

## Landscaping With Native Plants - A Wise Choice!

When selecting plants for your yard, consider natives first! What better way to create beauty and wildlife habitat, along with contributing to Michigan's natural heritage, than by planting native wildflowers on your property.

Whether you are planting a small area in your yard or landscaping a workplace, Michigan native plant species are a wise choice. Native species not only are adapted to Michigan's soils and climate, they are more easily maintained and more cost effective than traditional landscapes. Once established, native species require little to no maintenance such as irrigation or fertilization and in the case of a prairie, no weekly mowing! Native plants can enhance the attractiveness of your landscape, help control erosion and furnish food and cover for wildlife.

Michigan has a wide variety of native wildflowers that offer spectacular color and are well suited to a number of locations. Where you decide to plant your wildflowers will determine which species to plant. If your soil is wet you may consider the cardinal flower, wild iris or boneset; if your soil is dry or moderate the black-eyed susan, butterfly weed or purple coneflower

may be a better option. If you are planting in a woodland or shaded site you could consider the jack-in-the-pulpit, violet or wild columbine.

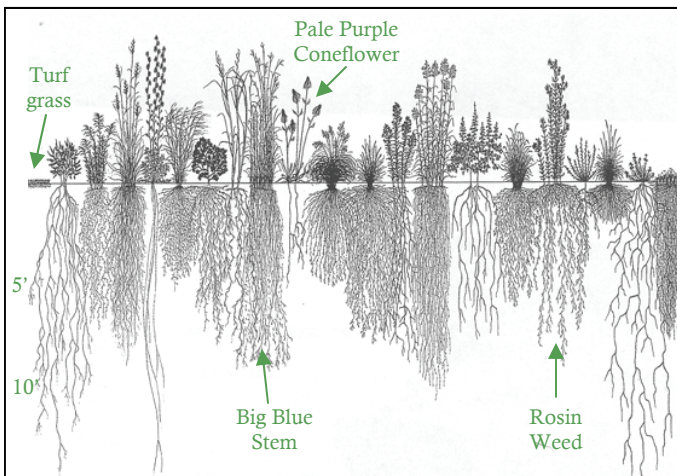
Color, height and blooming time are also important to take into consideration. Spread your blooming season throughout the spring, summer, and fall for the butterflies, moths, bees and hummingbirds that will feed on the pollen and nectar, the birds that will eat the seeds after bloom and your personal viewing pleasure.



In combination with native wildflowers you may wish to plant native grasses. Common types include big bluestem, little bluestem, indiagrass and switchgrass. These are examples of clump grasses that provide

open spaces for wildflowers to grow as well as good nesting, rearing and winter cover for wildlife.

When you plant native wildflowers you should expect to see lots butterflies, moths, bees and hummingbirds in the summer and many songbirds in the fall, while enjoying the panorama of color throughout the year. For more information on native wildflowers and grasses, please contact the Shiawassee Conservation District .



### ***Erosion Control***

*Many native species are wonderfully adapted to control soil erosion. These species possess root systems which extend up to 15 foot or more under ground. This characteristic not only allows the plants to be more successful at searching out water, but also allows them to hold soil particles in place, preventing erosion.*



1900 S Morrice Road  
Owosso MI 48867  
989-723-8263 x3  
[www.shiawasseeccd.org](http://www.shiawasseeccd.org)

**Your Land, Your Water, YOUR MICHIGAN**