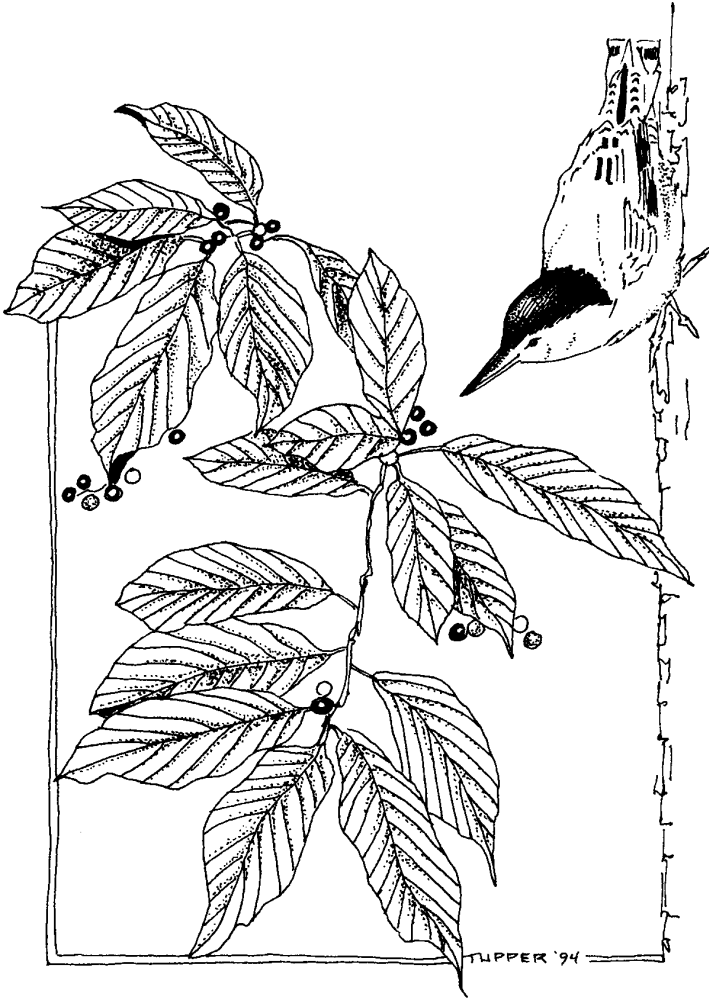


MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Central Basin and Highland Rim

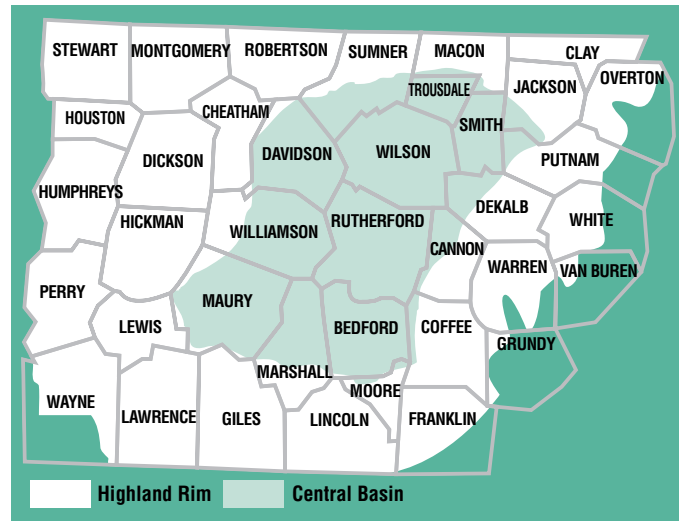


MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Central Basin and Highland Rim

The Central Basin and the Highland Rim are uniquely different physiographic provinces that make up Middle Tennessee. Site conditions for each respective province are determined by topography, soil pH, soil depth, aspect, availability of light, and hydrology. These site conditions support a mosaic of native plant communities.

- Dry upland sites support xeric oak-hickory forests.
- Beech, tulip poplar, basswood, and sugar maple (mixed mesophytic) forest communities occur on north-facing slopes.
- Floodplains and upland swamps support “wet feet” or hydric plants.
- Unique barrens occur in open grassy areas on the Highland Rim.
- Rare cedar glades occupy thin soil, poorly drained limestone outcrops (winter wet, summer dry habitat) in the Central Basin.



LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

PROMOTES BIODIVERSITY

and endorses a land ethic that celebrates our natural heritage

Soil pH is a distinguishing feature between the Basin and the Rim. The elliptically shaped Central Basin is underlain by Ordovician limestone and has alkaline soils, whereas much of the surrounding Highland Rim has acidic soils that are heavily leached and often occur in the resistant siliceous Fort Payne formation.

For landscaping purposes it is important to remember that plants growing in our region are specifically adapted to hydrology (moisture and dryness) and soil pH (acidity and alkalinity). Soil moisture, soil pH and light availability are important limiting factors. Matching plants to site conditions will yield the maximum benefits that natives provide.

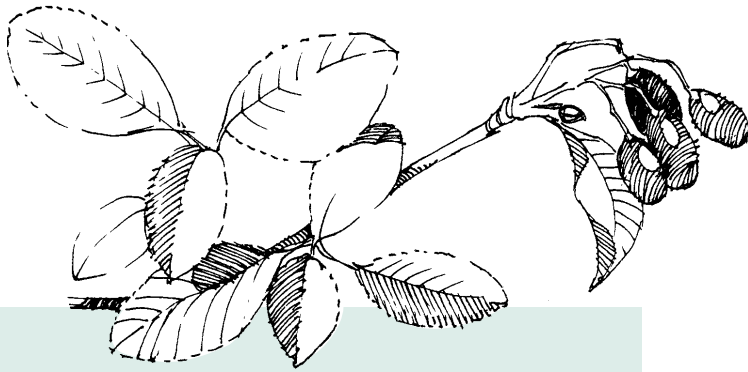
Our natural heritage

The use of native plants in landscaping is a celebration of our natural heritage and an awakening of a land ethic first expressed by Aldo Leopold more than 50 years ago.

The natural processes from which natives evolve represent the cog and wheel of a healthy ecosystem sustained by a complex web of biological diversity.

Native plants have many inherent qualities and adaptive traits that make them aesthetically pleasing, practical, and ecologically valuable for landscaping.

Using native plants contributes to the health and often the restoration of an ecosystem. Landscaping with natives in an urban setting helps restore regional character and places fewer demands on resources.



Native

species naturally occurring in a region (indigenous)

Exotic

species introduced by humans, either deliberately or accidentally (alien, non-native)

What are natives?

Natives are plants that evolved over geologic time and are distributed across the landscape largely in response to climatic episodes and adaptation to site conditions related to land formation.

Natives are generally defined as plants that occurred in North America before European settlement. This distinction is made because of the large-scale changes in the flora that have resulted since European settlement and the introduction of “exotic” plants.

Exotics are plants that are directly or indirectly, deliberately or accidentally introduced by human action. To be more precise, natives are natural elements of a regional landscape. While some species are native to North America, they may be exotic to Middle Tennessee.

Natives vs. exotics

While many exotics are harmless, others pose serious threats to biodiversity. Exotics that escape and naturalize change the floral composition of native plant communities. Exotics that invade native plant communities spread, out-compete, and displace natives. Other exotics are vectors for disease and exotic insects. Future introductions can be prevented by using native species.

Using natives also exhibits regional flora and promotes our natural heritage. Natives have often been overlooked and their aesthetic value ignored. Instead, many regions look the same because overuse of the same exotics has created a monotonous, predictable landscape.

Basics about using natives

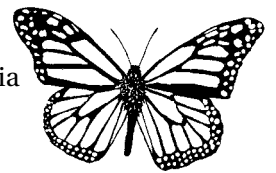
When landscaping with natives match the right plants with the right site conditions. Consider using plants that occur together in their natural habitats. Do your homework before planting; study the plants and the site condition information in this brochure. Visit a natural area and observe how plants occur and design your landscape accordingly. Buy nursery propagated plants. Remember, landscaping with natives is art imitating nature.

Benefits of natives

- ▶ Adapted to regional conditions and may require less maintenance and are cost-effective.
- ▶ Hardy, withstand extreme winter cold, do not suffer from die back.
- ▶ Environmentally friendly, require fewer pesticides and fertilizers because of natural adaptations.
- ▶ Promote biodiversity and stewardship.
- ▶ Provide food and shelter for native wildlife.
- ▶ Restore regional landscapes.
- ▶ Prevent future exotic introductions.

Natives for wildlife

Using natives in landscaping helps sustain native butterflies, moths and other beneficial insects; native birds, reptiles, mammals, and other fauna. Fall migrating birds depend on high-energy fruits from flowering dogwood and spicebush. Spring migrants feed on insects that occur on oak trees. Beech and other native trees provide nesting habitat, while Eastern red cedar, Virginia pine, and American holly provide winter cover and food.



- ▶ **Don't dig plants from the wild.**
- ▶ **Buy nursery-propagated plant material.**



GRASSES

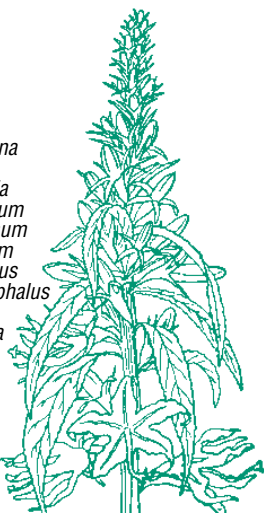
Big bluestem
Little bluestem
broomsedge
river cane
river oats, Spangle grass
Canada wild rye
Bottle brush
Switch-grass
Indian grass

Andropogon gerardii
Andropogon scoparius
Andropogon virginicus
Arundinaria gigantea
Chasmanthium latifolium
Elymus canadensis
Hystrix patula
Panicum virgatum
Sorghastrum nutans

FLOWERS

Doll's-eye baneberry
Thimbleweed
Wild columbine
Wild ginger
Butterfly weed
Swamp milkweed
New England aster
Bushy aster
Fall blue aster
Blue false indigo
Tall bellflower
Coreopsis
Shooting star
Joe-Pye weed
Mist flower
Wild geranium
Woods sunflower
Small headed sunflower
Liverleaf
Alumroot
Jewelweed
Spotted jewelweed
Dwarf crested iris
Cardinal flower
Great blue lobelia
Virginia bluebells
Partridge-berry
Bergamot
Prickly pear
Appalachian pachysandra
Wild blue phlox
Beard-tongue
Jacob's ladder
Poke weed
Solomon's seal
Wild Petunia
Fire Pink
Indian Pink

Actaea alba
Anemone virginiana
Aquilegia canadensis
Asarum canadense
Asclepias tuberosa
Asclepias incarnata
Aster novae-angliae
Aster dumosus
Aster patens
Baptisia australis
Campanula americana
Coreopsis major
Dodecatheon meadia
Eupatorium fistulosum
Eupatorium coelestinum
Geranium maculatum
Helianthus divaricatus
Helianthus microcephalus
Hepatica acutiloba
Heuchera americana
Impatiens pallida
Impatiens capensis
Iris cristata
Lobelia cardinalis
Lobelia siphilitica
Mertensia virginica
Mitchella repens
Monarda fistulosa
Opuntia humifusa
Pachysandra procumbens
Phlox divaricata
Pentstemon calycosus
Polemonium reptans
Phytolacca americana
Polygonatum biflorum
Ruellia humilis
Silene virginica
Spigelia marilandica



Celebrate our natural heritage and protect native plant communities

1. Learn more about native plants.
2. Buy nursery propagated plant material.
3. Don't dig plants from the wild.
4. Protect native plant and natural area habitat.
5. Promote responsible landscaping practices.
6. Plant native and not exotic plant species.

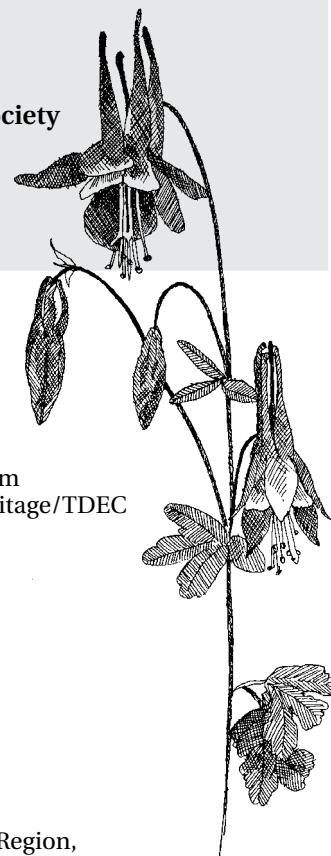
For more information

Warner Park Nature Center
7311 Highway 100
Nashville TN 37221
615/352-6299

Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
Division of Natural Heritage
401 Church Street, 8th Floor
Nashville TN 37243-0447
615/532-0436

Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council (TN EPPC)
P.O. Box 936
Fairview TN 37062
www.tneppc.org

Tennessee Native Plant Society
Department of Botany
University of Tennessee
Knoxville TN 37996-1100
615/532-0439



Text by
Warner Park Nature Center
Tennessee Natural Areas Program
in the Division of Natural Heritage/TDEC

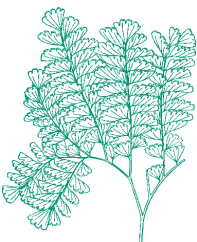
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Invasive Plant Control
Friends of Beaman Park
USDA Forest Service, Southern Region,
Forest Health Protection Program
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southern Appalachian Man and Biosphere Foundation

FERNS

Lady-fern
Sensitive fern
Cinnamon fern
Chain fern
Maidenhair fern
Ebony spleenwort
Christmas fern
Common grape fern
Broad beech fern
Common woodsia

Athyrium felix-femina
Onoclea sensibilis
Osmunda cinnamomea
Woodwardia areolata
Adiantum pedatum
Asplenium platyneuron
Polystichum acrostichoides
Botrychium dissectum
Phegopteris hexagonaptera
Woodsia obtusa



MOSAIC FOR FULL SUN

Little blue stem
Big blue stem
Indian grass
Canada rye grass
Grey headed coneflower
Blackeyed susan
New England aster
Bushy aster
Butterfly weed
Blue false indigo
Rose vervain
Joe Pye weed
Wild bergamot
Ironweed
Shooting star

Andropogon scoparius
Andropogon gerardii
Sorghastrum nutans
Elymus canadensis
Ratibida pinnata
Rudbeckia hirta & triloba
Aster novae-anglie
Aster dumosus
Asclepias tuberosa
Baptisia australis
Verbena canadensis
Eupatorium fistulosum
Monarda fistulosa
Vernonia altissima
Dodecatheon meadia



MOSAIC FOR SHADE

Thimbleweed
Wild Ginger
Ebony Spleenwort
Shooting Star
Alumroot
Pachysandra
Christmas Fern
Broad Beech Fern
Golden Ragwort
Foam-flower
Spiderwort
Violets
Woodsia

Anemone virginiana
Asarum canadense
Asplenium platyneuron
Dodecatheon meadia
Heuchera americana
Pachysandra procumbens
Polystichum acrostichoides
Phegopteris hexagonaptera
Senecio glabellus
Tiarella cordifolia
Tradescantia virginiana
Violet spp.
Woodsia obtusa

