

Green Notes

Planting Native for Nature

MAY 2023

Let's Plant!

It's finally springtime, which has many of us thinking about what we'll plant this season. Although it's easy to turn to plants that are readily available at a store down the street, native plants offer a chance to not only beautify your yard but also develop it into a haven for nature. Native plants can be a great option to build up a healthy ecosystem, even in your own yard. Native plants provide for wildlife—birds, butterflies, and other helpful insects. Once established, native shrubs, flowers, and grasses can often tolerate a wide range of weather with little intervention—they are adapted to survive without the constant attention that more horticultural varieties may require.

Sustainability

With climate change, attention to our local nature can be even more important. Native plants provide food and shelter for our wildlife, and with all the other stresses wildlife are experiencing, providing animals with the resources they need is one way we can help. Local species of plants will provide for a greater number of insect pollinators, which makes native a great choice. Plants can also help buffer the effects of our changing climate by sequestering carbon and counteracting the urban heat island effect. Many native plants also have greater genetic diversity than horticultural varieties, and this gives them greater potential to adapt to a changing environment.

www.lakekatherine.org
7402 W Lake Katherine Dr
708-389-2168

Native Plants: Where to Find!

- **Lake Katherine's Native Plant Sale:** May 6th 10am-1pm
- **Nature Foundation of Will County, May 20 & 21:**
<https://www.willcountynature.org/2023-native-plant-sales.html>
- **West Cook Wild Ones Native Plant sale** available online with pickup June 8-10: <https://wild-ones-west-cook.myshopify.com/>
- **PossibilityPlace:**
<https://www.possibilityplace.com/>

If you don't have a place to plant your own native plants, you can support native biodiversity in other ways. You can support local nature centers and forest preserves, or you might consider whether you could promote changes to landscaping practices in community spaces—apartment complexes, places of worship, or businesses—that would bring in more native plants.

*Next editions Green Notes:
Fertilizers*