

# A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO NATIVE LANDSCAPING

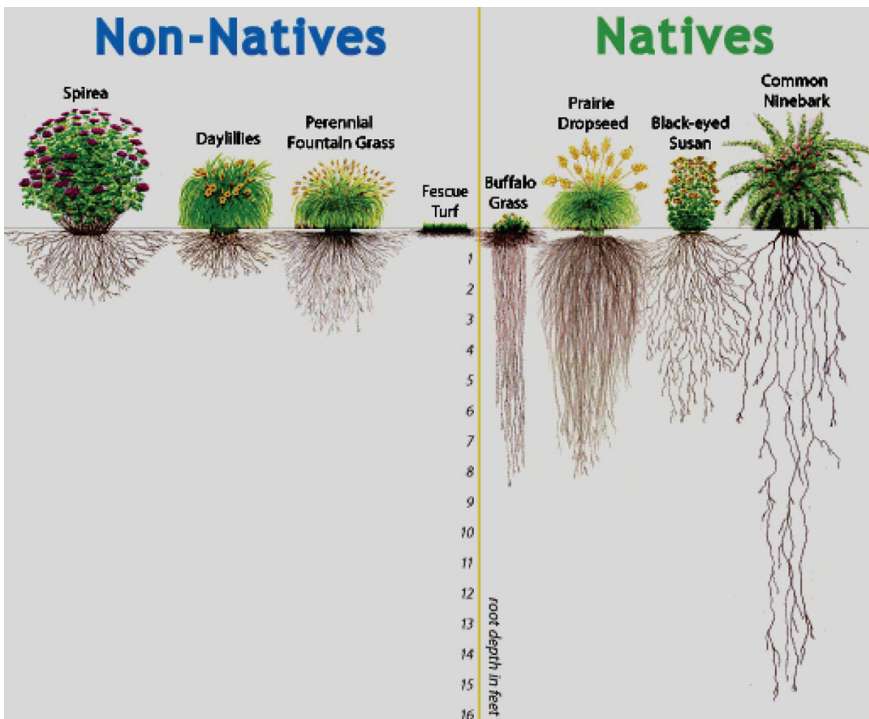


Many of the grasses planted most often for lawns aren't the best for protecting water quality. Native plants—those naturally found in southeast Michigan—actually help improve water quality, and they're an attractive alternative to Turfgrass. Native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers encourage a healthier environment than non-natives or Turfgrass!

## WHY SHOULD YOU PLANT NATIVE PLANTS?



While many non-native plants, such as the purple loosestrife, are colorful and attractive, they are considered "invasive" because they outcompete native species and disrupt wildlife habitat. Native plants, on the other hand, offer nesting sites and food for wildlife.



A garden of prairie wildflowers, for instance, will attract butterflies and hummingbirds to your backyard.

Best of all, natives are adapted to our local soils and climate, so they do not need excessive watering and require very little fertilizer or pesticides, which can pollute our waterways.

Native plants also have very deep roots that once established, prevent soil erosion and are very drought resistant. These are perfect for your riparian buffer.



## What is a riparian buffer?

A riparian buffer is an area adjacent to a body of water that is fully or partially protected from human disturbances and has the ability to safe guard the water body from pollution and/or habitat degradation.



**A riparian buffer is designed to:**

1. Discourage geese from your lawn
2. Reduce pollution runoff and imperviousness
3. Create habitat
4. Provide flood control

Do you live next to a Lake, River or Stream? Consider using native plants to create a **riparian buffer** and help protect the water quality!

**Native Lakescapes LLC. is a great resource within the Clinton River Watershed for designing natural and native shorelines. Visit their website for more information:**  
<http://www.nativelakescapes.com/>



# WHAT PLANTS ARE NATIVE TO SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN?



Here is just a small sampling of plants native to southeast Michigan that are usually easy to find at native plant nurseries and suppliers.

**Ferns** – Christmas, Maidenhair, Cinnamon, Ostrich, Royal, and Lady

**Grasses** – June grass, Big bluestem grass, Purple love grass, Cord grass, and Wool grass

**Shrubs** – Blueberry, Buttonbush, Dogwood, Fragrant sumac, Elderberry, Michigan holly, Serviceberry, Spicebush, and Raspberry

**Trees** – American beech, Blackgum, Black walnut, Canada hemlock, Douglas fir, Flowering dogwood, Hawthorn, Hickory, Maple (Red, Sugar), Oak (Red, White), Ohio buckeye, Pawpaw, Sycamore, Tulip tree, White pine

**Wildflowers** – Anemone, Black-eyed Susan, Blazing star, Columbine, Coral bells, Purple coneflower, and Woodland poppy



Lady Fern



Blazing Star



Dogwood

Anemone



Big Bluestem Grass



Coral Bells



## For more information on Native Plants and Landscaping:

MSU Extension Master Gardener  
<http://mg.msue.msu.edu/>

Michigan Native Plant Nursery  
<http://www.nativeplant.com/>

EPA Green Acres  
[www.epa.gov/greenacres](http://www.epa.gov/greenacres)

Michigan Native Plant Producers Association  
[mnppa.org](http://mnppa.org)

Wild Ones  
<http://www.wildones.org/>

