

Maryland Conservation Gardening

About 70 percent of the land in the United States is privately owned, and conservation of that land depends on the dedication of people who live and work on it. While farmers and ranchers manage much of that land, homeowners also make an important contribution.

By practicing conservation gardening, you can have a beautiful, Earth-friendly yard while minimizing inputs of water, fertilizer, and pesticides. Proper plant selection is key to successful conservation gardening. You can choose plants that attract birds and butterflies, grow under less-than-ideal conditions, or that actually improve your soil. The most successful plants are often those that are native to your local area because they are adapted to local soil conditions and climate.

You have probably heard about native plants and seen them at your garden center. You may already have them in your yard—American holly, blueberries, asters, and sunflowers are common native landscape plants. This brochure includes a list of several native plants and some uses for which they are suitable.

The symbols beside each category below also appear on the following pages next to appropriate plants.



Wildlife gardening: By growing plants that provide food and shelter for birds, small mammals, beneficial insects, and other wildlife, you can keep your backyard healthy and interesting.



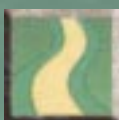
Butterfly gardening: Select plants that provide nectar and larval food for Maryland's many butterfly species. Helpful pollinators like native bees will also be attracted.



Shade gardening: Some native plants thrive in shady, often overlooked areas in your yard.



Water conservation: Using drought-tolerant plants helps conserve precious water resources.



Erosion control: Plants that hold soil in place help protect the Chesapeake Bay. You can prevent soil erosion as well as water and pesticide runoff by having plants in your yard and reducing the amount of hard surfaces like pavement.

Native Plant List

A few examples of plants suitable for conservation gardening follow. Each plant name is followed by the symbol for a particular use. Check with local nurseries to see which plants are available in your area. Many native plants are available at botanic garden and arboretum plant sales.

Grasses

broomsedge
(*Andropogon virginicus*)



bottlebrush grass
(*Elymus hystrix*)



little bluestem
(*Schizachyrium scoparium*)



indiangrass
(*Sorghastrum nutans*)



switchgrass
(*Panicum virgatum*)



river oats
(*Chasmanthium latifolium*)



Groundcovers



green and gold
(*Chrysogonum virginianum*)



lady fern
(*Athyria filix-femina*)



partridgeberry
(*Mitchella repens*)



moss phlox
(*Phlox subulata*)



Wildflowers

eastern columbine
(*Aquilegia canadensis*)



New England aster
(*Aster novae-angliae*)



New York ironweed
(*Vernonia noveboracensis*)



butterflyweed
(*Asclepias tuberosa*)



coreopsis
(*Coreopsis verticillata*)



beebalm
(*Monarda didyma*)



swamp sunflower
(*Helianthus angustifolius*)



beardtongue
(*Penstemon digitalis*)



Trees and Shrubs

sweet pepperbush
(*Clethra alnifolia*)



spicebush
(*Lindera benzoin*)



arrowwood
(*Viburnum dentatum*)



elderberry
(*Sambucus canadensis*)



serviceberry
(*Amelanchier canadensis*)



fringetree
(*Chionanthus virginicus*)



red maple
(*Acer rubrum*)



willow oak
(*Quercus phellos*)



shagbark hickory
(*Carya ovata*)



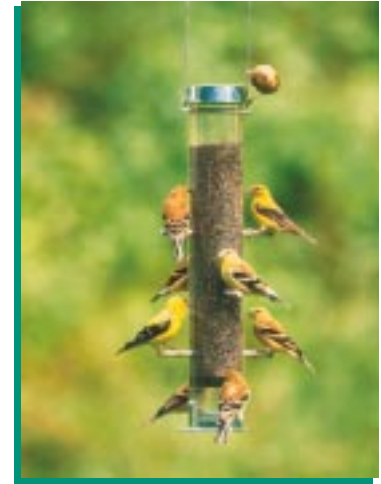
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

provides program and technical assistance to farmers, landowners, and communities to help them protect, develop, and wisely use our soil, water, and other natural resources through voluntary conservation programs. NRCS offices are co-located with the local Soil Conservation District in each Maryland county.



Volunteers help NRCS, through its national Earth Team Volunteer Program, by serving as conservation caretakers within their communities. NRCS Maryland is seeking volunteers who can give their time and talent to help conserve and protect soil, water, and wildlife habitat.

*To learn more about NRCS in Maryland, visit our website:
www.md.nrcs.usda.gov or call us at (410) 757 0861*



NRCS National Plant Materials Center (NPMC) develops regional native plant species and vegetation technology to protect and improve natural resources. Located in Beltsville, Maryland, the NPMC conducts agricultural research, plant demonstrations and assists in the transfer of technology developed by the 26 other USDA Plant Materials Centers in the United States.



*To learn more about the National Plant Materials Center in Maryland, visit our website:
<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.