

Things to remember about Native Plants for Birds, Insects & Biodiversity

- What you do to encourage beneficial insects will help with controlling insect pests.
- Removing non-native invasive plants and adding native plants of all kinds (trees, shrubs, grasses, ground covers and forbs) is the basis for restoring biodiversity in your landscape.
- If you have an insect pest problem, identify the insect and research what can be done to control it using .edu websites. Can't ID the bug? Take a specimen or good pictures of the insect damage to the extension office for help.
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) offers science-based options for pest management, starting with the least risky options (for the environment and people), yet considering chemical controls if necessary. **READ AND FOLLOW LABEL INSTRUCTIONS.**
- IPM offers cultural, mechanical, biological and chemical options for controlling pests.
- **JUST SAY "NO" TO NEONICOTINOIDS in plants and on seeds!** (Imidacloprid, Acetamiprid, Clothianidin, Thiamethoxam, Dinotefuran). You have other choices to control insects.
- Identify the site for your new planting(s) and know how much sun/shade, moisture, and exposure it gets. This information will determine what plants will do best on that site.
- Plan **WHAT** you want to plant and how you want it to look. Seek help if you need it. Use the resources found on this document to help.
- Site preparation is the most important step for long-term success. Removing non-native invasive species and smothering/killing weeds and grass will allow your new plants or seeds to get established without competition for soil resources.
- Be patient, especially when planting seeds. It will take a few years until the full expression of your plants and/or seed mix is realized, but it will be worth the wait.
- Tell everyone what you are doing and encourage them to join the effort! We need everyone to work toward increasing the biodiversity of their own landscapes for the benefit of the environment.

GENERAL INFORMATION WEBSITES ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS, INSECTS, BIODIVERSITY:

- **Native Plant Society of NE Ohio** provides a wide range of information about native plants under the INFORMATION tab, including links to quality websites for more information: [THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NORTHEASTERN OHIO](#)
- **Nature in My Backyard** (click on RESOURCES for a variety of helpful pdf's and videos). [Nature in My Backyard](#)
- **Handouts for talk on Native Plants for Birds, Insects and Biodiversity: Download handouts at: www.clevelandaudubon.org then go to Docs/Info, then select General Info/Presentation Documents.**

ABOUT SOME BENEFICIAL INSECTS:

- **About Lady Beetles in Ohio** – [Lady Beetles | Ohioline](#)
- **About native bees in Ohio** – [Native Bee ID and Biology | Bee Lab](#) Contains 22 links to valuable information about native wild bees including **Conserving Wild Bees in Pennsylvania** –

- **Insect Nesting and Overwintering Habitat** - [Nesting & Overwintering Habitat for Pollinators & Other Beneficial Insects](#)

IDENTIFICATION GUIDES FOR SOME COMMON INSECTS:

- **Bees and wasps of Ohio** – [Pub5488 Bees and Wasps of Ohio Field Guide.pdf](#)
- **Butterflies of Ohio** – [Backyards for Butterflies pub089.pdf](#) learn the host plants of species.
- **Moths of Ohio** – [Moths of Ohio Field Guide pub5467.pdf](#) learn the host plants of species.
- [Conserving Wild Bees in Pennsylvania](#) excellent guide to identify groups of wild bees by pictures with information about which plants they pollinate.

ABOUT SOME INSECT PESTS:

- **White Grub's in Turfgrass** – [Identification of White Grubs in Turfgrass | OhioLine](#) Includes pictures of 9 different white grubs and their adult forms.
- **Japanese beetles in the home garden** (Penn State University) [Japanese Beetles in the Home Garden](#)
-

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT:

- **2025 Virginia Cooperative Extension Pest Management Guide** (326 pgs, pdf). Home and garden insect pests and plant diseases and how to manage them. [ENTO-603.pdf](#)
- **Protecting pollinators while using pesticides** (Ohio State Univ.) [Protecting Pollinators While Using Pesticides | OhioLine](#)
- **Common Insects and associated pests attacking bedding plants and perennials** (Ohio State University) [Common Insects and Associated Pests Attacking Bedding Plants and Perennials | OhioLine](#)
- **Insecticidal Soaps.** Learn about them here from Clemson University [Insecticidal Soaps for Garden Pest Control | Home & Garden Information Center](#) and from University of Connecticut [Insecticidal Soaps | Home and Garden Education Center](#)
- **Horticultural oils.** [Using a Horticultural Oil for Controlling Pests in the Garden — Pike County — Master Gardener](#)
- **Less toxic insecticides.** Clemson University prepared this publication to cover a variety of the less toxic insecticides for home use. [Less Toxic Insecticides | Home & Garden Information Center](#)

HELP WITH NATIVE PLANT SELECTION (flowers)

- **Attracting Beneficial Insects with Native Flowering Plants** from Michigan State University. Plants sorted by when they are in peak bloom from spring through fall. [attracting_beneficial_insects_with_native_flowering_plants_\(e2973\).pdf](#)
- **Landscaping with Native Plants in the Cleveland Region (CMNH):** [Native-Plants_10pt-2C_14-x-8.5-Double-Parallel-Fold-Brochure.indd](#)
- **Native plants for birds and pollinators** with info about color, height, time of bloom, soil moisture, and sun/shade preference (Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland): [Native-Plants-for-Birds-and-Pollinators-2-13-2021.pdf](#)

- Some deer-resistant native trees, shrubs, grasses, perennials and annual.

[Deer resistant plants MSUE E3042](#)

HELP WITH NATIVE SHRUB SELECTION:

- [Native Shrubs: Creating Living Landscapes for Birds, Butterflies, Bees, and Other Beneficials | OhioLine](#)

ABOUT NATIVE TREES AND NATIVE TREE SELECTION:

- **Trees that are host plants for butterflies and moths**, with pictures of the butterflies and moths. [butterfly tree hosts ohio.pdf](#)
- **Native Trees for birds, butterflies and bees** - [Native Trees: Creating Living Landscapes for Birds, Butterflies, Bees, and Other Beneficials | OhioLine](#)
- **Native Tree selector from Cleveland Metroparks** - [Tree Selector | CMP Tree Selection Tool](#)

REPLACING LAWN WITH NATIVE PLANTS:

- **Replacing your lawn with native plants** – step by step instructions along with suggestions for choosing plants and more. [Shrink Your Lawn: A Guide to Growing More Native Plants - West Creek](#)

NEW SITE PREPARATION:

- **Solarization of new site native plant bed** – [Using the sun to kill weeds and prepare garden plots | UMN Extension](#)
- **Preparing the site to plant native plants and native plant seeds** (Ohio Prairie Nursery): [How To Plant Native Grass and Wildflower Seed - A Comprehensive Guide for Site Prep, Installation and Management](#)

PLANTING NATIVES FROM SEED:

- **How to plant native grass and wildflower seed:** [Resources for Planting Native Seed – OPN Seed](#)
- **Starting your own seeds in winter:** [Winter Seed Sowing in Milk Jugs: A Gardener's Guide to Early Starts and Resilient Plants | N.C. Cooperative Extension](#) (Note: you can view other sites online that provide visuals to the written descriptions in this article. Just type “winter seed sowing” in your browser.)

NATIVE PLANT NURSERIES:

- **Native Plant Nurseries.** [Nursery Locator | CMP Tree Selection Tool](#)

BOOKS that you can purchase or borrow from the library:

- **Bringing Nature Home by Doug Tallamy.** Learn about the biodiversity crisis and ways we can make a difference right in our own yards and gardens. [Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants, Updated and Expanded: Douglas W. Tallamy, Rick Darke: 9780881929928: Amazon.com: Books](#)

- **Farming with Native Beneficial Insects by The Xerces Society.** If you are gardening or farming on a larger scale, this book offers ways to use native plantings to support beneficial insects.
[Farming with Native Beneficial Insects: Ecological Pest Control Solutions: The Xerces Society: 9781612122830: Amazon.com: Books](#)
- **List of other reference books:** [ReferenceBooks.pdf](#)