



A GUIDE TO PLANTING AND CARING FOR NATIVE PLANTS

Congrats! You have purchased some native plants. Now what? Well, it's time to get planting. Here are a few tips and a basic step-by-step

TIP #1

Planting natives doesn't mean you stop worrying about weeds.

In fact, it can mean quite the opposite. Weeds can easily choke out your new native plants seedlings, so be sure to properly prepare the ground first. Eliminating the weeds in the area that the natives will be planted is the most simple step to taking charge. The best way to kill existing vegetation is to roto-till or spray herbicide. Maintain weed-free area by hand pulling small areas or controlled application of a herbicide as needed. Make sure the herbicide you are applying will not harm any wildflower species.

TIP #2

Slow down to a stop on the fertilizer.

Most gardeners and farmers are well trained to know that fertilization is important for vigorous growth. That's not actually the case with native plants. Because native species are more adapted to the environment in which they are planted, they do not need fertilizer and have robust root systems to drawn in nutrients.

TIP #3

Check out additional resources.

This is by no means a comprehensive native plant guide. Check out the websites of Prairie Moon, Wild Ones, Wildtype, and the U.S. Forest Service for more information. Always ask your local government about prescribed burns for prairies.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

1. Take a peek at your soil and shade.

Do you have primarily sand, loam or clay? Is it a sunny or shady area or somewhere in between? How about the moisture level? All of these will impact the plants that you choose.

2. Choose your native plants accordingly.

Use our native plant chart or one from a native plant nursery to choose your plants based on soil type, amount of sun and your intended purpose.

3. Prepare the area.

Good preparation will allow your native plants to focus energy on establishment. Prep your area by killing or removing existing vegetation (typically by tilling or herbicide).

4. Layout and plant.

Once your area is prepared, you are ready to plant. We recommend having a layout complete ahead of time. Try planting multiples of the same species together. Dig hole approximately 6 inches deep and space 1-2 feet apart. Water-in well.

5. Monitor the area.

Watch out for weeds! If you see some, pull them out. Also watch for moisture level and compare it to what the plant should have. Water as needed through first year.

6. Preparing for next season.

Allow tops of plants to die back in the fall. Mow or prune dead top foliage in the fall or March to early-April, while plants are dormant and not actively growing.