

## Why Plant Native?

1. The resident animals are adapted to feeding on them and using their nectar.

2. They are generally not aggressive and do not disrupt the ecosystem.

3. They are naturally a part of the habitat and ecosystem that they occupy.



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## Garden Shop

Invite a Pollinator to Lunch



Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

## What are Native Plant Species?

Native plant species were here naturally before European settlement.

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## Learn More:

1. PSU Extension:

<https://extension.psu.edu/why-use-native-plants>

2. Audubon Society:

<https://www.audubon.org/content/why-native-plants-matter>

## Protect Biodiversity

Because many animals and plants co-evolved together, they depend on one another to survive. For example, numerous butterflies and moths, including the Monarch, require a specific species, such as milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.), in order to survive.



Monarch Butterfly on Goldenrod

## Be Climate Friendly

Provide a place for native plants to thrive and help the biodiversity in your area. Many native plants are being displaced by urbanization and climate change.

## Native Plant Benefits

1. **Water:** Native plants do not require extra water since they are adapted for the environment they are in.
2. **Low amount of care:** Native plants can look after themselves, reducing the need for chemicals in the environment.
3. **Wildlife food source:** Native plants provide a food source for the local wildlife, providing viewing opportunities, extra beauty, and in the case of bees, benefits for us.
4. **Help prevent erosion:** Native plants often have deeper roots than plants that are non-native.

**Data source for Native Plant numbers:** Kartesz, J.T., The Biota of North America Program (BONAP). 2015. North American Plant Atlas. (<http://bonap.net/napa>). Chapel Hill, N.C. [maps generated from Kartesz, J.T. 2015. Floristic Synthesis of North America, Version 1.0. Biota of North America Program (BONAP). (in press)].



There are 19,565 plant species native to the United States, Canada, and Greenland.



There are 2,408 plant species native to Pennsylvania.