Why Plant Native Plants at Home?

- Native prairie, woodland and wetland plants have evolved to thrive in our natural conditions and, after the first season or two of establishment in your yard, typically require less maintenance than a conventional lawn or garden.

- Native plants do not require chemical fertilizer or pesticides and can save you money in the long-term, while helping the environment.

- Native plants can be quite beautiful and lend your backyard a sense of place rooted in natural history, while providing food and shelter for birds and beneficial insects (e.g. dragonflies that eat mosquitoes).

- Native and other deep-rooted plants help direct rainwater into the soil and if planted in a rain garden in conjunction with a disconnected downspout, native plants are especially effective for managing stormwater.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lawn irrigation can account for as much as 30% of a typical resident's water use. Native plants require less irrigation, and actually help reduce stormwater runoff.

We can help!

Rebates
We want to give you 50% (up to $60 rebate) off any locally-purchased native plants! All you have to do is fill out the attached rebate form and send it in with your original purchase receipt. See rebate form (attached) for more details.

Workshops
Attend a free Sustainable Backyard Workshop! The Chicago Department of Environment, along with its Sustainable Backyard partners, will be hosting a series of free informative workshops across the city. You’ll learn what you can do to green your backyard; the basics of installing and maintaining rain barrels, compost bins, trees and native plants; and where to go for more resources. For more details, visit: www.cityofchicago.org/rainbarrel.

Resources

UIUC Extension Master Gardener Program: http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/

University of Minnesota “Plant Elements of Design”: www.sustland.umn.edu/plant/

City of Chicago Rain Garden Brochure: www.cityofchicago.org/Environment

Rain Garden Network: www.raingardennetwork.com

1: Black-Eyed Susan  4: Cardinal Flower
2: Purple Cone Flower  5: Golden Alexander
3: Jacob’s Ladder
What to Do Before You Plant
There are many varieties of native plants available through Chicago's local garden centers and nurseries. Much like planning any other type of landscaping, you should take stock of your backyard resources before deciding which plants to buy:
- How much sun do you get in your backyard?
- What is the soil like?
- Are there any low areas that tend to collect water during rains?
- How much space is available for adding new plants?
- Can you remove some of your turf grass to make more room?

How to Care for Your Native Plants
Every species and variety of native plant has a different set of needs, so be sure to speak with the experts at your local garden center when you make your purchase. In general, deep-rooted perennials will need some time to establish themselves. You should be ready to provide extra care through watering and weeding during the first season or two, depending on the variety you have selected.

Local Examples of Native Plant Landscaping
- Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Prairie - 2430 N Cannon Drive
- The Chicago Center for Green Technology - 445 N Sacramento Blvd
- McCormick Center Butterfly Garden - 2301 S Lake Shore Drive
- Northerly Island - 1400 S Lynn White Drive
- The Lurie Garden at Millennium Park - 201 E Randolph Street
- Nature Boardwalk at the Lincoln Park Zoo - 2001 N Clark Street
- North Park Village Nature Center - 5801 N Pulaski Road

Recommended Native Plants for Chicago
With these things in mind, ask your local garden center experts which kinds of plants will work best for you. Here are a few common situations and the plants that will thrive under those conditions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Soil Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meadowsweet</td>
<td>Spiraea alba</td>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>White flower clusters bloom in early summer.</td>
<td>Wet to moist and well-drained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Sea Oats</td>
<td>Chasmanthium latifolium</td>
<td>Grass</td>
<td>Beautiful seed heads for cut and dried arrangements.</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained to dry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch Grass</td>
<td>Panicum virgatum</td>
<td>Grass</td>
<td>Lacy sprays, grass turns yellow in fall.</td>
<td>Wet to moist and well-drained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Bluestem</td>
<td>Schizachyrium scoparium</td>
<td>Grass</td>
<td>Ornamental grass forms very dense mounds.</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained to dry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nodding Wild Onion</td>
<td>Allium cernuum</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Pink flower clusters nod to ground, bulbs can be used raw, boiled, pickled or as seasoning.</td>
<td>Wet to moist and well-drained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Milkweed</td>
<td>Asclepias tuberosa</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Bright orange flowers are loved by butterflies.</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained to dry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England Aster</td>
<td>Aster novae-anglae</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Showy, bright purple or white flowers have orange centers.</td>
<td>Wet to moist and well-drained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pale Purple Coneflower</td>
<td>Echinacea pallida</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Pale petals droop from large cone-shaped center.</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained to dry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Coneflower</td>
<td>Echinacea purpura</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Popular native, long-lasting lavendar flowers.</td>
<td>Wet to moist and well-drained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rattlesnake Master</td>
<td>Eryngium yuccifolium</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Tough stems support balls of white flowers.</td>
<td>Wet to moist and well-drained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Flag Iris</td>
<td>Iris virginica shrevil</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Fragrant blue-violet flowers.</td>
<td>Wet to moist and well-drained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blazingstar</td>
<td>Liatris spp.</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Striking, long purple flower heads.</td>
<td>Tolerant of most soils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Blue Bells</td>
<td>Mertensia virginica</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Lovely, blue flowers, great for under trees.</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Bergamot</td>
<td>Monarda fistulosa</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Flowers of lavender or pink pompons, plant parts used for tea.</td>
<td>Tolerant of most soils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Prairie Clover</td>
<td>Petalostemon purpureum</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Beautiful in bouquets, flowers attract butterflies and bees.</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained to dry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayapple</td>
<td>Podophyllum peltatum</td>
<td>Flower</td>
<td>Spring bloom of apple-blossom-like flower.</td>
<td>Moist and well-drained.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a full list of recommended native plants, visit www.cityofchicago.org/rainbarrel.
Thank you for purchasing native plants and taking part in Chicago’s effort to manage stormwater, increase biodiversity, and reduce the urban heat island effect. Please provide the following information and original itemized receipt to receive your rebate. **Illegible or incomplete forms will not be accepted.**

### Personal Information
(please print clearly to receive your rebate):

- **Name:**
- **Address:**
- **City:** Chicago  **Zip:** 606____
- **Phone:** (      )
- **Email Address:**
- **Native Plants Planted at:**
  - [ ] same address as above
  - [ ] different address
- **Address:**
- **City:** Chicago  **Zip:** 606____

Where did you hear about this program?
______________________________

Where did you get this rebate form?
______________________________

I pledge the information I have provided is accurate and that I have read and understand the attached information. Signature: ____________________________

### Rebate Rules/Restrictions

- Rebates are only available to City of Chicago residents and native plants must be planted at a Chicago residence. Limit one of each rebate type (rain barrel, compost bin, tree, native plants) per installation address, per year. Residents are encouraged to purchase more than one tree and native plant, but should submit all 2011 native plant and tree rebates at once.
- Native plants must be purchased between September 1, 2010 and December 31, 2011.
- Rebates will not be offered for plants purchased online or outside the state of Illinois. Rebates are only available for the cost of plants. Other materials, taxes and individual costs will not be applied to rebates.

To receive your rebate, please complete the top of this form and submit it along with the original receipt by December 31, 2011, to:

**Chicago Sustainable Backyard Program**
**Chicago Department of Environment**
**30 N. LaSalle, 2nd Floor**
**Chicago, IL 60602**

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**City of Chicago Rebate Form: NATIVE PLANTS**

This Rebate Program is funded by USDA Forest Service’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.