

# Native Vegetation

Imagine filling your garden with beautiful plants that *require little or no irrigation, fertilizer or tending*. It turns out that **native plants**, though overlooked by landscapers for decades, can provide an aesthetic garden with great **practical benefits and uses**:

## Benefits of Native Plants

- Adapted to natural, local, environmental conditions
- Require little or no irrigation once established
- Many are long lasting perennials
- Resistant to pests
- Deep roots aid water infiltration, and reduce runoff
- Provide habitat for wildlife; especially butterflies and hummingbirds
- Help stop erosion
- Absorb pollutants like sediment and excess nutrients (fertilizer)
- Winter hardy and drought tolerant
- Help create biodiversity!

## Ways to Use Native Plants

- Massed together within defined garden borders
- In traditional gardens with non-native plants
- In foundation plantings
- As a focal point in the landscape
- In containers
- In transition zones between lawn and areas farther from the house
- To improve wildlife habitat
- In shrub rows and for windbreaks
- In wet areas such as water gardens, bogs and ponds
- In areas prone to erosion
- Anywhere you would consider using non-native plants!



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Missouri Department of Natural Resources