



GROWING A NATIVE SPECIES & POLLINATOR GARDEN

Hintonburg Community Association – www.hintonburg.com/greening

Planting native species gardens has become a hot trend throughout North America and for good reason! Here are a few examples of cities taking the lead: City of Guelph [pollinator](#) and [native](#) gardens, [City of Calgary pollinator gardens](#), and [success stories from around Ottawa](#).



3 great reasons for planting a native species garden in Hintonburg:

- ✓ Native species have evolved in our local climate so they will do better in drought and survive our winters. Also, they often don't require as much maintenance as non-native species (i.e., plant species brought in by humans).
- ✓ Many pollinators (e.g., birds, butterflies, bees) rely on native plant species. By planting native species, we're each doing our bit to increase biodiversity in our local neighbourhood and create important habitat for wildlife.
- ✓ There are so many gorgeous native flowers, shrubs and other plants!

Have a very small plot of land?

You can DEFINITELY still have a pollinator garden. In fact, planting even one native species helps our local ecosystem. If you need to start or stay small, your garden will still make a difference to Hintonburg!

How to start a native species garden:

- ✓ Learn just a bit about what plants do best when their habitat matches their needs. For example, if you have a dry shady yard it's best to choose plants that like dry shady places. (Resource links on the backside of this handout.)
- ✓ If you want to geek out a bit more, you can learn what types of native species attract what types of pollinators and you can plan for your garden to have different flowering plants blooming at different times of the summer.
- ✓ Take a look at your soil. Lots of yards in Hintonburg are very rocky! You may want to clean up some rubble and mix in a bit of compost before planting.

See next page!

Great resources to help out!

Here are some fantastic resources for those new to native species:

- [The Corner Pollinator Garden](#) – Blog of a native species/pollinator gardener right here in Kitchissippi. There is SO much helpful information on this site - it's a great starting point.
- A neat [photo series](#) of about 90 native plants created by a local expert.
- [Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library](#)'s tips on planning a garden.
- [Wild Pollinator Partners \(Ontario East – Outaouais\)](#)
- [Ontario Native Plant Gardening Facebook Group](#)
- [Biodiversity in our Canadian Wildlife Gardens Facebook Group](#)
- In Our Nature's [Ontario Native Plant Resource Guide](#)
- [How to find out what wildflowers are native](#)
- The Ottawa Master Gardeners offers occasional [talks about native species](#) and has a good [youtube video](#) about invasive plants.
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology handout on [creating a garden for birds](#).

You can also search online for “gardening with native or pollinator species.” (Youtube has lots of videos.)



Sourcing native plants:

There are many sources of native plants around Ottawa. Here are a few of our favourites:

- [Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library Facebook Group](#) – Community sharing of native flower seeds and seedlings. This group is also fantastic for advice!
- [Fletcher Wildlife Garden Plant Sale](#) – Annual native species plant sale. Watch their website in April and early May for info.
- [A Cultivated Art](#) – A source of native species seedlings grown right in Ottawa.
- Other local sources are listed on the [Corner Pollinator Garden](#) website.

IMPORTANT: Many nurseries carry cultivars of native species. Cultivars are not native but are produced by horticulturalists from the native species. [Many gardeners feel that it's important to get the native species itself](#) because cultivars may not provide the same benefits (e.g., cultivars can be asexual so they won't produce pollen). Checking out the resources above will help you get the native species.

Get in touch!

Send the HCA environment committee an email. Write to info@hintonburg.com and put “native species gardens” in the subject line.

May 2022