

Planting Guide

Average Garden Native Plant Kit



Extension

NATIVE PLANTS

Oakland County is home to beautiful and diverse natural spaces, including wide-open prairies, park-like savannas and diverse wetlands.

Over time and through development, many habitats have been degraded and separated into smaller spaces, resulting in “habitat fragmentation.” Habitat fragmentation and impervious surfaces, such as concrete, increase runoff, flooding potential and establishment of non-native species, and reduces both the access to and the benefits of these natural areas for us and the wildlife we value.

By planting the species provided in this kit, we collectively increase the many benefits these native plants provide to us and our adjacent natural communities. In fact, many of the plants that make these natural communities special are still abundant across Oakland County and now they can be planted in your backyard!

BENEFITS OF NATIVE PLANTS

Native plants are well adapted to local climatic conditions and are an important part of our local ecosystems.

Some of benefits of native plants include:

- Established native plants require less water and fertilizer than non-native species
- Native plants help filter stormwater, reducing run-off and erosion, which contribute to flooding
- Native plants are more carbon friendly than traditional landscaping - less greenhouse gases are expended by sourcing local, they require less frequent replacement, and they are better at storing carbon
- Native plants provide food and shelter for local wildlife and pollinators
- Native plants foster biodiversity and benefit more wildlife species per plant than non-native plants

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Before Pickup

If the area where you are planting has existing grass or weeds, remove these by hand before planting. If planting in a large area, you can use herbicide sparingly (wait two weeks after spraying to plant) or install weed barrier fabric.

After Pickup

After picking up your plants, unload from your car immediately and plant as soon as possible. While preparing to plant, keep plants out of direct sunlight and watered enough to keep soil slightly damp.

Planting

When you're ready to plant, arrange the plants on top of the soil in your intended design, see layout tips below:

- Plant the same species in a group to create an attractive focal point
- Plant taller species in the back and keep bloom season in mind
- Add a border or mulch as needed to maintain an intentional aesthetic garden or set-and-forget for a more wild, natural look.
- Space plants approximately 18 inches apart in holes that are slightly wider than the root ball of the plant, and bury the root ball about the same depth as it was in the pot – don't plant too deep.
- Water immediately and frequently during the first two weeks and during dry conditions throughout the first season.

NATIVE PLANT RESOURCES

Learn more about the plants included in your kit and other native plant information - including planting information, pollinator and other wildlife benefits, by following the QR code or the link to Oakland County Parks' page on native plants.



bit.ly/OCNatives

Do you have lawn and garden questions? MSU Extension staff and volunteers are available to assist! You can upload your question and up to three photos anytime at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert> or call our lawn and garden hotline Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at 888-678-3464.














YOUR AVERAGE GARDEN KIT

- Your kit is a pre-assembled collection of approximately 16 native plants - four plants of four different species native to Michigan and grown in Michigan by local plant nursery (Wildtype)
- The Average Garden Kit should be planted in an area with full sun and clay soil, and contains a combination of plants listed in the table below:



MAINTENANCE

- In the fall, allow seeds to develop and spread before trimming back. Plants can be cut within a few inches of the ground in either fall or spring, and plant material can be left over winter for bird and other wildlife habitat.
- If plants start to exhibit signs of disease, trim back or thin to promote air flow during the growing season
- Remove weeds as they sprout for the first few years after planting or use mulch to reduce weeds. Less weeding will be required over time.
- No fertilization of plants is necessary and fertilizer will likely make weed growth more vigorous.
- Mulch can be used in the first few years for additional weed suppression and for aesthetics as your plants grow.
- Plants will naturally spread via seed.
- Plants will reach full maturity (size) within 2-3 years.

✓	Common Name	Scientific Name	Bloom Color	Bloom period						Height (ft.)	Benefits
				May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.		
	Golden Alexanders	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Yellow							2'-3'	
	Nodding Wild Onion	<i>Allium cernuum</i>	Pink							1'-2'	 
	Yellow Coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Yellow							3'-5'	 
	Culver's-Root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	White							3'-5'	
	Ironweed	<i>Vernonia missurica</i>	Purple							4'-6'	
	Black-Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	Yellow							2'-3'	 
	Stiff Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	Yellow							3'-5'	 
	New England Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>	Purple							3'-6'	 



These plants have documented benefits for butterflies, native bees and other pollinators as reservoirs of nectar, as host plants for caterpillars and because they attract other beneficial insects.



These plants have documented benefits for birds, as sources of nutrition from the seed they produce, insects found on these species, and for nest-building.