



Landscaping with Native Plants
Maryland Native Plant Society



Landscaping with Native Plants

Why this booklet? This booklet is a guide for the home gardener who wants to enjoy and learn about native plants. It does not deal with restoration of natural areas; in those cases, the selection of plant species should be dictated by rigorous conservation considerations appropriate to the particular locale.

Why landscape with native plants? Native plants are the foundation of a healthy, functioning ecosystem. For example, most birds feed insects to their young and our native insects require native plants in order to develop. Unfortunately, many urban and suburban landscapes are filled with non-native plants that support very little biodiversity. Native plants and the wildlife communities they support are being lost to development, invasive plants, deer browsing, and introduced pests and diseases. The good news is that we can do something about that by planting a diversity of beautiful and life-sustaining plant species in our own yards.

By planting native plants, you provide food and habitat for native wildlife, thus bringing a bit of ecological balance back to the small piece of the planet you care for. Once established, a well-chosen native plant usually doesn't need much care because it is adapted to grow in our native soils. And you will have the pleasure of watching birds, butterflies, and other creatures in your own backyard, while learning about the plants of your region.

What is a native plant? A native plant is one that grows in a particular region without direct human intervention. On this continent, the plants that were established before European and African settlement are usually considered native species. Native plants and animals that have evolved together often depend on one another for their survival and reproduction.

What is a non-native invasive plant? A non-native invasive plant is one that has been introduced from another region, spreads aggressively, and displaces native plants. They arrive without the complement of pests, diseases, and predators with which they co-evolved and that keep them in check in their native region.

Where do I start? This brochure lists a few of the many beautiful native plants that are often available for purchase. Many retail nurseries sell at least some native plants and the Maryland Native Plant Society maintains a list of



local and regional nurseries where you can buy native plants. To view the list, go to www.mdflora.org/publications/nurseries.html. To learn more about the native plants that grow in your region, visit nearby natural areas and native plant gardens, as well as local nature centers for guided field trips.

Plant with wildlife in mind. Our fellow creatures need food, water, and shelter. Many native plants attract beneficial insects. Cherish them, and avoid using pesticides. If you see a modest amount of leaf damage on your plants, you will know you are helping to support wildlife in your garden. Pollinators such as bees and butterflies need blooms throughout the growing season. Seeds and berries provide additional food sources for birds. At the end of the growing season, leave perennial stalks and seed heads standing, and let leaf litter remain on the ground: they may shelter animals over the winter and become part of birds' nests in the spring. Provide one or more sources of water (preferably year round) and you will attract even more birds and other wildlife. Include trees, shrubs, and shorter plants in layers in order to replicate a natural setting, add beauty to your landscape, and enhance your wildlife habitat.

Take one step at a time. You don't need to replant your entire garden. Start with a small area of your yard, replacing mowed grass or English ivy with native woody and herbaceous plants. When you add new plants to your garden choose natives. Native ornamental plants support many more species of caterpillars than non-natives, and those caterpillars are food for birds. So every native plant that replaces a non-native will benefit native wildlife. Even a single oak tree can make a difference.

Remove non-native invasive plants from your property. The longer you wait, the more difficult it will be to eradicate invasive plants. When you eliminate invasive plants, such as English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, and porcelainberry from your property, you may help natives reappear. See what comes up when you make room! You may discover existing native plants that have been crowded and overshadowed. Removing undesirable plants will keep them from spreading to any natural areas in the vicinity.

Protect existing native plant communities. Do your best to conserve existing natural native plant and animal communities, whether on your property or elsewhere. If you are lucky enough to have some natural areas close by, get to know those plants. Lend your support to the conservation of our remaining natural areas. And remember that removing native plants from the wild endangers native plant communities and is illegal on public lands.





Adiantum pedatum



Asarum canadense



Asclepias incarnata



Asclepias syriaca

Name	Bloom Time	Flower Color	Height	Sun Part shade Shade	Wet Moist Dry	Notes
HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS						
<i>Actaea racemosa</i> • black cohosh	Jun–Sep	white	3–8'	P ₅ S _H	M	midsummer flowers
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> • wild columbine	Apr–Jun	red/yellow	0.5–3'	S P ₅	M D	hummingbird favorite
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i> • Jack-in-the-pulpit	Mar–Jun	purple/green	1–3'	P ₅ S _H	W M	red berry clusters late summer
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i> • goat's beard	May–Jul	white	4–6'	S P ₅	W M	frothy, ornamental flowers
<i>Asarum canadense</i> • wild ginger	Apr–May	maroon	0.3–0.5'	P ₅ S _H	M	semi-evergreen ground cover
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i> • swamp milkweed	Jun–Jul	pink	3–4'	S P ₅	W M D	butterfly plant; monarch host
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i> • common milkweed	Jun–Aug	light purple	4–5'	S P ₅	D	aggressive, spreads underground
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> • butterfly milkweed	Jun–Aug	orange	1–3'	S	D	nectar plant, monarch host
<i>Baptisia australis</i> • wild blue indigo	May–Jun	blue	3–5'	S P ₅	M D	butterfly plant, poor soil OK
<i>Chelone glabra</i> • white turtle head	Sep–Oct	white	2–4'	S P ₅	W M	butterflies, hummingbirds
<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i> • green and gold	Mar–Jun	yellow	0.5–1'	S P ₅ S _H	M D	long blooms if kept moist
<i>Claytonia virginica</i> • spring beauty	Mar–May	white/pink	0.5–1'	P ₅ S _H	M	early nectar plant, ephemeral
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i> • threadleaf coreopsis	Jun–Jul	yellow	2–3'	S P ₅	M D	nectar plant, spreader
<i>Dicentra canadensis</i> • squirrel corn	Apr–May	white	0.5–1'	P ₅ S _H	M	fern-like leaves, ephemeral
<i>Dicentra cucularia</i> • dutchman's breeches	Apr–May	white	0.5–1'	P ₅ S _H	M	ephemeral
<i>Dicentra eximia</i> • wild bleeding heart	Apr–Oct	pink/white	1.5–2'	P ₅ S _H	M D	long blooms!
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i> • common boneset	Jul–Oct	white	3–5'	S P ₅	W M	butterfly magnet
<i>Eurybia divaricata</i> • white wood aster	Jul–Oct	white	0.5–3'	P ₅ S _H	M D	nectar plant, spreads
<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i> • spotted Joe Pye weed	Jul–Sep	lavender	4–6'	S P ₅	M	nectar plant
<i>Geranium maculatum</i> • wild geranium	Apr–Jul	lavender	1–2'	S P ₅	M D	showy flowers, spreads
<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i> • woodland sunflower	Jul–Aug	yellow	3–4'	S P ₅ S _H	D	showy; good for birds, butterflies
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i> • round-lobed hepatica	Mar–Jun	lavender	0.5–2'	P ₅ S _H	M D	semi-evergreen



Asclepias tuberosa



Carex pensylvanica



Cercis canadensis



Claytonia virginica

<i>Heuchera americana</i> • American alumroot	Apr–Jun	yellow/green	1–3.5'	Ps SH	M D	semi-evergreen, forms clumps
<i>Heuchera villosa</i> • hairy alumroot	Jul–Oct	white/green	1–2.5'	Ps SH	M D	showy flower, low maintenance
<i>Iris cristata</i> • dwarf crested iris	Apr–May	white	0.5–1'	Ps	M	spreads
<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i> • twinleaf	Mar–Apr	white	0.5–1'	Ps SH	M	lovely early spring flowers
<i>Liatris spicata</i> • dense blazing star	Jun–Aug	purple	3–4'	S Ps	M D	nectar plant
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> • cardinal flower	Jul–Sep	red	2–4'	S Ps	W M	long bloom time; hummingbirds!
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> • great blue lobelia	Aug–Sep	blue/violet	2–4'	S Ps	W M	suitable for water gardens
<i>Mertensia virginica</i> • Virginia bluebells	Mar–May	pink to blue	1–2.5'	Ps SH	M W	early nectar & pollen
<i>Mimulus ringens</i> • monkeyflower	Jun–Oct	blue	2–4'	S Ps	M W	long bloom time
<i>Mitchella repens</i> • partridgeberry	May–Jun	white	0.5–1"	Ps SH	M D	low, slow spreader
<i>Monarda didyma</i> • scarlet beebalm	Jun–Jul	red	2–5'	S Ps SH	W M	showy! hummingbirds, butterflies
<i>Mondarda fistulosa</i> • wild bergamot	Jun–Jul	lavender	2–5'	S Ps	M D	spreader, nectar plant
<i>Oenothera perennis</i> • little sundrops	May–Jul	yellow	2–3'	S Ps	M D	early nectar plant
<i>Opuntia humifusa</i> • eastern prickly-pear	Jun–Jul	yellow	0.5–1'	S	D	showy flowers, edible fruit
<i>Packera aurea</i> • golden ragwort	May–Jun	yellow	0.5–2'	S Ps SH	W M D	semi-evergreen, aggressive
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i> • foxglove beardtongue	Jun–Jul	white	2–3'	S Ps	W M	showy flowers, birds, butterflies
<i>Phlox divaricata</i> • wild blue phlox	Apr–Jun	lavender	1.5–2'	Ps SH	M	early nectar plant
<i>Phlox paniculata</i> • summer phlox	Jul–Oct	pink/purple	2–3'	S Ps SH	M	butterflies, hummingbird moths
<i>Phlox subulata</i> • moss phlox	Apr–May	pink	0.2–0.5'	S	M D	groundcover, rock gardens
<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> • orange coneflower	Jul–Aug	yellow	1.5–3.5'	S Ps	M D	drought tolerant nectar plant
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i> • bloodroot	Mar–Apr	white	0.2–0.5'	SH	M	flowers fleeting but leaves persist
<i>Sedum ternatum</i> • wild stonecrop	Apr–May	white	0.1–0.5'	Ps SH	M	outstanding for woodland garden
<i>Solidago caesia</i> • bluestem goldenrod	Aug–Oct	yellow	1–3.5'	S Ps SH	M D	spreader, wand-like blooms
<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i> • zigzag goldenrod	Jul–Oct	yellow	1–3.5'	Ps SH	M D	fall nectar plant
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i> • gray goldenrod	Jul–Nov	yellow	0.5–3'	S Ps	D	butterfly gardens
<i>Solidago rugosa</i> • rough-stemmed goldenrod	Aug–Nov	yellow	1–3.5'	S Ps	W M	tough, aggressive



Name	Bloom Time	Flower Color	Height	Sun Part shade Shade	Wet Moist Dry	Notes
<i>Symphotrichum cordifolium</i> • heart-leaved aster	Sep–Oct	violet	1–4'	Ps SH	W M	excellent nectar plant
<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i> • smooth blue aster	Aug–Oct	violet	1–5'	S Ps	W M D	plentiful fall blooms
<i>Symphotrichum puniceum</i> • purplestem aster	Aug–Oct	pale violet	1–7'	S Ps	D	cut down in Jun to reduce height
<i>Thalictrum thalictroides</i> • rue anemone	Apr–Jun	white	0.5–1'	Ps SH	M D	lovely, delicate flowers
<i>Thalictrum pubescens</i> • tall meadow rue	Jun–Aug	white	1.5–9'	S Ps SH	W M	showy white plumes
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i> • foamflower	Apr–Jun	white	0.5–1'	S Ps SH	M	long-blooming, clump-forming
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i> • Virginia spiderwort	Apr–Jun	purple	1–3'	S Ps SH	M	showy flowers, early bloom, spreads
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i> • New York ironweed	Jul–Oct	purple	4–7'	S Ps	W M D	brilliant flowers

FERNS

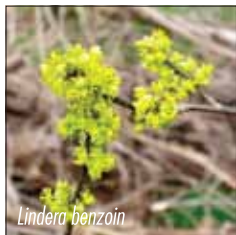
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i> • northern maidenhair			1–2'	Ps SH	M	tolerates heavy shade
<i>Asplenium platyneuron</i> • ebony spleenwort			0.5–1.5'	S Ps SH	M	delicate evergreen
<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i> • marginal woodfern			1–3'	Ps SH	M D	evergreen groundcover
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> • cinnamon fern			2–5'	S Ps SH	M D	showy fertile frond
<i>Osmunda regalis</i> • royal fern			3–6'	S Ps SH	W M	tolerates drought
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i> • Christmas fern			1–2'	Ps SH	M	evergreen groundcover
<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i> • New York fern			1–2'	Ps SH	W M	slow spreader

GRASSES AND SEDGES

<i>Carex pensylvanica</i> • Pennsylvania sedge	May–Jul	wheat	0.5–1.5'	Ps SH	M D	grassy foliage
<i>Carex glaucoidea</i> • blue sedge	May–Jul	wheat	0.5–1.5'	Ps SH	M D	blue-green leaves
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i> • purple lovegrass	Jul–Aug	purple	1.5–2'	S	D	bronze-red
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> • little bluestem	Aug–Oct	bronze	1.5–2'	S	D	blue-green leaves, winter interest
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> • indiangrass	Aug/Sep	yellow	3–8'	S	M D	beautiful seed head



Ilex opaca



Lindera benzoin



Lobelia siphilitica



Mertensia virginica

LARGE SHADE TREES

<i>Acer saccharum</i> • sugar maple	Feb–Mar	yellow/green	50–100'	S P _s	W M	lovely fall color
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> • common hackberry	Apr–May	yellow/green	40–70'	S	M D	withstands urban conditions
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i> • common persimmon	May–Jun	yellow/cream	50–75'	S P _s	M D	edible fruit on female trees
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i> • American beech	Apr–May	yellow/green	50–100'	S P _s	M	bronze leaves persist in winter
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> • tulip-tree	May–Jun	yellow	70–100'	S P _s	M D	showy flowers
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> • blackgum	Apr–Jun	white	30–75'	S P _s	W M D	outstanding fall color
<i>Prunus serotina</i> • black cherry	Apr–May	white	50–100'	S	M D	wildlife value
<i>Quercus alba</i> • white oak	Mar–May	yellow/green	75–100'	S P _s	M D	MD state tree
<i>Quercus bicolor</i> • swamp white oak	Apr–May	yellow/green	60–100'	S P _s	W M	good for wet spots
<i>Quercus coccinea</i> • scarlet oak	May–Jun	yellow/green	40–75'	S	M D	official tree of DC
<i>Quercus falcata</i> • southern red oak	Apr–May	yellow/green	70–80'	S	M D	high wildlife value
<i>Quercus montana</i> • chestnut oak	May–Jun	yellowish	40–80'	S P _s S _H	D	infertile soils
<i>Quercus phellos</i> • willow oak	Feb–May	yellow/green	80–100'	S P _s	W M	high wildlife value
<i>Quercus rubra</i> • northern red oak	Apr–May	yellow/green	90–120'	S P _s	M D	fall color
<i>Taxodium distichum</i> • bald cypress	Mar–Apr	deep purple	50–100'	S P _s	W	deciduous conifer
<i>Tilia americana</i> • American basswood	Jun	yellow	70–100'	P _s S _H	M	fragrant flowers

SMALLER TREES

<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> • common serviceberry	Mar–May	white	15–25'	P _s S _H	W M	edible fruit
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> • Canadian serviceberry	Mar–Apr	white	35–50'	P _s S _H	M D	edible fruit
<i>Asimina triloba</i> • pawpaw	Apr–May	maroon	20–35'	S P _s	M	edible fruit, forms a thicket
<i>Betula nigra</i> • river birch	Apr–May	brown	50–75'	S P _s	W M	attractive peeling bark
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> • eastern redbud	Apr–May	lavender	20–35'	P _s S _H	M D	showy spring bloom
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> • white fringetree	Apr–May	white	20–35'	S P _s S _H	M D	showy, fringe-like flowers
<i>Cornus florida</i> • flowering dogwood	Apr–May	white	20–50'	P _s	M D	VA state tree



Monarda didyma



Opuntia humifusa



Osmundastrum cinnamomeum



Packera aurea

Name	Bloom Time	Flower Color	Height	Sun Part shade Shade	Wet Moist Dry	Notes
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SMALLER UNDERSTORY TREES cont.

<i>Magnolia virginiana</i> • sweetbay magnolia	May–Jun	white	12–30'	S P _s S _H	W M	semi-evergreen
<i>Malus coronaria</i> • sweet crabapple	Apr–May	pink/white	10–30'	S	W M	fragrant flowers

EVERGREEN TREES

<i>Ilex opaca</i> • American holly	May–Jun	white	15–50'	S P _s S _H	M	red fruit on female trees
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> • eastern red cedar	Mar–Apr	red/purple	50–75'	S	M D	high wildlife value
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> • arborvitae	Mar–Apr	red/brown	50–75'	S	W M	good screening tree, evergreen

SHRUBS

<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> • red chokeberry	Mar–May	white	15–20'	S P _s	W M D	flowers, fruit, fall color
<i>Callicarpa americana</i> • beautyberry	Jun–Aug	lavender	6–9'	S P _s	M D	lovely lavender berries Sep–Mar
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i> • New Jersey tea	May–Sep	white	2–3'	S P _s	D	tolerates drought
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> • buttonbush	Jul–Aug	creamy white	6–12'	S P _s S _H	W M	nectar source for butterflies
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i> • sweet pepperbush	Jul–Aug	white	6–12'	P _s S _H	W M	high wildlife value
<i>Cornus amomum</i> • silky dogwood	May–Jun	white	6–12'	S P _s	W M	high wildlife value
<i>Euonymus americanus</i> • strawberry-bush	May–Jun	pale green	6–12'	S P _s S _H	W M	showy fall color
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> • American witch hazel	Sep–Dec	yellow	15–30'	P _s S _H	M D	fall, winter bloom
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> • wild hydrangea	Jun–Aug	white	3–6'	P _s S _H	M D	attracts pollinators
<i>Ilex glabra</i> • inkberry	May–Jun	pale green	6–10'	S P _s S _H	M D	evergreen
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> • winterberry holly	Jun–Jul	pale green	6–12'	S P _s S _H	W M	persistent red berries
<i>Itea virginica</i> • Virginia sweetspire	May–Jun	white	6–10'	S P _s S _H	W M	forms thickets by suckering
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i> • mountain laurel	May–Jul	white/pink	12–20'	S P _s	W M D	evergreen, lovely flower display



Passiflora lutea



Penstemon digitalis



Phlox divaricata



Physocarpus opulifolius

<i>Lindera benzoin</i> • northern spicebush	Mar–May	yellow	3–16'	P ₅ S _H	W M	early flowers
<i>Morella cerifera</i> • southern bayberry	Mar–Jun	yellow green	6–15'	S P ₅	W M D	evergreen, silver fruit
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> • ninebark	May–Jul	white	5–12'	S P ₅	W M	drought tolerant, adaptable
<i>Rhododendron atlanticum</i> • coast azalea	Apr–May	white	1–5'	P ₅	M	fragrant flowers
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i> • great rosebay	May–Aug	white/pink	15–20'	P ₅ S _H	W M D	evergreen
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i> • pinxter azalea	Apr–May	pink/white	3–10'	S P ₅ S _H	W M	gorgeous flowers
<i>Rubus odoratus</i> • purple flowering raspberry	Jun–Sep	rose purple	3–6'	P ₅ S _H	M	edible fruit, spreads by suckers
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> • American elderberry	Jun–Jul	white	6–12'	S P ₅ S _H	W M D	important wildlife food
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i> • maple-leaved viburnum	Apr–Jun	white/pink	3–6'	S P ₅ S _H	M D	food source for birds
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> • arrowwood	May–Jun	white	10–15'	S P ₅ S _H	W M D	flowers, fruit, fall color
<i>Viburnum nudum</i> • possumhaw	Jun–Jul	white/cream	6–20'	S P ₅ S _H	W M	high wildlife value
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> • blackhaw	Apr–May	white	12–24'	S P ₅ S _H	W M D	good fall color

VINES

<i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i> • pipevine	May–Jun	yellow/purple	15–30'	S P ₅	M	host for pipevine swallowtail
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i> • crossvine	May–Jun	orange/red	20–35'	S P ₅	W M D	semi-evergreen
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> • trumpet honeysuckle	Apr–Oct	coral to red	6–12'	S P ₅	M D	semi-evergreen, hummingbirds!
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> • Virginia creeper	May–Jul	pale green	25–35'	S P ₅ S _H	W M D	high wildlife value
<i>Passiflora lutea</i> • yellow passionflower	Jul–Aug	yellow	5–15'	P ₅	W M	lovely, delicate flowers
<i>Wisteria frutescens</i> • American wisteria	Apr–Aug	lilac	15–30'	S P ₅	W M	showy, fragrant



Maryland and other mid-Atlantic states are rapidly losing natural biodiversity. YOUR GARDEN MATTERS!

Native plants can create beautiful landscapes that provide wildlife habitat and reduce maintenance costs around our homes, schools, workplaces, and in our parks. Many gardeners find a deeper connection to nature as they learn about the plants that are native to our area and the animals that depend on them.



On-line and Print Resources

Why plant native?

Tallamy, Douglas. *Bringing Nature Home*. 2007. Timber Press.

See also www.bringingnaturehome.net



Landscaping and Gardening

Darke, R. and D. Tallamy, *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Diversity in the Home Garden*. 2014. Timber Press.

Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping, publication of the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Download from:

www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/pdf/chesapeakenatives.pdf

Available for purchase from MNPS:

www.mdflora.org/forgardeners.html



Native Plants for Northern Virginia, a publication of the Plant NoVa Natives Campaign.

www.novaregion.org/DocumentCenter/View/10615



Non-native Invasive Plants

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas

Download from:

www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/index.htm

The MNPS website has a list of many resources concerning non-native invasive plants: www.mdflora.org/aboutinvasives.html

Plant Identification

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Nelson, G., C.J. Earle, and R.S. Spellenberg. *Trees of Eastern North America*. 2014. Princeton Univ. Press.



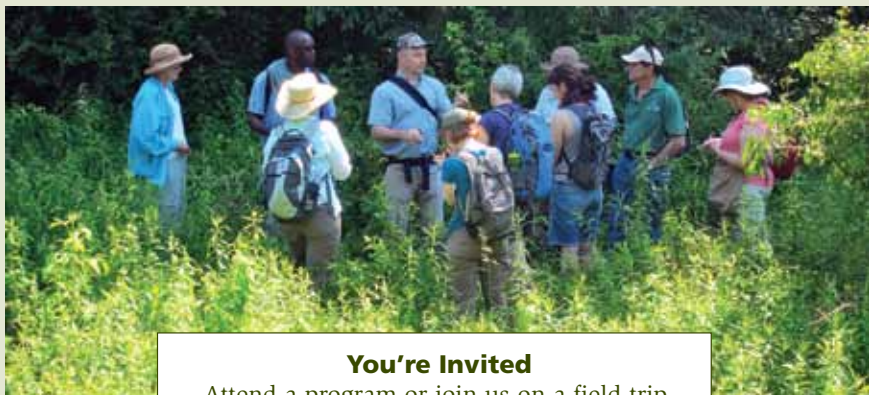
Maryland Native Plant Society

Maryland Native Plant Society (MNPS) promotes awareness, appreciation, and conservation of Maryland's native plants and their habitats through education, research, advocacy, and service. We are an organization of plant and nature enthusiasts run by dedicated volunteers.

Our members include amateur and professional botanists, home gardeners, landscapers, and educators—but no expertise is required. Anyone interested in preserving and learning about Maryland's natural heritage is welcome.

MNPS offerings include field trips, monthly programs, publications including *Marilandica* magazine, annual conferences, and advocacy for conservation of natural areas.

Membership information can be found at www.mdflora.org.



You're Invited

Attend a program or join us on a field trip.
They're fun, free and open to the public.



Become a fan, post photos, and join in the comments.



Our events are listed in our MeetUp group.

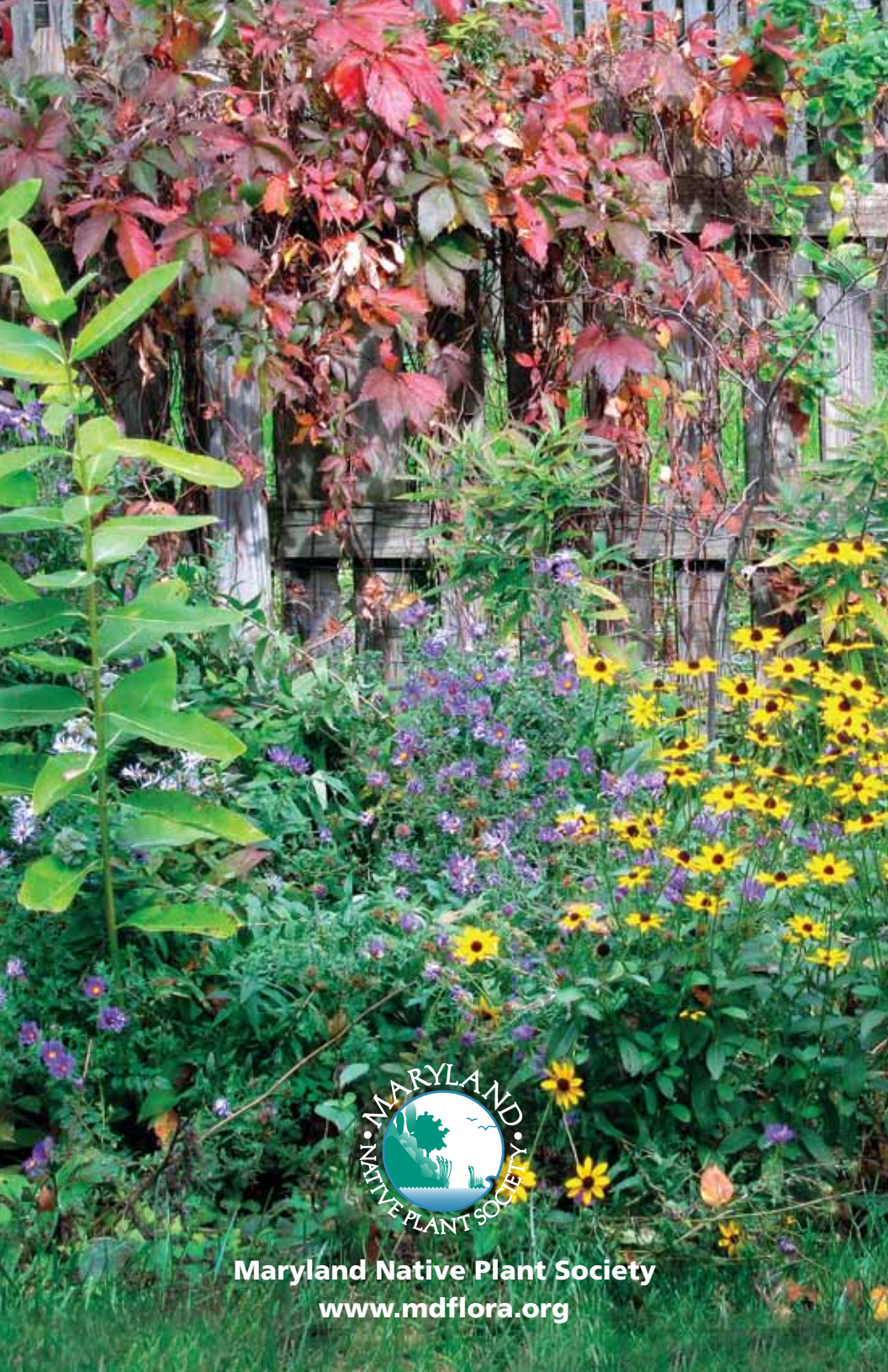
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