

Gardening With Native Plants

1. Study the natural landscape, (notice what species grow in a particular habitat).
2. Look for ecological patterns. (how plants combine themselves to create systems).
3. Learn to appreciate the aesthetic patterns:
 - lines, textures, and forms
 - contrasts between grasses and broadleaves
 - the range of colors in native species
 - daily changes in the quality of light
 - spatial relationships
4. Be aware of the tolerances in our built environment, i.e. how human uses and abuses affect the survival of plants in urban settings.
5. Show the place is cared for.
 - Clear crisp edges and bold patterns
 - Cues that show care (i.e., strip of mowed turf, birdhouse, small fence, etc.)
7. Native wildflowers are threatened by development, the spread of exotic-invasive species, and by collectors who dig them from the wild. Buy only from nurseries that propagate the plants they sell.
6. Takes a great deal of humility and patience.

For More Information

[A Guide to the Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky.](#) Mary E. Wharton and Roger W. Barbour. The University of Kentucky Press, 1971.

[Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky.](#) Thomas G. Barnes and Francis S. Wilson. The University of Kentucky Press, 2004.

[Wildflowers of the Land Between The Lakes Region, Kentucky and Tennessee.](#) Edward W. Chester and William H. Ellis. Austin Peay State University, 2000.

[Wildflowers of the Mammoth Cave National Park.](#) Randy Seymour. The University of Kentucky Press, 1991

[Wildflowers of Tennessee.](#) Jack B. Carman. Highland Rim Press, 2001.

Contact Us

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<http://www.uky.edu/Arboretum>

The Arboretum is open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Admission is free. The Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitors Center is open M-F from 8:30 to 4:00.

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Native Wildflowers at The Arboretum: A Checklist



“...speak to the Earth, and it shall teach thee.”

—The Book of Job

Reasons to Use Native Plants

1. They are going to grow in your climate zone.
2. You know you're not going to spread more exotics. (Protect our natural areas.)
3. To promote the biodiversity of your region.
4. They give us a true “sense of place”.
5. They provide interesting and functional tools for design.
6. They support native fauna, such as butterflies, birds, toads, etc.
7. They are beautiful.



Pictured above: Hibiscus

Pictured on front cover: Black-eyed Susan
Photo provided by: Betty Hall Photography

“Pennyrile Prairie” Wildflowers

- Downy Sunflower
- Sawtooth Sunflower
- Narrow-Leaf Sunflower
- Rattlesnake Master
- Rattlebox
- Sweet Coneflower
- Orange Coneflower
- Purple Coneflower
- Gray-Headed Coneflower
- Silky Aster
- Smooth Aster
- New England Aster
- Spreading Aster
- Gray Goldenrod
- Sweet Goldenrod
- Rigid Goldenrod
- Sneezeweed
- Scaly Blazing Star
- Foxglove Beard-Tongue
- Compass Plant
- Tall Coreopsis
- Blue False Indigo
- Cream Wild Indigo
- Blue Vervain
- White Prairie-Clover
- Purple Prairie-Clover
- Prickly Pear
- Wild Strawberry
- Prairie-Dock
- Wild Bergamot
- Biennial Gaura
- Blue Mistflower
- Southern Blazing Star
- Hairy Wood-Mint
- Butterfly Milkweed
- Cardinal Flower

“Bluegrass” Wildflowers

- Pokeweed
- Indian Tobacco
- Wild Hyacinth
- Great Blue Lobelia
- Swamp Milkweed
- Butterweed
- Toothwort
- Miami Mist
- Bunch Flower
- Spring Beauty
- Ironweed
- Elephant’s Foot
- Solomon’s Seal
- Moonseed
- Wingstem
- Rattlesnake Root
- Goldenrod
- Virginia Smartweed
- Mayapple
- Dutchman’s Breeches
- Day Flower
- Rue Anemone
- Pilewort
- Ragweed
- Thoroughwort
- Sticktight
- Sessile Trillium
- American Germander
- Blue-Eyed Grass
- Wild Petunia
- Carolina Geranium
- Daisy Fleabane
- Short’s Aster
- White Trout-Lily
- Evening Primrose

“Appalachian Plateau”

- Little Brown Jug
- Rockcastle Aster
- Large-Leaf Aster
- Wild Strawberry
- Spotted Wintergreen
- Stiff-Haired Sunflower
- Hybrid Sunflower
- Jack-in-the-Pulpit
- Mayapple
- Obedient Plant
- Rattlesnake Plantain
- Bluestem Goldenrod
- Great Blue Lobelia
- Tall Sunflower

“Shawnee Hills” Wildflowers

- Sessile Trillium
- Bellwort
- Large-Leaf Waterleaf
- White Trout-Lily
- Bloodroot
- Wild Ginger
- Dutchman’s Breeches
- Jacob’s Ladder
- Cut-Leaf Toothwort
- Wild Hyacinth
- Blue Phlox
- Dwarf Larkspur
- Southern Blue Flag

“Knob’s” Wildflowers

- Southern Blazing Star
- Solomon’s Seal
- Wild Ginger
- Hoary Mountain-Mint
- Gray-Headed Coneflower
- Purple Coneflower
- Tall Coreopsis
- New England Aster
- Indian Tobacco
- Jacob’s Ladder
- Black-Eyed Susan

“Mississippi Embayment” Wildflowers

- Dayflower
- Wild Hibiscus
- Aquatic Milkweed
- Compass Plant
- Partridge Pea
- Sweet Coneflower

Goldenrods of The Arboretum

- Cut-Leaf Goldenrod
- Short’s Goldenrod
- Sweet Goldenrod
- Gray Goldenrod
- Stiff Goldenrod
- Erect Goldenrod
- Blue-Stemmed Goldenrod
- Tall Goldenrod
- Canada Goldenrod
- Showy Goldenrod
- Rock Goldenrod
- Mountain Goldenrod