Many of the plants in our backyards are not native to Canada. Most of these species were brought here as ornamentals from other parts of the world.

Unfortunately, some of these non-native plants are invasive in Canada. They can spread into nearby natural areas, degrading habitats for native plants and animals.

BENEFITS OF GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS:

- Attract native pollinators, such as monarchs and bees, by providing food and habitat;
- Create less work for yourself, as native plants tend to be lower maintenance than non-native ones;
- Bring birds into your natural space; and
- Restore and naturalize shorelines.

By protecting or creating mini nature reserves in our yards, we can have a big impact on the diversity of plants and wildlife that share our spaces. Together, we can conserve Canada's natural heritage for future generations.

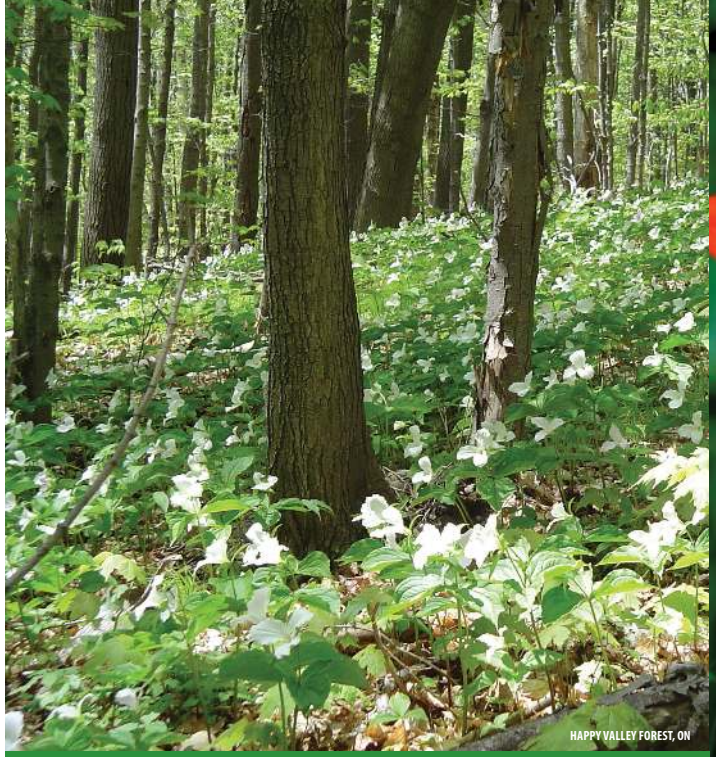
The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) protects our country's important natural areas. Some NCC properties are managed by replanting native species and removing invasive plants. To learn more about the habitats and species in your area and find inspiration for your own yard, visit **natureconservancy.ca**.

GETTING STARTED:

- Do an audit of your garden and identify any invasive plants growing there. By removing them, you can prevent these plants from spreading, making way for native plants to thrive.
- Learn what native plants are already growing in your yard or could grow well there.
- Decide where to begin. This will not happen overnight. Select an area of your yard to restore and continue from there.

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- Find helpful links and resources at natureconservancy.ca/nativegardening.
- Identify and learn more about species in your garden by snapping a photo using the iNaturalist app.
- Learn what to plant and what not to plant with the "Grow Me Instead" guide, produced by the Ontario Invasive Plant Council.
- Visit the St. Williams Nursery and Ecological Centre – the largest native plant nursery in the province.



HAPPY VALLEY FOREST, ON

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is Canada's leading national land conservation organization. A private, non-profit organization, we partner with individuals, corporations, other non-profit organizations and governments at all levels to protect the natural areas that sustain Canada's plants and wildlife.

Since 1962, NCC and our partners have helped to conserve 2.8 million acres (more than 1.1 million hectares) of ecologically significant land from coast to coast.

CONTACT US

1.800.465.8005
NATURE@NATURECONSERVANCY.CA
NATURECONSERVANCY.CA

Looking to receive a U.S. Tax credit? If a U.S. tax deduction could be more advantageous, NCC works in partnership with a registered U.S. charity, American Friends of the Nature Conservancy of Canada (AFNCC), and we would be pleased to explore options with you.
Charitable Registration # 119246544RR000

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NATIVE GARDENING IN ONTARIO

NATURE CONSERVANCY CANADA


CANADA GOLDENROD


BLACK-EYED SUSAN


WILD BERGAMOT

BE FOR THE BEES, BUTTERFLIES and MORE!

- **CANADA GOLDENROD** (*Solidago canadensis*): Forms large, dense patches, growing around one metre tall.

  Where: Open patches, full sun, well-drained soil. This is a highly drought-resistant plant.

  When: Yellow blooms in summer and autumn.

  Attracts: Native bees, butterflies and other pollinators use it as a source of nectar and pollen.

- **BLACK-EYED SUSAN** (*Rudbeckia hirta*): A member of the sunflower plant family, growing under a metre tall.

  Where: Great for all types of gardens, especially prairie or meadow conditions. Grows readily from seed.

  When: Yellow blooms in the summer and autumn.

  Attracts: Bees, butterflies and beetles benefit from the nectar, and the caterpillars of the silvery checkerspot butterfly feed on the leaves.

- **WILD BERGAMOT** (*Monarda fistulosa*): A bushy looking plant that smells like Earl Grey tea, growing 0.6–1.2 metres tall.

  Where: Full to partial sun, prefers moist to slightly dry soil conditions.

  When: Lavender/pink showy summer-blooming flowers.

  Attracts: A variety of bees, bee flies, butterflies, caterpillars, hummingbirds and hummingbird moths.

- **SWAMP MILKWEED** (*Asclepias incarnata*): Deer resistant, vanilla fragrant flowers. Forms an erect, clump-forming plant, growing 0.6 – 1.2 metres tall.

  Where: Easily grown in moist to wet soils, in full sun or on stream/pond banks.

  When: Pink and mauve flowers bloom in summer.

  Attracts: Butterflies looking for nectar, as well as monarch caterpillars looking for a food source.


SWAMP MILKWEED


WILD COLUMBINE


CARDINAL FLOWER


PIN CHERRY


WINTERBERRY HOLLY

BE FOR THE BIRDS

- **WILD COLUMBINE** (*Aquilegia canadensis*): Select the native version over the many exotic, hybrid species of columbine. Grows in colonies, under a metre tall.

  Where: Best for woodland edges or rocky areas in well-drained soil, in full sun to part shade.

  When: Red and yellow tubular flowers bloom in summer.

  Attracts: Hummingbirds and the columbine duskywing butterfly.

- **CARDINAL FLOWER** (*Lobelia cardinalis*): A striking shoreline flower that grows 0.6–1.2 metres tall.

  Where: Moist conditions along shorelines.

  When: Vibrant red tubular flowers bloom mid- to late summer.

  Attracts: Hummingbirds.

- **PIN CHERRY** (*Prunus pensylvanica*): A small- to medium-sized tree that grows up to 12 metres tall.

  Where: Requires full sun and dry to moist conditions.

  When: Flowers in late spring. In mid-summer, the pollinated flowers become cherries.

  Attracts: The flowers benefit pollinators, while the cherries provide food for foraging songbirds and other small animals.


PUSSY WILLOW


FOAM FLOWER


WILD WOODLAND STRAWBERRY

BE FOR THE SHORE

- **WINTERBERRY HOLLY** (*Ilex verticillata*): A showy shrub plant, growing in clumps 1–4 metres tall.

  Where: Moist, full sun to partly shady areas. Best for shoreline naturalization.

  When: Bright red berries begin to bloom later in summer and stay on the twigs into winter.

  Attracts: Birds and small mammals that feed on the berries.

- **PUSSY WILLOW** (*Salix discolor*): A well-known Canadian shrub, usually growing 1–4.5 metres tall.

  Where: Moist soils along streams, ponds and lakes.

  When: Silver-gray catkins open in the late winter.

  Attracts: Songbirds and a large variety of butterflies. Provides food for native pollinators and nest areas for a wide variety of birds.

GROUND COVER? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

- **FOAM FLOWER** (*Tiarella cordifolia*): A ground cover with maple-like leaves. Grows 15-30 centimetres tall.

  Where: Partial to full shaded areas, ideal for edging in woodland conditions and shady, rocky areas.

  When: Bright green, leafy colonies with white flowers in late spring.

  Attracts: Pollinators; is deer and rabbit resistant.

- **WILD WOODLAND STRAWBERRY** (*Fragaria vesca*): A tasty alternative to invasive plants, such as periwinkle and English ivy. Grows 2.5-13 centimetres tall.

  Where: Areas of average moistness, full to partial shade.

  When: White blooms in late spring/early summer, spreading throughout summer. Berries ripen in summer.

  Attracts: Native bees, butterflies and other pollinators.