

Native Landscape Know-How

The Why and How of
Native Plants in Your Garden

presented by
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WRD
ENVIRONMENTAL



What are Native Plants?



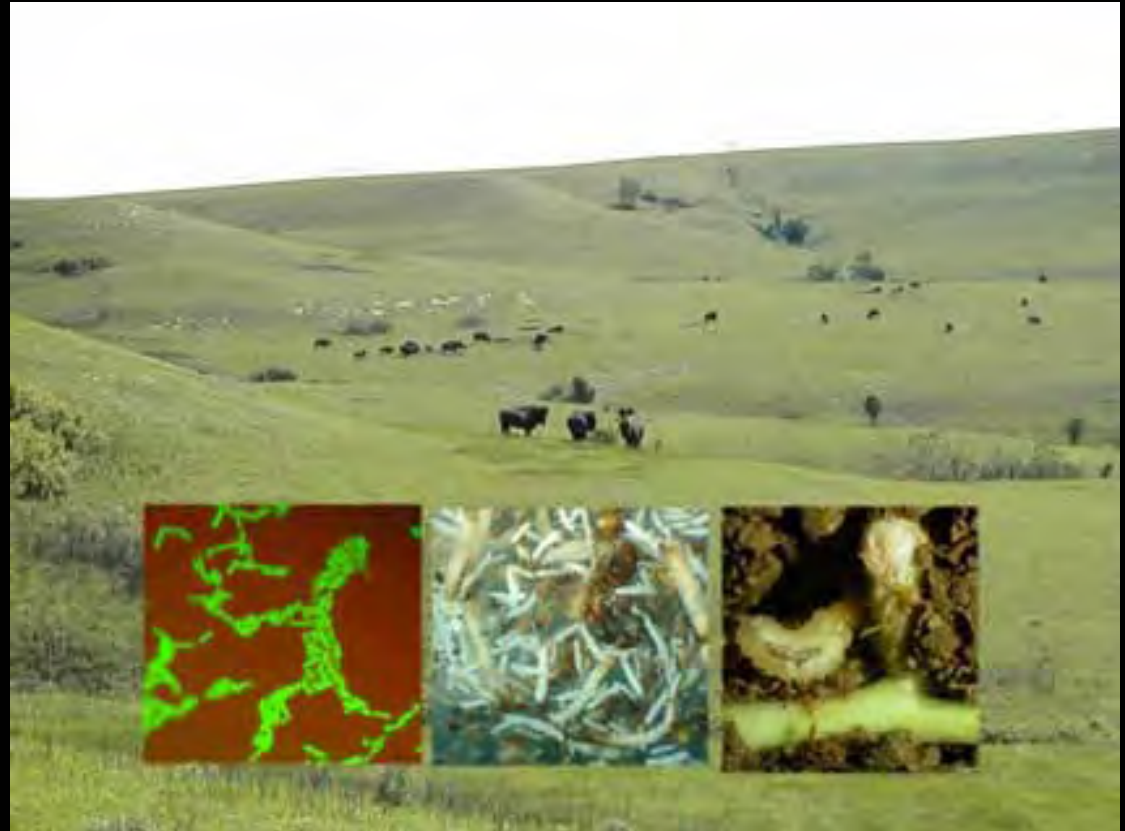
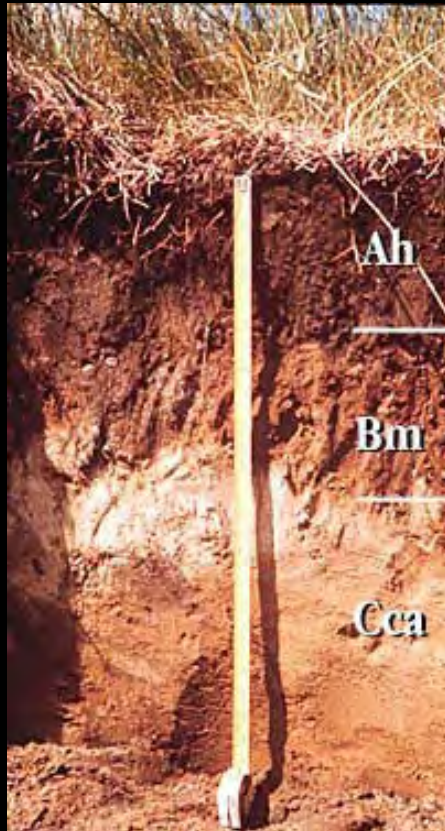
Benefits of Native Plants

Watering



Benefits of Native Plants

Soil Health



Benefits of Native Plants

Fertilizers and Pesticides



Benefits of Native Plants

Wildlife



Benefits of Native Plants

Regional Character



What Plants Are Right for Your Space?

- Your site

- Sun Exposure
- Soil Moisture Levels and composition
- Plant Communities

- You

- Level of Formality:
Perennial bed? Meadow? Rain Garden?
- Maintenance

- Plant Availability



Design

- Composition
- Research
- Pots, plugs or seeds?
- Continuous color
- Continuous food source
- Winter interest
- Neighbors and neatness
 - Prairie Dropseed
 - Turf border and fences
 - Signage and conversation



Installation

Site Preparation

- Tilling
- Herbicides
- Smothering
- Compost
- Mycorrhizal Fungi



Installation

- Trees and shrubs
- Perennials
- Seed
- Professionals



Care

- The first year
- The first 3 years
- Mulch
- Weeding!
- Mowing or burning



Plant Species

Nodding Onion (*Allium cernuum*)

PROFILE

- Height: 1-2'
- Bloom Color: Pink
- Bloom Time: May-July
- Sun: Full Sun to Partial Shade
- Moisture: Mesic to Dry



Plant Species

Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)

PROFILE

- Height: 1-2'
- Bloom Color: Blue
- Bloom Time: April-May
- Sun: Partial Sun to Shade
- Moisture: Wet Mesic to Mesic



Plant Species

Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)

PROFILE

- Height: 2-5'
- Bloom Color: White
- Bloom Time: June-July
- Sun: Full Sun to Shade
- Moisture: Mesic to Dry Mesic
- Soil: Prefers Sandy Loam



Plant Species

Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)

PROFILE

- Height: 2' (up to 4' flowers)
- Bloom Color: Green
- Bloom Time: August to September
- Sun: Full Sun to Partial Shade
- Moisture: Mesic to Dry



Plant Species

Blue Flag Iris (*Iris virginica*)

PROFILE

- Height: 2-3'
- Bloom Color: Light Blue
- Bloom Time: May to July
- Sun: Full Sun to Partial Shade
- Moisture: Wet



Iris
Photo by Ann Murray
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Plant Species

Blue Wild Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)

PROFILE

- Height: 2-4'
- Bloom Color: Blue
- Bloom Time: May to July
- Sun: Full Sun to Partial Shade
- Moisture: Wet Mesic to Mesic



Plant Species

Black Cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*)

PROFILE

- Height: 4-6'
- Bloom Color: White
- Bloom Time: August to September
- Sun: Shade
- Moisture: Wet Mesic to Dry Mesic



Plant Species

Prairie Alumroot (*Heuchera richardsonii*)

PROFILE

- Height: 2-3'
- Bloom Color: Green
- Bloom Time: May to July
- Sun: Full Sun to Partial Shade
- Moisture: Wet Mesic to Dry



Plant Species

Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)

PROFILE

- Height: 2-4'
- Sun: Partial Shade
- Moisture: Mesic to dry Mesic



Plant Species

Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

PROFILE

- Height: 1-3'
- Bloom Color: Yellow
- Bloom Time: June to October
- Sun: Full Sun to Partial Shade
- Moisture: Wet Mesic to Dry



Plant Species

Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*)

PROFILE

Height: 1-3'
Bloom Color: Blue
Bloom Time: May to July
Sun: Full Sun to Partial Shade
Moisture: Wet Mesic to Dry



Plant Species

Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

PROFILE

- Height: 3-9'
- Sun: Full Sun
- Moisture: Wet to Mesic





KEY

S – Full Sun

PS – Partial Shade

– Shade

- Wet

– Mesic

– Dry

PLANTS

Nodding Onion (FS-PS; M-D)

Virginia Bluebells (PS-S; WM-M)

Christmas Fern (PS; M-DM)

Black-Eyed Susan (FS-PS; WM-D)

Ohio Spiderwort (FS-PS; WM-D)

Switchgrass (FS; W-M)

Foxglove Beardtongue (FS-S; M-DM)

Prairie Alumroot (FS-PS; WM-D)

Black Cohosh (S; WM-DM)

Blue Wild Indigo (FS-PS; WM-M)

Blue Flag Iris (FS-PS; W)

Prairie Dropseed (FS-PS; M-D)

Plant Sources

- Seed
 - Gather your own?
 - Mail order seed mixes
- Nurseries and Garden Centers
 - Make requests
- Plant exchanges

*Note: The more local the better. Ask where the seed stock comes from.



Resources

- **Examples:**
 - Chicago Botanic Garden
 - Morton Arboretum
 - Chicago Center for Green Technology
 - Garfield Park Conservatory
- **Books**
 - Plants of the Chicago Region (Swink and Wilhelm)
 - Gardening with Prairie Plants (Sally Wasowski)
 - The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook (Packard and Mutel)
- **Organizations**
 - Midwest Ecological Landscaping Association (MELA)
 - Wild Ones
 - GreenNet
 - Chicago Wilderness



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