

Native Garden Kit Planting Guide

Oakland County encourages the use of native plants in your landscape.



NATIVE PLANTS

Historically Michigan and Oakland County have been home to beautiful natural spaces such as wide-open prairies, park-like savannas, and diverse wetlands. Many of the plants that help make these natural communities special are still abundant across Oakland County and can be planted in your backyard.

Native plants are well adapted to our moisture and climatic conditions and are an important part of our local ecosystems—they provide food and shelter for local wildlife and pollinators. The deep roots of native plants also help to absorb and filter stormwater, require less watering in hot summer months, and don't need fertilizer or chemicals to maintain.

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners established the Native Plants Initiative in 2020 to promote awareness and benefits of native plants. Oakland County Parks and Recreation is implementing this program on its behalf in 2021.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 plants in the back and keep bloom season in mind.
 - Add a border to help contain species as they seed and make your gardens look intentional.
- Plant each plant 12 inches apart in holes that are slightly larger than the root mass of the plant. The top of the plant should be level with the ground.
- Water immediately and during dry conditions throughout the first season.

YOUR 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. Plants in your kit are labelled and should be planted in the conditions listed below:

- **Prairie Kit** should be planted in an area with full sun and sandy soil and contains a combination of butterfly weed, white wild indigo, harebell, Canada frostweed, rough blazing star, northern blazing star, bee balm, horsemint, penstemon, prairie phlox, black-eyed Susan, prairie dock, spiderwort, showy goldenrod, smooth aster, prairie heart-leaved aster, little bluestem, and purple love grass.
- **Sunny Clay Kit** should be planted in an area with full sun and clay soil and contains a combination of nodding wild onion, columbine, white wild indigo, wild strawberry, prairie phlox, yellow coneflower, black-eyed Susan, stiff goldenrod, ironweed, Culver's root, and golden alexanders.
- **Rain Garden Kit** should be planted in an area with full sun and any soil that is frequently wet and contains a combination of Canada anemone, swamp milkweed, fox sedge, boneset, joe-pye weed, giant St. John's wort, southern blue flag, marsh blazing star, cardinal flower, blue lobelia, beardtongue, swamp buttercup, black-eyed Susan, Riddell's goldenrod, prairie dropseed, ironweed, Culver's root, and golden alexanders.
- **Shade/Woodland Kit** should be planted in an area with part to full shade and any soil and contains a combination of yellow giant hyssop, white snakeroot, columbine, muskingum sedge, big leaf aster, purple coneflower, wild strawberry, alum root, woodland phlox, bluestem goldenrod, zigzag goldenrod, heart-leaved aster, and early meadow rue.



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, plant material can be left overwinter 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, less weeding will be required over time.
- No fertilization of plants is necessary, 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 don't need to be divided and many will naturally spread via seed.
- Plants will reach full maturity (size) within two-three years.

Prairie Kit			
Species Name	Bloom Color	Bloom Time	Height
common frost weed	yellow	Jun-Aug	1'
harebell	blue	Jun-Aug	1'-2'
purple love grass	green (grass)	Jun-Jul	1'-2'
horsemint	yellow	Jul-Sep	1'-3'
butterfly weed	orange	Jun-Jul	1'-3'
priarie phlox	pink	May-Jul	2'
black-eyed Susan	yellow	Aug-Oct	2'-3'
priaire heart aster	blue	Aug-Sep	2'-3'
spiderwort	blue	May-Jul	2'-3'
little bluestem	green (grass)	Aug	2'-4'
smooth aster	lavender	Aug-Oct	2'-4'
bee-balm	lavender	Jul-Aug	2'-4'
showy goldenrod	yellow	Aug-Oct	2'-5'
rough blazing star	pink	Jul-Sep	3'-4'
northern blazing star	pink	Jul-Sep	3'-4'
beardtongue	white	Jun-Jul	3'-4'
white wild indigo	white	Jun-Jul	3'-5'
prairie-dock	yellow	Aug-Oct	4'-10'

Rain Garden Kit			
Species Name	Bloom Color	Bloom Time	Height
Canada anemone	white	May-Jul	1'-2'
swamp buttercup	yellow	May	1'-2'
blue lobelia	blue	Jul-Sep	1'-3'
priarie dropseed	green (grass)	Aug-Sep	1'-3'
fox sedge	green	May-Jun	2'-3'
southern blue flag	blue	May-Jul	2'-3'
black-eyed susan	yellow	Aug-Oct	2'-3'
golden alexanders	yellow	May-Jun	2'-3'
cardinal flower	red	Jul-Aug	2'-4'
Riddell's goldenrod	yellow	Aug-Sep	2'-4'
marsh blazing star	pink	Jul-Aug	3'-4'
swamp milkweed	pink	Jul-Aug	3'-4'
beardtongue	white	Jun-Jul	3'-4'
boneset	white	Jul-Sep	3'-5'
giant St. John's wort	yellow	Jul-Aug	3'-5'
Culver's root	white	Jul-Sep	3'-5'
joe-pye weed	pink	Jul-Sep	4'-6'
ironweed	purple	Aug-Sep	4'-6'

Shade/ Woodland Kit			
Species Name	Bloom Color	Bloom Time	Height
wild strawberry	white	Apr-May	.5'-1'
woodland phlox	blue	May	1'
alum root	green	May-Jun	1'-2'
zigzag goldenrod	yellow	Aug-Oct	1'-2'
columbine	red/yellow	May-Jul	1'-3'
big leaf aster	violet	Jul-Aug	1'-3'
heart-leaved aster	blue-violet	Aug-Sep	1-3
muskingum sedge	green	May-Jun	2'-3'
bluestem goldenrod	green	Aug-Oct	2'-3'
early meadow rue	white	April-May	2-3
yellow giant hyssop	yellow	Jul-Sep	2'-4'
white snakeroot	white	Jul-Sep	2'-4'
purple coneflower	purple	Jun-Aug	3'-4'

Sunny Clay Kit			
Species Name	Bloom Color	Bloom Time	Height
wild strawberry	white	Apr-May	.5'-1'
nodding wild onion	pink	Jul-Aug	1'-2'
columbine	red/yellow	May-Jul	1'-3'
prairie phlox	pink	May-Jul	2'
black-eyed Susan	yellow	Aug-Oct	2'-3'
golden alexanders	yellow	May-Jun	2'-3'
wild white indigo	white	Jun-Jul	3'-5'
yellow coneflower	yellow	Jul-Sep	3'-5'
stiff goldenrod	yellow	Aug-Oct	3'-5'
Culver's root	white	Jul-Sep	3'-5'
ironweed	purple	Aug-Sep	4'-6'