

Use Native Plants

Native plants are the species that have evolved in this area and are adapted to the growing season, local climate and soils. They often require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides than the exotics, or non-natives, and hybrids. More importantly, native plant species are critically linked to native wildlife. Our local insects, birds and small wildlife have evolved alongside native plants. These long-standing relationships allow our ecosystem to function at its best.

When planting trees, shrubs, ground covers and flowerbeds, try using lovely native plants instead of the more exotic types. Check out [Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping](#) for specific plant recommendations.

Check out the Maryland Department of Natural Resources [Plant and Be Counted](#) initiative for your \$25 tree coupon.

Native alternatives to popular garden plants, shrubs and trees:

Native Plant	Exotic Plant
Red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)	Norway maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>)
Bigtooth aspen (<i>Populus grandiflora</i>)	White poplar (<i>P. alba</i>)
Black willow (<i>Salix nigra</i>)	Weeping willow (<i>S. x sepulcralis</i>)
New Jersey tree (<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>) or Sweet pepperbush (<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>)	Butterfly bush (<i>Buddleja spp.</i>)
Black Haw (<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>)	Privets (<i>Ligustrum spp.</i>)
Allegheny spurge (<i>Pachysandra procumbens</i>)	English ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>)



Beardtongue (white—*Pennstemon digitalis*); spiderwort (pink—*Tradescantia sp.*); evening primrose (yellow—*Oenothera biennis*).

Additional information on native plants:

- [Maryland Native Plant Society](#)
- [BayScapes](#)
- [Plant Conservation Alliance](#)