

WHERE TO FIND NATIVE PLANTS

What Are Michigan Native Plants?

Native plants are wildflowers, trees, shrubs, groundcovers, vines, etc. that were here before Europeans settled in Michigan in the 1700s. Native plants are adapted to local conditions – and have weathered many winters and have survived drought and heat.

Lists of plants native to Michigan have been prepared by several organizations. A very useful set of brochures (Native Wildflowers; Native Trees; Native Shrubs; and Native Vines, Grasses, Sedges, and Ferns) has been prepared for each region of Michigan, including Southeastern Michigan. *These brochures are published by the Natural Area Preservation office, Ann Arbor Department of Parks and Recreation and can be purchased for a reasonable fee (telephone 734-996-3266).*

Making Decisions About Native Plants

Many plant species that are native in Michigan have wide geographic ranges – sometimes extending throughout the Northeast, Midwest, and/or Canada. Although the species name (common name and botanical name) may be the same, the genetic makeup may differ from region-to-region.

Provenance means that the seeds originated in a particular locality. For Michigan residents, a plant that originated from seed collected locally will be more likely to survive than one originating from seed collected in the Southeast. Whether this is important to you is your own decision. To obtain native plants from Michigan, the most direct method is to purchase them from a member of the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association.

Gardeners are encouraged to consider choices for native plant purchases. Local garden centers and nurseries may have plants that meet the needs of local customers.

If grown or mature plants are needed for horticulture purposes, contacts with nurseries and garden centers will be the logical choice. Before you contact the nursery, know what you are looking for. If the nursery does not have it in stock, they may be able to order it for you.

Planting and Maintaining Native Plants

Native plants are RARELY maintenance-free. Like all plants, they require care and maintenance from the owner. It is essential that they be planted in suitable sites with consideration of sun/shade; drainage; and other site conditions. Planting in compost-enriched soil helps establish trees, shrubs and wildflowers – especially woodland and wetland species. Watering is often essential during the first season – and perhaps afterwards. Pruning and trimming are also useful for home settings.

About Michigan Genotype Native Plants

Michigan genotype native plants are genetically adapted to the particular climate and soils in which they have evolved. These plants survive well when planted in appropriate habitats.

Members of the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association provide nursery-grown native plants and seed from Michigan genotypes. As an association, they assure customers that all plants and seeds were originated from stock collected with appropriate permission and permits.

The 2003 list of members is as follows:

Michigan Wildflower Farm

Esther & Bill Durnwald

11770 Cutler Rd.

Portland, MI 48875-9452

Ph: 517.647.6010 **Fax:** 517.647.6072

E-mail: wildflowers@voyager.net

URL: www.michiganwildflowerfarm.com

Plants: wildflowers and native grass seed.

Services: Consulting, installation & maintenance.

The Native Plant Nursery

Greg Vaclavek & Mike Appel

P.O. Box 7841

Ann Arbor, MI 48107-7841

Ph: 734.677.3260 **Fax:** 734.677.5860

E-mail: plants@nativeplant.com

URL: www.nativeplant.com

Plants: Native plants and landscaping.

Services: Consulting and ecological restoration.

Nesta Prairie Perennials

Van Bochove's Greenhouse – Stephen Keto

1019 Miller D.

Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Plants: Native wildflowers.

Ph: 800.233.5025 or 616.343.1669 **Fax:** 616.343.0768

Plants: Native wildflowers

Sandhill Farm

Cheryl Tolley

11250 – 10 Mile Rd.

Rockford, MI 48341

Ph: 616.691.8214 **Fax:** 616.691.7872

E-mail: cherylt@iserv.net

Plants: Woodland and wetland wildflowers; ferns.

Services: Consulting

Wetlands Nursery

Jewel Richardson
P.O. Box 14553
Saginaw, MI 48601

Ph: 989.752.3492 **Fax:** 989.752.3096

E-mail: JewelRichardson@earthlink.net

URL: www.Wetlands-Nursery.com

Plants: Aquatic and wetland plants and seed.

Services: Consulting and installation.

Wildtype Native Plants

Bill Schneider
900 N. Every Rd.
Mason, MI 48854

Ph: 517.244.1140 **Fax:** 517.244.1142

E-mail: wildtype@msu.edu

URL: www.wildtypeplants.com

Plants: Native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses.

Services: Consulting and installation

Naturalized Plants and Invasive Plants

Naturalized means these non-native (introduced or alien) species are capable of establishing and sustaining themselves in the environment without our care.

Since the 1700s, thousands of plants and animals have been introduced and become naturalized in North America at a rapid rate. About 30% of Michigan's 2600 plant species are alien plants that have become naturalized, primarily in the last hundred years. Some of the non-native plants are aggressive or invasive – and grow in such a way that native vegetation cannot survive or thrive.

Gardeners should educate themselves about native plants before introducing them to the landscape. For example, TALL HEDGE BUCKTHORN, sold at some local nurseries, has escaped from gardens into natural areas (fruits are eaten by birds which visit wetlands and natural areas). GARLIC MUSTARD appears attractive – with its four-petaled white flowers, scalloped leaves, and faint garlic smell. This wildflower was originally brought to the United States as an herb (and is still cultivated in Germany where natural checks and balances exist). In the Midwest and Michigan, it has invaded our natural woodlands and threatens projects for re-establishment of native vegetation.

Invasive plants which are of particular concern in Southeast Michigan include:

Common buckthorn
Glossy “tall hedge” buckthorn
Japanese Barberry
Bush honeysuckles
Garlic mustard

Rhamnus cathartica
Rhamnus frangula
Berberis thunbergii
Lonicra tatarica; L. japonica, etc.
Alliaria petiolata

Purple loosestrife
Spotted knapweed
Periwinkle (myrtle)
Autumn olive
Russian olive
Dames rocket
Canada thistle
Multiflora rose
Tree-of-heaven
White sweet clover

Lythrum salicaria
Centaurea maculosa
Vinca minor
Elaeagnus umbellata
Eleagnus angustifolia
Hesperis matronalis
Cirsium arvense
Rosa multiflora
Ailanthus altissim
Melilotus alba

More extensive lists of invasive plants have been prepared by the Ann Arbor Natural Areas Program and the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, Hiawatha National Forest).

The Michigan Invasive Plant Council (MIPC), using principles set forth by the National Invasive Species Council, is preparing a list of Michigan Invasive Plant Species. For further information, contact Robert E. Schutzki, Chairperson, Michigan Invasive Plant Council c/o Department of Horticulture, Michigan State University 517.353.5487.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND EVENTS:**

Healthy Lawns and Gardens Program
SOCWA – Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority
3910 W. Webster, Royal Oak, MI 48073
248-288-5150 weekdays. www.socwa.org _____