

Go Native

Plants that have grown in an area for a long time, even before people settled there, are called “native.” “Introduced” plants are brought into yards from other areas of the world.



Native plants are well-suited for their area. They usually need less water in the summer than introduced plants. Native plants often provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Many introduced plants give little food to wild animals. Some can also become pests, as they compete with native plants

and reduce wildlife food and shelter.

Because of their low maintenance and high conservation value, consider native plants for landscaping. Their value and beauty are making them popular, and many nurseries offer a wide variety. You can also visit a library, garden club or nature center to learn about native plants in your area.

Consider xeriscaping. This is landscaping techniques designed to minimize the need for watering. Contact your county extension agent to find out what kinds of plants, trees and shrubs to use in a xeriscaping project.



ROCKIN' ROCK GARDEN

Is there a spot in your yard which is difficult to maintain as a lawn? Consider making it a rock garden. A rock garden with flowering plants can add a nice accent to your yard while providing habitat for wildlife!

Spot the Wildlife

Make a wildlife checklist on a piece of paper. Have spaces for the names of animals and when and where in your yard they were seen. Put the list where your family can see it and contribute.

Family members can have fun as they identify animals together (don't forget insects!). Discuss what parts of your yard attract different wildlife. You may even want to have a family contest to see who can spot the most wildlife.

