Bring wildlife to your yard with native plants

See plant lists beginning on slide 38
Lists with Latin names beginning on slide 47
We all want to bring birds and butterflies to our yards
Here’s how you can do it.
Most plant-eating insects (like butterfly caterpillars) can only feed on native plants.
Planting native plants will provide food for plant-eating insects such as caterpillars (there are hundreds of different kinds), as well as provide food for the birds and other animals that feed on those insects.
What do we mean by “native”? A plant is native to Connecticut if it was growing here before the arrival of European settlers.
Many plants that now grow here are not native.
And, many of the plants that are sold by nurseries are not native. Some are even invasive.
A yard with a variety of native plants will provide the requirements that butterflies and birds need to survive.
Nearly all of our terrestrial birds raise their young on insects.
Many of those insects are caterpillars that feed on plants. Native plants.
Which Connecticut plant provides food for the greatest number of caterpillar species?
The mighty oak.
Over 500 species of caterpillars feed on its leaves.
Compare that to a popular landscaping plant, butterfly bush, which does not feed any of our native caterpillars.
Instead of butterfly bush, how about butterfly milkweed?
Monarch butterfly caterpillars feed only on milkweeds
Without milkweed plants, monarchs would not exist.
Other specialists include the Baltimore checkerspot whose caterpillars feed on turtlehead.
The spicebush swallowtail caterpillar feeds on spicebush or sassafras.
Some more plants to think about for your native landscape:

(Remember to provide both nectar sources for pollinators, and host plants for caterpillars)
Wild columbine is one of the first native wildflowers to bloom in the spring.

Remember to plant a variety of nectar sources that will bloom throughout the season.
Bee balm blooms in July and is a favorite of hummingbirds. Although hummingbirds feed primarily on insects, they also depend on nectar for energy.
Cardinal flower blooms into August, providing nectar for hummingbirds after the bee balm has gone by.
Trumpet honeysuckle provides nectar for hummingbirds and is a food plant for the hummingbird clearwing moth caterpillar.
New England aster blooms in September and October and is a host plant for many caterpillars.
If you are starting with bare ground, perhaps after removing a section of lawn, don’t worry if it looks a little sparse at first. Native plants are well-adapted to growing in our native soil.
Your native landscape will soon fill in
But what about when the native wildflowers lose their blooms?
That’s a beautiful sight for American goldfinch who feed on the seeds.
Indigo buntings will fuel up on seeds before their fall migration.
Some plants, like common evening primrose, will still have caterpillars that migrating warblers will fuel up on. (Hummingbirds also feed on the nectar of common evening primrose.)
You may want to let a section of your yard “go wild”. Although some non-natives will likely invade and will need to be dealt with, native plants that might pop up may include joe pye weed, boneset and common evening primrose.
If you have Joe Pye weed, you will have butterflies
Boneset attracts a variety of pollinators,
and things that
eat pollinators
And things that eat things that eat pollinators.
The food web in action.
Here is a partial list of plants native to Connecticut to help you get started
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bloom time</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Part sun</th>
<th>Shade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Blue-eyed grass</td>
<td>Columbine, wild red</td>
<td>Carolina spring beauty</td>
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<td>Lupine, wild blue</td>
<td>Hepatica</td>
<td>Bloodroot</td>
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<td>Pussytoes, field</td>
<td>Mayapple</td>
<td>Foamflower</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Golden alexanders</td>
<td>Wild blue phlox</td>
<td>Dutchman’s breeches</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Milkweed, common</td>
<td>Wild geranium</td>
<td>Wood anemone</td>
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<td>Milkweed, butterfly</td>
<td>Foxglove beardtongue</td>
<td>Golden ragwort</td>
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<td>Milkweed, swamp</td>
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<td>Bluebead lily</td>
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<td>Wild bergamot</td>
<td>Cardinal flower</td>
<td>Black cohosh</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Scarlet bee balm</td>
<td>Culver’s root</td>
<td>Ramps</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joe-Pye weed</td>
<td>Great lobelia</td>
<td>American spikenard</td>
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<td>Boneset</td>
<td>Woodland sunflower</td>
<td>Hog peanut</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Purple-headed sneezeweed</td>
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<td>Turtlehead</td>
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<td>Pearly everlasting</td>
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<td>Common evening primrose</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>Showy goldenrod</td>
<td>Blue-stem goldenrod</td>
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<td>New England aster</td>
<td>White snakeroot</td>
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<td>Fall sneezeweed</td>
<td>Heart-leaved aster</td>
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<td>Small white American-aster</td>
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<td>Calico American-aster</td>
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<td>Bloom time</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Birdfoot violet</td>
<td>Phlox, creeping</td>
<td>Dutchman’s breeches</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Strawberry, Virginia</td>
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<td>Trout lily</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Bearberry</td>
<td>Golden ragwort</td>
<td>Canada mayflower</td>
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<td>Blue-eyed grass</td>
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<td>Wild ginger</td>
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<td>Virginia creeper</td>
<td>Yellow star grass</td>
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<td>Twinflower</td>
<td>Partridgeberry</td>
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<td>Wintergreen (tea berry)</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>Heath aster</td>
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</table>
Shrubs/Vines

**Sun**
- Fragrant sumac
- Beach plum
- Northern bayberry
- Sweetbells
- Red chokeberry
- Virginia rose
- New Jersey tea
- Staghorn sumac

**Part sun**
- Running serviceberry
- American black currant
- Nannyberry
- Highbush blueberry
- Northern bush-honeysuckle
- Elderberry
- Red-osier dogwood
- Trumpet honeysuckle
- Purple-flowering raspberry
- Sweet pepperbush

**Shade**
- Spicebush
- Pinxter bloom
- Nannyberry
- Hobblebush
- Winterberry
- Mountain laurel
- Great laurel
- Rosebay rhododendron
- Arrowwood
- Witch hazel
# Grasses, sedges, rushes and ferns

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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Part sun</th>
<th>Shade</th>
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<td><strong>Dry</strong></td>
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<td>Little bluestem</td>
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<td>Poverty grass</td>
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<td>Purple love grass</td>
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<td>Indian grass</td>
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<td>Big bluestem</td>
<td>Pennsylvania sedge</td>
<td>Common polypody</td>
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<td>Path rush</td>
<td>Spreading sedge</td>
<td>Christmas fern</td>
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<td>Virginia wild rye</td>
<td>Wood rush</td>
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<td>Switchgrass</td>
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<td>Lurid sedge</td>
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<td>Maidenhair fern</td>
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<td>Soft rush</td>
<td>Gray sedge</td>
<td>Cinnamon fern</td>
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<td>Fox sedge</td>
<td>Ostrich fern</td>
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<td>Cotton grass</td>
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<td>Cotton grass</td>
<td>Silvery sedge</td>
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<td>Spike rush</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Other Important Shrubs and Trees

- Oaks
- Willows (including pussy willow)
- Black cherry
- Dogwoods
- Alder
- Hickory
- Aspen
- Maple
- Shadbush (serviceberry)
- Hornbeam
- Eastern redcedar
- Northern white-cedar
- Beaked hazelnut
- American hazelnut
- Sweetbay
- Sweet gale
- Fireberry hawthorn
- Sweetfern
**Beware** of plants that are described as “naturalized”. These plants are not native. Asiatic bittersweet and other invasive plants are “naturalized”.

To see if a plant is native to Connecticut, visit the New England Wildflower Society at:  
https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/

To search for native plants by state, visit the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at  
http://www.wildflower.org/plants/

The CT Botanical Society lists a few native wildflowers to get started with native plant gardening:  
https://www.ct-botanical-society.org/Gardens/view
The native plants that have been listed here are available for sale at native plant nurseries in CT. More native plant species may become available for sale in the future. When buying native plants, ask about the source. It’s better to buy plants that were grown from a local seed source than from a seed source from a different region, in order to preserve the local genetics.

**Where to buy natives:**

**Earth Tones native plant nursery** - http://www.earthtonesnatives.com/


**Ernst Conservation Seed** - www.ernstseed.com


CT DEEP’s Connecticut Native Tree and Shrub Availability List has a list of native plants and the nurseries that sell those plants:
This is the top book on the subject of sustaining wildlife in your yard with native plants.

This book lists host plants for different species of butterfly caterpillars.

This book lists host plants for different species of moth and butterfly caterpillars.
Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group
http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/
• Native plant list
• Invasive plant management
• Alternatives for Invasive Ornamental Plant Species

Pollinator Partnership
http://www.pollinator.org

Alternatives for Invasive Ornamental Plant Species

SELECTING PLANTS FOR POLLINATORS

Eastern Broadleaf Forest
Oceanic Province

A Regional Guide for Farmers, Land Managers, and Gardeners in the Northeast

Including the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Parts of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and New York.
Common and scientific names

Perennials
American spikenard (Aralia racemosa)
Black cohosh (Actaea racemose)
Bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis)
Bluebead lily (Clintonia borealis)
Blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium spp.)
Blue-stem goldenrod (Solidago caesia)
Boneset (Eupatorium perfoliatum)
Calico American-aster (Symphyotrichum lateriflorum)
Cardinal flower (Lobelia cardinalis)
Carolina spring beauty (Claytonia caroliniana)
Columbine, wild red (Aquilegia canadensis)
Culver’s root (Veronicastrum virginicum)
Dutchman’s breeches (Dicentra cucullaria)
Fall sneezeweed (Helenium autumnale)
Foamflower (Tiarella spp.)
Foxglove beardtongue (Penstemon digitalis)
Golden Alexanders (Zizia aurea)
Golden ragwort (Packera aurea)
Great lobelia (Lobelia siphilitica)
Heart-leaved aster (Symphyotrichum cordifolium)
Hepatica (Hepatica nobilis)
Hog peanut (Amphicarpaea bracteata)
Joe-Pye weed (Eutrochium maculatum)
Lupine, wild blue (Lupinus perennis)
Mayapple (Podophyllum peltatum)
Milkweed, butterfly (Asclepias tuberosa)
Milkweed, common (Asclepias syriaca)
Milkweed, swamp (Asclepias incarnate)
New England aster (Symphyotrichum novae-angliae)
Pearly everlasting (Anaphalis margaritacea)
Purple-headed sneezeweed (Helenium flexuosum)

Pussytoes, field (Antennaria neglecta)
Ramps (Allium tricoccum)
Scarlet bee balm (Monarda didyma)
Showy goldenrod (Solidago erecta)
Small white American-aster (Symphyotrichum ericoides)
Smooth aster (Symphyotrichum laeve)
Turtlehead (Chelone glabra)
White snakeroot (Ageratina altissima)
Wild bergamot (Monarda fistulosa)
Wild blue phlox (Phlox divaricata)
Wild geranium (Geranium maculatum)
Wood anemone (Anemone quinquefolia)
Woodland sunflower (Helianthus divaricatus)

Ground covers
Bearberry (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi)
Birdfoot violet (Viola pedata)
Blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium angustifolium)
Bunchberry (Cornus Canadensis)
Canada mayflower (Maianthemum canadense)
Dutchman’s breeches (Dicentra cucullaria)
Golden ragwort (Packera aurea)
Heath aster (Symphyotrichum ericoides)
Partridgeberry (Mitchella repens)
Phlox, creeping (Phlox stolonifera)
Strawberry, Virginia (Fragaria virginiana)
Trot lily (Erythronium americanum)
Twinflower (Linnaea borealis)
Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia)
Wild ginger (Asarum canadense)
Wintergreen (tea berry) (Gaultheria procumbens)
Yellow star grass (Hypoxis hirsuta)
### Shrubs/Vines

- American black currant (*Ribes americanum*)
- Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*)
- Beach plum (*Prunus maritima*)
- Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*)
- Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatic*)
- Great laurel (*Rhododendron maximum*)
- Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)
- Hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*)
- Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*)
- Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)
- Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)
- New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)
- Northern bayberry (*Morella pensylvanica*)
- Northern bush-honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)
- Pinxter bloom (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*)
- Purple-flowering raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*)
- Red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*)
- Redosier dogwood (*Swida sericea*)
- Rosebay rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*)
- Running serviceberry (*Amelanchier stolonifera*)
- Shrubby cinquefoil (*Dasiphora fruticose*)
- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
- Steeplebush (*Spiraea tomentosa*)
- Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)
- Sweetbells (*Leucothoe racemose*)
- Trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
- Virginia rose (*Rosa virginiana*)
- Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
- Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

### Grasses, sedges, rushes and ferns

- Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)
- Common polypody (*Polypodium virginianum*)
- Cotton grass (*Eriophorum virginicum*)
- Fox sedge (*Carex vulpinoidea*)
- Gray sedge (*Carex grayi*)
- Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- Lurid sedge (*Carex lurida*)
- Maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*)
- Path rush (*Juncus tenui*)
- Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)
- Poverty grass (*Danthonia spicata*)
- Purple lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)
- Purpletop (*Tridens flavus*)
- Silvery sedge (*Carex canescens*)
- Soft rush (*Juncus effuses*)
- Spike rush (*Eleocharis palustris*)
- Spreading sedge (*Carex laxiculmis*)
- Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatii*)
- Virginia wild rye (*Elymus virginicus*)
- Wood rush (*Luzula multiflora*)
Other important trees and shrubs

Alder (*Alnus incana*)
American hazel*nut* (*Corylus Americana*)
American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
Aspen (*Populus spp.*)
Atlantic white-cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*)
Beaked hazel*nut* (*Corylus cornuta*)
Black cherry (*Prunus serotine*)
Dogwoods (*Swida spp.*)
Eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
Fireberry hawthorn (*Crataegus chrysocarpa*)
Hickory (*Carya spp.*)
Maple - red (*Acer rubrum*), silver (*Acer sacharinum*), sugar (*Acer saccharum*)
Oaks (*Quercus spp.*)
Shadbush (serviceberry) (*Amelanchier canadensis*)
Sweet gale (*Myrica gale*)
Sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*)
Sweetfern (*Comptonia peregrina*)
Willows, including pussy willow (*Salix spp.*)
Visit us at the
Belding
Wildlife Management Area

http://www.ct.gov/deep/belding