species which was present at a given site prior to European contact (California Native Plant Society).

These are plants that have adapted to survive and thrive in the natural climate of an area. Native plants do not require as much water or fertilizer as non-native varieties. This means they not only reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides, they reduce the use of non-renewable resources which, in turn, improves water and air quality.

Key Benefits of Utilizing Native Plants in your Landscape

Attract Wildlife

Native plants grew up with their counterparts: birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife. Which means natives are inherently attractive to native wildlife. When you plant with natives you can expect to see more of the colorful native wildlife of the southeastern Michigan area visit your yard.



Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly on
Purple Coneflower

Saves Time & Saves Money

Planting a native garden area in place of a lawn area means you will spend less time mowing and using native trees, shrubs and flowers will mean you spend less time and money watering, fertilizing and fighting pests.



Native Plant Resources

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Information regarding Michigan Native Plants and Invasive Species to avoid can be viewed at www.michigan.gov/dnr

Michigan Native Plant Producers Association

Lists nurseries that grow and sell Michigan native plants including trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses and ferns: <http://www.mnppa.org/>

Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center

Not sure what to plant where? Need a spring flowering red flower for a wet area? The Ladybird Johnson Native Plant Database is a great tool for searching native plants by bloom time, color and condition: <http://www.wildflower.org>



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Native Plants Common in Southeast Michigan

There are hundreds of native plants that can be used in your landscaping and many are now easy to find at your favorite nursery or other retail location. A few of the ones planted by Plymouth Township are pictured below:



Black-Eyed Susans
Township Park - RPO Grant 1998
Staff Photo 8/22/01



Red Twig Dogwood Shrubs
Township Park - Rouge Rescue 2004
Staff Photo 7/15/04



Highbush Cranberry
Ann Arbor Road Corridor - DDA 2004
Staff Photo 9/04/07



Purple Coneflower
Ann Arbor Road Corridor - DDA 2004
Staff Photo 7/30/07



Swamp White Oaks, Sugar Maples
Waiting to be planted at various locations - ARC Grant
Staff Photo 10/24/12



Joe Pye Weed
Wilcox Lake - Rouge Rescue 2012
Staff Photo 7/2/13

RPO - Rouge Program Office

DDA - Downtown Development Authority

ARC - Alliance of Rouge Communities

Avoid Invasive Plants

Invasive plants are any species that can cause harm to an ecosystem. They are plants that are not native to that ecosystem, or in other words, invasive plants are plants that have been introduced to an area either intentionally or by accident. They become invasive when they have no natural enemies or climate restrictions allowing them to spread so quickly and effectively they cause a decline in the native plant life. This, in turn, can cause a loss in diversity of not only plants, but the wildlife that lives and feeds in the area.

Invasive plants that you may have growing in your yard include:



St. John's Wort
Introduced in 1700's



Purple Loosestrife
Introduced in 1800's

