

# PLANT NATIVES

## Help our local birds and pollinators by planting native plants in your yard.

Our native plants support our native wildlife, providing just the right nutrition at the right time of the year. Did you know that caterpillars are the songbird food of choice to feed their chicks and that it takes between 6,000 to 10,000 caterpillars to raise just one nest of songbirds? These caterpillars are found almost exclusively on our native plants. You won't see the caterpillars because the birds will. Native plants also support the complete life cycle of our native pollinators. **To learn more about the importance of our native plants, [watch this video](#).**

If you're planning to plant in your yard this year, choose native species whenever possible.

[Learn what to plant and where to plant them](#)

[Learn how to build a bird friendly backyard.](#)

[Learn how to help our local pollinators](#)



## What is the difference between native, nonnative, and invasive species?

Native plants have evolved over long time periods to local conditions. They play a crucial role in the local ecosystem by providing habitat, food, or some other service that contributes to the region's biodiversity. Importantly, they have ecological "checks and balances" to keep them under control.

Non-native and invasive species are species that have been introduced from other regions of the world with similar climates to ours. While most of these non-native species stay localized and do not spread, do not support our local ecosystems. Occasionally a non-native species spreads uncontrollably once planted due to a lack of ecological checks and balances. These "invasive" plant species outcompete native species and reduce the proportion of native species in an area. When we choose to landscape and garden with non-native and invasive plants, we reduce the ecological value of our landscapes and put nearby natural areas at risk of ecologically harmful, non-native invasive plants infestations.