

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

The species of native plants you see here have been growing in this region since before European settlers arrived. Native plants are important habitat for wildlife, providing food and shelter.



Larry Allain @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Grey-headed coneflower (Ratibida pinnata) attracts butterflies and is a food source for birds in the fall.



G.A. Cooper @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

The attractive flowers and colorful berries of bearberry (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi), also called kinnikinnick, make it a popular ground cover. The berries are a food source for wildlife.

MILKWEED: A SPECIAL STORY



Melissa Green, USFS



Thomas G. Barnes, University of Kentucky



Melissa Green, USFS

Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is critical to the life cycle of monarch butterflies. Monarchs eat the flower nectar and lay their eggs only on milkweed. The larvae are not affected by the poison they absorb from the leaves; instead they become distasteful to potential predators. Monarchs complete a multi-generational migration each year between Mexico and the northern U.S. and Canada that would be impossible without milkweed.

Wild columbine (Aquilegia canadensis) is a good source of nectar for hummingbirds. Can you guess why?



Jane Villa-Lobos @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

One of autumn's showiest flowers, New England aster (Symphyotrichum novae-angliae) attracts moths and butterflies, and is an important source of nectar for bees.



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An indicator of poor soil, sweetfern (Comptonia peregrina) is not really a fern at all; look for its woody stems. Its leaves are very aromatic when crushed.



Thomas G. Barnes, University of Kentucky

Look for wild geranium (Geranium maculatum) flowers in late spring.

