

Native Plant Landscaping

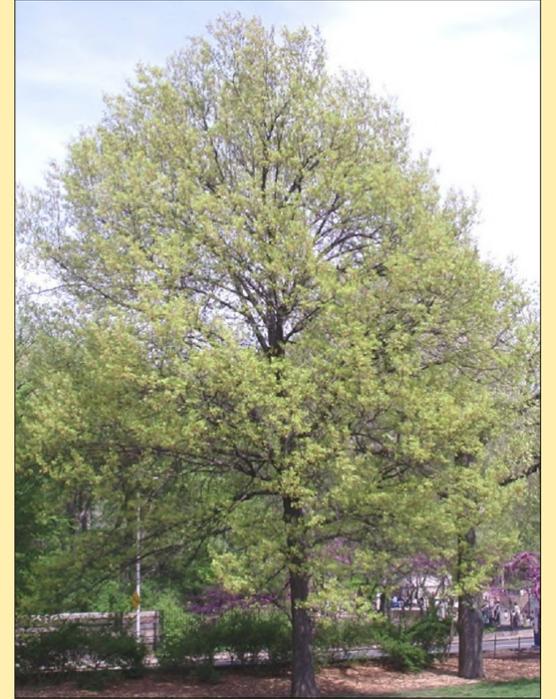
Native plants are plants that have evolved naturally in the region and were not introduced from distant places. They are more adaptable to local conditions and require less maintenance to thrive. There are approximately 2,100 species native to Pennsylvania.



Red Maple



Redbud



Pin Oak

Benefits

Reducing your lawn size by landscaping with native plants promotes groundwater recharge. Traditional lawn vegetation consists of shallow rooted non-native grasses which have higher runoff rates than native plant alternatives.

Native plants require less watering during summer months because they are more adaptable to local climate conditions.

Deeper rooted native vegetation helps bind the soil, and reduce erosion and runoff.

Native plants provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies, and other desirable wildlife.

Native landscaping saves money. The National Wildlife Federation estimates that it costs approximately \$700 annually to maintain an acre of lawn. A native wildflower garden costs only \$300 to maintain.

Maintenance of conventional lawns creates significant amounts of air pollution. Gas powered mowers emit high amounts of carbon monoxide, VOCs and nitrogen oxides, creating up to 5% of the Country's air pollution.

Common Pennsylvania Native Plants

Trees

Red Maple, *Acer Rubrum*
River Birch, *Betula Nigra*
Tulip Poplar, *Liriodendron tulipifera*
Pin Oak, *Quercus palustris*

Shrubs

Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*
Serviceberry, *Amelanchier arborea*
Mountain Laurel, *Kalmia latifolia*
Arrowwood, *Viburnum dentatum*

Flowering Plants

Sunflowers, *Helianthus sp.*
Black-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta*
New England Aster, *Aster novae-angliae*
Cutleaf Coneflower, *Rudbeckia lacianata*

Grasses

Lurid Sedge, *Carex lurida*
Virginia Wild-rye, *Elymus virginicus*
Switch grass, *Panicum virgatum*
Little bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*

Additional plant lists can be found at:
<http://www.pawildflower.org/>



MONTGOMERY COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

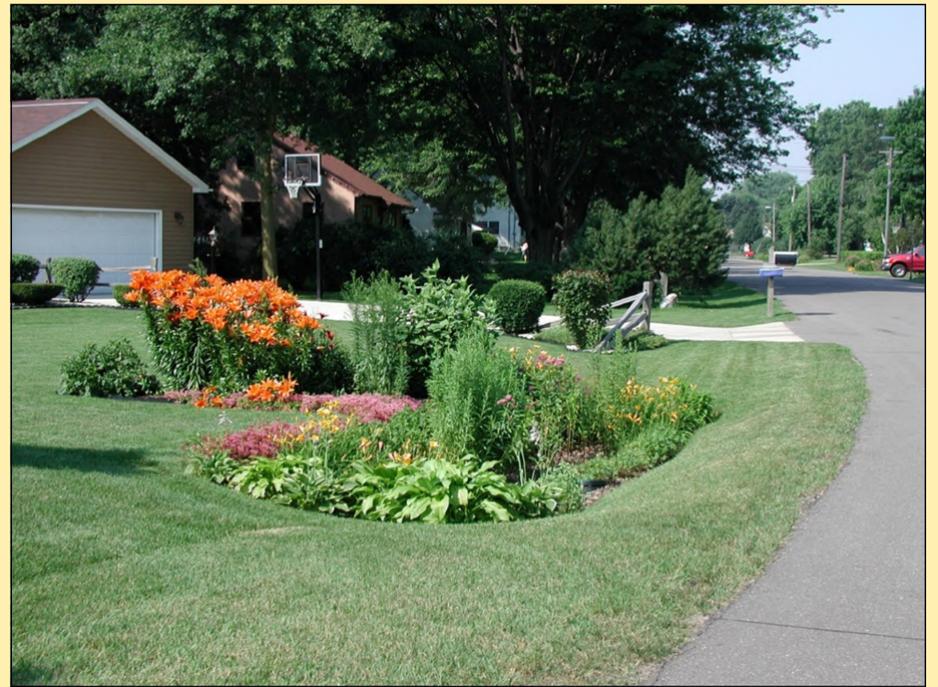


Rain Garden

Rain Gardens are small depressed vegetated areas for retention and filtration of stormwater runoff. Compared to a traditional lawn, a rain garden allows approximately 30% more water to infiltrate into the ground. Rain gardens collect water from rooftops, sidewalks, and driveways.



Rain gardens can be used to collect water from rooftops as shown above at Blair Mill Elementary School in Horsham Township, Montgomery County.



The rain garden shown above is collecting water from the roadway and surrounding landscape.



New England Aster



Black-eyed Susan



Sedge



Redosier Dogwood



Phlox



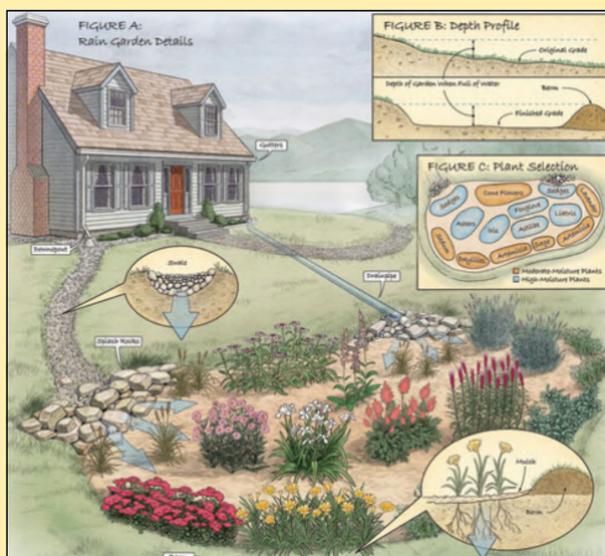
Swamp Milkweed



Virginia Wild Rye



Cardinal Flower



New York Ironweed



Joe-Pye Weed



Cutleaf Coneflower



Goldenrod

Rain Garden Resources

A Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management: <http://www.delawareestuary.org/pdf/HomeownersGuideSWMgmt.pdf>

Rain Gardens ~ A How to Manual for Homeowner's: <http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/rg/>

Rain Garden Resources: http://www.montgomeryconservation.org/rain_garden_resources.htm

Rain Garden Templates: <http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/>

PA Native Plant List: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/wildplant/native.aspx>

