



Green Corner NWPA Synod Green Team

Why Use Native Plants?

For the full article go to: www.psu.edu/why-use-native-plants July 5, 2023

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources describes a native plant as one which occurred within this region before settlement by Europeans. Native plants include the ferns, grasses, perennial and annual wildflowers, woody trees, shrubs, and vines that covered Penn's Woods when the first settlers came.

Native plants are generally easier to grow and cheaper to maintain.

Native plants are well adapted to our climate and soils because they evolved here. This means they are generally easier to care for once they are established, needing little or no pruning, deadheading, watering, or fertilizing. *Large lawns and showy exotic plants demand high levels of fossil fuel use, fertilizers, pesticides, and supplemental water, making natives a less costly option.*

Tips on How to Use Native Plants

Here are some suggestions on how to use native plants:

- Naturalize a large area such as a meadow or woodland with more aggressive natives.
- Create a rain garden with natives; their root systems stabilize and hold the soil.
- Reduce the size of your lawn by adding a bed of native plants.
- Create a butterfly garden.

Educate yourself about native plants that are native to your area. Obtain reliable, unbiased information from university or government publications and websites. Visit native plant nurseries and preserves to get ideas. Then use native plants in your garden, knowing that you are preserving biodiversity, enhancing the livability of your home, and ensuring a legacy for your children and grandchildren.

The Green Team's purpose is to "raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation." Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.

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<https://www.northwesternpasynodelca.org/nwpa-green-team.html>

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May 2024



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