

Some Sources of NATIVE PLANTS

by Patricia Sutton

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To help people find the top ranked plants in their county Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, is working with National Wildlife Federation's Native Plant Finder: www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/ (a work in progress).

A number of websites have **searchable Native Plant Databases** with filters to help you generate lists of plants suited for various sites on your property. Some of my favorites follow: **Prairie Nursery** www.prairienursery.com/, **Prairie Moon Nursery** www.prairiemoon.com/, **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center** <http://wildflower.org/>, and **Jersey-Friendly Yards Website** www.jerseyyards.org/jersey-friendly-plants/ which has filters for "native plants only" (@ 317), wildlife value, region, ecoregion (barrier island/coastal, Pinelands), deer resistant, drought tolerance, salt tolerance, and many more filters.

PLEASE NOTE: many native plant nurseries are not like the nursery down the road. Often they are owned, maintained, and run by a caring native plant grower who is surviving by also working a 2nd job or sometimes even a 2nd full-time job that covers their health insurance and most of their income. This being the case, they are not available 24-7 to answer all your questions. But when they are open or hosting a pop-up sale, they eagerly and gladly share their knowledge and will guide you towards the best native plants for your site. These same **growers collect their own local native seeds or cuttings** (they do not dig up from the wild), and they **do not use systemic Neonicotinoid Insecticides** that would cancel out future generations of butterflies and moths (see this handout's final pages for more on Neonics). So, don't panic when their milkweeds have aphids; if there are no aphids, it means the grower has spent hours hand picking them off. Know too that **growing from seed can be a lengthy process**. The Turk's-Cap Lily, *Lilium superbum*, that I purchased from Clemenson Farms Native Nursery in 2014 (now a patch of 44 stalks a/o May 2024) took the Clemensons 8 years to grow out from seed to plant that could be sold. Understand too, that **some natives are slow to break ground in spring so are not going to be available during early-season sales**: milkweeds, Partridge Pea, and Joe-pye-weed to name a few.

NEW JERSEY

Goshen Gardens (Nursery), 570 N Delsea Dr, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210; 609-778-4075 (Cape May Co.); goshengardensnj@gmail.com; www.goshengardensnj.com
2024: SPRING hours: April 13 - June 30: Saturdays & Sundays (9 am - 4 pm). July & August SUMMER hours: Saturdays (9 am - 4 pm). September 7 - October 27: Saturdays & Sundays (9 am - 4 pm). See website for details & hours. Nice selection of native trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, and non-native "Chocolate Cake" annuals (Mexican Sunflower, Zinnia, etc.). They only sell what they grow and all plants are pesticide free.

Summersweet Native Plants is **open by appointment ONLY mid-April through late October or November (depending on weather)**; 6863 Harding Highway, Mays Landing, NJ 08330 (Atlantic Co.); 609-287-0596; Place orders, make an appointment to visit the nursery, or schedule an order pick up on the website. The FAQ page will answer many questions.
<https://summersweetnativeplants.com/shop/>

D&R Greenway Land Trust's **Native Plant Sales** at the Johnson Education Center, One Preservation Place, Princeton, NJ 08540 (Mercer Co.); 609-924-4646. Check website for spring native plant sale dates, availability list, & future sales:
<https://drgreenway.org/shop/native-plants/>

NEW JERSEY (continued)

The following four native plant nurseries in Cape May County (and one in Cumberland Co.) promote pop-up sales on their Facebook Pages:

Flora for Fauna Nursery **open by appointment ONLY**, but owner Karen Williams hosts a number of Open House Sales each year at 1209 Freidriechstadt Ave, Woodbine, NJ 08270 (Cape May Co.); 609-442-3747; flora4fauna@verizon.net. Follow "**Flora for Fauna**" Facebook page for Open House Sale dates, times, plant lists, and payment options.

Heidi Hanlon grows native perennials, shrubs, and trees that benefit wildlife. Her **plants are available by appointment ONLY** through the growing season, but she also hosts pop-up sales at 24 Cardinal Drive (off Rt. 47 near mm 13), Cape May Court House, NJ (Cape May Co.); hjhanlon@yahoo.com, 609-425-9097. Follow "**Wild About Plants at Heidi's Acre**" Facebook page for sale dates, times, plant lists, and payment options.

Dustin Welch, The Wildlife Gardener, **offers an assortment of native plants for retail sale and creative landscape design by appointment ONLY**. He also hosts pop-up sales at 14 Woodland Road (off Goshen Road), Cape May Court House, NJ (Cape May Co.); 484-538-7486; TheWildlifeGardenerNJ@gmail.com. Follow "**The Wildlife Gardener**" Facebook page for sale dates, times, plant lists, and payment options.

(OVER)

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NEW JERSEY (continued)

Jamie Warner's "The Great Full Garden," Dividing Creek, NJ (Cumberland Co.), 856-364-2375. **Sells native perennials** and medicinal plants, herbal remedies at farmers' markets, eco-fairs, etc. Follow "**The Great Full Garden**" **Facebook page** for sale dates, times, and plant lists. www.thegreatfullgarden.com
thegreatfullgarden@gmail.com

Pinelands Preservation Alliance hosts a "**Spring Native Plant Sale**" each April at the Pinelands Visitor Center (Bishop Farmstead), 17 Pemberton Rd, Southampton, NJ 08088 (Burlington Co.). Check website for sale date, time, & plant list: <https://pinelandsalliance.org/explore-the-pinelands/pinelands-events-and-programs/spring-native-plant-sales/>

NJ Audubon's **Spring Native Plant Sales** occur at 3 NJ Audubon Centers in early May. Selections are limited and there is no pre-ordering, so arrive early. Check website for full details and plant lists: www.njaudubon.org/native-plant-sales/ Left over plants are available for sale after Spring Sale until they are gone.

- Nature Center of Cape May (NCCM), 1600 Delaware Ave., Cape May, NJ 08204 (Cape May Co.); 609-427-3045; nccm@njaudubon.org
- Lorrimer Sanctuary, 790 Ewing Avenue, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417 (Bergen Co.); 908-396-6568; lorrimer@njaudubon.org
- Scherman Hoffman Sanctuary, 11 Hardscrabble Rd, Bernardsville, NJ 07924 (Somerset Co.); 908-396-7409; shws@njaudubon.org

Cicconi Farms, 1005 Farmingdale Road, Jackson, NJ 08527 (Ocean Co.); 732-363-1420; www.cicconifarms.com/ Mix of natives & non-natives (including some invasives, so beware).

Earth First Native Plant Nursery (Atlantic County); Raven Ahmed (grower/owner); 609-287-5090; Earth1stnatives@aol.com. **MAIL-ORDER only**: http://www.earthfirstnatives.com/Customr_Service.html

Pinelands Direct Native Plants, an **online resource for native plants of the NE**: <http://www.pinelandsdirect.com/>; 609-379-3099. Have your order shipped or schedule a curbside pickup at Pinelands Direct (some larger plants are only available for pickup), 25346 Mount Pleasant Road, Columbus, New Jersey 08022 (Burlington Co.). Partnered with Pinelands Nursery to provide a retail outlet for native plants.

The Pollen Nation located in Bridgetown, NJ; **MAIL-ORDER only**; www.thepollennation.com. Plants are grown as deeper than normal landscape plugs (root mass of each plug is @ 2" by 4.5"), providing an accessible and affordable way to garden with native plants.

NEW JERSEY (continued)

Rare Find Nursery, 957 Patterson Road, Jackson, NJ 08527 (Ocean Co.); 732-833-0613; support@rarefindnursery.com. A **MAIL-ORDER nursery, open by appointment ONLY** (schedule a visit April thru October by calling or emailing). <https://www.rarefindnursery.com/>

Toadshade Wildflower Farm Native Plant Nursery (Hunterdon County). **MAIL-ORDER only**: plants & seeds, but also preorders are welcome at all public events Toadshade attends. <http://www.toadshade.com/>; 908-996-7500. Toadshade partners with the Frenchtown Home & Hardware Store (11 Kingwood Ave, Frenchtown, NJ 08825), where orders can be picked up 7 days a week (with 24 hour notice, M-F). When ordering choose: (1) to have your order mailed, or (2) let Toadshade know you'll pick up your order at the hardware store, or (3) during your online checkout select pickup location at public event Toadshade attending (website clearly explains).

Triple Oaks Nursery, 2359 Delsea Drive, Franklinville, NJ 08322 (Gloucester, Co.); 856-694-4272; www.tripleoaks.com/ Some natives.

Wild Ridge Plants, 170 Mountain Rd, Alpha, NJ 08865 (Warren Co.); 908-235-7622 (**NEW #**); <http://wildridgeplants.com/>. **MAIL-ORDER and pick up by appointment only**. Native plants are chemical free and grown from locally collected seeds.

Native Plant Society of NJ (look for a chapter near you): <https://npsnj.org/native-plants/where-to-buy-natives/>

PENNSYLVANIA:

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, 1635 River Road, New Hope, PA 18938 (Bucks Co.); 215-862-2924; www.bhwp.org/. The **Native Plant Nursery is open between mid-April and late October**. Check nursery hours & plant availability at: www.bhwp.org/grow/native-plant-nursery/ **See native wildflowers, shrubs, & trees in a natural setting**; over 700 native plant species grow naturally on the Preserve's 134 acres (4 ½ miles of trails). Admission fee for non-members.

Churchville Nature Center, 501 Churchville Lane, Churchville, PA 18966 (Bucks Co.); 215-357-4005. **Annual Native Perennial Wildflower Sale in late April and early May** with staff on hand. **Plant sale continues through the summer**. Check website for sale dates, times, and plant availability list: www.churchvillenaturecenter.org/

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PENNSYLVANIA (continued)

Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, 8480 Hagy's Mill Road, Philadelphia, PA 19128; 215-482-7300. **Online Ordering available for native plants:**
<https://shop.schuylkillcenter.org/native-plants>

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens, 631 Berwyn Baptist Road, Devon, PA 19333 (Chester Co.); 610-647-8870. **Garden Shop (open daily: 9 am - 4 pm) sells a wonderful selection of native seeds year round and, from mid-April until late October, also sells a great selection of native perennials, shrubs, trees, and evergreen & deciduous azaleas** (most all are propagated on-site at Jenkins). Check website for regularly updated "Plant Inventory List":

<https://www.jenkinsarboretum.org/gardens/shop/>

See native plants in the landscape by visiting this 48-acre arboretum and gardens with 7 different trails (each about 1/4 mile or less). Garden map & trail descriptions:

<https://www.jenkinsarboretum.org/visit/map/>

Open daily year round (hours vary seasonally, depending on when the sun sets): March 15 - April 30 (9 am - 7 pm), May 1 - August 31 (9 am - 8 pm), September 1 - 30 (9 am - 7 pm), and October 1 - March 14 (9 am - 5 pm). FREE admission, donations recommended.

Tyler Arboretum, 515 Painter Road, Media, PA 19063; 610-566-9134 (Delaware Co.). **Spring Native Plant Sale, often in early May.** Visit website for sale dates & times, tips, and plant list: <https://tylerarboretum.org/plant-sale/>

See native plants in the landscape by visiting this 650-acre arboretum of woodland and meadows with seasonally changing gardens, stands of towering trees (including several state champions), and 17 miles of hiking trails. Admission fee for non-members.

Natural Lands' **Buds & Suds Native Plant Sale each April. Shop online** (<https://natural-lands-plantsale.myshopify.com/>) and come by Stoneleigh (1829 County Line Rd, Villanova, PA 19085) at the pre-selected time to pick up the plants you've ordered and paid for online, when you can also grab a to-go pack of locally brewed beer.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, 1700 Hawk Mountain Rd., Kempton, PA 19529; 610-756-6961 (Berks Co.). **Spring (mid-May) & Fall (Mid-September) Native Plant Sales.** Check website for dates, times, & plant lists:
<https://www.hawkmountain.org/visit/events/native-plant-sales>

PENNSYLVANIA (continued)

Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery, 2415 Route 100, Orefield, PA 18069 (west of Allentown, PA; Lehigh Co.); 610-395-2570. **Open April - October, Mon. - Sat. (9 am - 4 pm).** Display gardens on the grounds showcase natives in a garden setting; 45 minute "Nursery & Demonstration Garden Tours" held Tuesday mornings at 10 am (sign up in advance on website); www.edgeofthewoodsnursery.com

Gino's Nursery, 2237 Second Street Pike, Newtown, PA 18940 (Bucks Co.) ; 267-750-9042; **April - Nov., Wed. - Sun., 10 am - 4 pm.;** <http://www.ginosnursery.com/>. Specializing in the growing and sale of native plants.

Go Native Tree Farm, dedicated to the understanding, preservation, and recovery of the Eastern American forest. **Mail order or by appointment ONLY pick up** (678 South Chiques Road, Manheim, PA 17545). 717-399-0195; www.gonativetrees.com.

Good Host Plants Native Plants Nursery, open for **curbside pickup 7 days/week** in West Mt. Airy (Philadelphia, PA); in-person visits by appointment; 267-270-5036; <https://www.goodhostplants.com/>. Check "availability list" and email info@goodhostplants.com with inquiries or to place an order (or use the website's "Contact" link). Directions & pickup instructions will be provided when ordering.

Heartwood Nursery & Nature Preserve, 8957 Hickory Road, Felton, PA 17322 (York Co.); 717-993-5230. **Retail Nursery open Monday - Saturday, 9 am - 4 pm.** Tour the preserve during scheduled events or schedule a visit for you or your group. <https://heartwoodnurseryinc.com/>

Redbud Native Plant Nursery, 904 N Providence Road, Media, PA 19063 (Delaware Co.); 610-892-2833. **Wednesday - Saturday (9 am - 4 pm). April & May: Open Sundays (9 am - 1 pm).** <https://redbudnative.com/> .

Pennsylvania Native Plant Society is an excellent resource: <http://www.panativeplantsociety.org/>
Check out annually updated listing of native plant sales: <https://www.panativeplantsociety.org/plant-sales-and-festivals---featuring-natives.html>

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MARYLAND

Kollar Native Plant Nursery, 5200 West Heaps Road, Pylesville, MD 21132; 410-836-0500. **Spring hours: Mon., Tu., & Th. (10 am - 6 pm), Fri. & Sat. (10 am - 5 pm), Sun. (11 am - 3 pm).** www.kollarnursery.com/

Maryland Native Plant Society: <http://www.mdflora.org/>
See their list of native plant sales and their clickable map of native plant nurseries: www.mdflora.org/nurseries.html

DELAWARE

Delaware Nature Society hosts a **Spring (early May) & Fall Native Plant Sale** at their Cloverdale Farm Preserve, 543 Way Road, Greenville, DE 19807. Check their website for full details and to view their Plant Sale Catalogue: <https://www.delawarenaturesociety.org/activities/events/native-plant-sale/>

EXCELLENT MAIL ORDER CATALOGUES

for native plants (and seeds):

- (1) Prairie Nursery; www.prairienursery.com/
- (2) Prairie Moon Nursery; www.prairiemoon.com/

Izel Native Plants is a Marketplace for plants native to the contiguous US. They are not a nursery, but consolidate the inventories of wholesale-only growers and retail nurseries that are dedicated to the responsible collection and propagation of native species into a practical MAIL-ORDER SOLUTION. No cultivars, no neonicotinoids.

Be sure to read how & why Izel Plants came to be:

<https://www.izelplants.com/our-story/>

They begin shipping plants the week of April 4.

Hours: Mon. to Fri., 9 am - 5 pm. 410-989-3721;

<https://www.izelplants.com/>

BEWARE OF Neonicotinoids

BEWARE OF NEONICS – Avoid plants treated with Neonicotinoid Insecticides. Neonicotinoids are systemic (get into every part of the plant, including pollen, nectar, even dew) pesticides that are applied to many commercially-available nursery plants and are harmful to bees, caterpillars, moths, and butterflies. **Around the world steps are being taken to protect pollinators from Neonics.** In 2018, the European Union voted to completely ban all outdoor uses of three types of neonics (citing their impacts to honey bees). Canada followed suit, planning to phase out all outdoor use of three specific neonics in 3-5 years (2021-2023) because of impacts to aquatic ecosystems. In 2016 Connecticut became the first state in the nation to restrict the use of neonicotinoids when the legislature unanimously passed An Act Concerning Pollinator Health (banning sales of neonics for use by general consumers in backyard garden settings). Soon after, Maryland passed a similar bill. In January 2022 New Jersey became the 6th state to pass a bill to save pollinators by classifying bee-killing neonicotinoids as restricted use pesticides.

Speak up when you purchase plants. Ask if the nursery uses Neonicotinoid Insecticides. If they don't know what you are talking about, it sounds like a nursery to avoid. If they proudly share that they do not use Neonicotinoid Insecticides (verbally and/or on their website), they are a nursery "in the know" and a nursery to support.

1. The **Xerces Society's** publication, "Protecting Pollinators from Pesticides: Buying Bee-Safe Plants," addresses asking nurseries these important questions and is available at: <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>.
2. There is a complimentary **Xerces Society** publication for nurseries, "Offering Bee-Safe Plants: A Guide for Nurseries." Let nurseries you frequent know about this publication, available at: <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/offering-bee-safe-plants-guide-for-nurseries>.

3. If you find that any of the nurseries on my list are "in the dark" & still using Neonicotinoids, please alert me!

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Educate yourself about Neonics by reading the following:

- (1) Xerces Society's "Protecting Bees From Neonicotinoids in Your Garden, 2nd version (includes list of products with neonics in them)" at: <https://www.xerces.org/publications/brochures/protecting-bees-from-neonicotinoids-in-your-garden>
- (2) Xerces Society's "How Neonicotinoids Can Kill Bees, the Science Behind the Role These Insecticides Play in Harming Bees (in depth study, 2nd Edition, revised and expanded) at: <https://www.xerces.org/publications/scientific-reports/how-neonicotinoids-can-kill-bees>
- (3) Xerces Society's "Neonicotinoid Movement in the Environment" POSTER – Neonicotinoids are being found throughout the landscape in areas where they were not applied. This poster illustrates some of the main pathways for neonicotinoid movement in the environment and also shows how this movement has undoubtedly impacted beneficial insects: <https://www.xerces.org/publications/other/neonicotinoid-movement-in-environment>
- (4) American Bird Conservancy's "Neonicotinoid Insecticides Harm The Little Creatures," including how 90 percent of food samples taken from Congressional cafeterias contain neonicotinoid insecticides (highly toxic to birds and other wildlife): <https://abcbirds.org/behind-the-report-neonicotinoid-insecticides-harm-the-little-creatures/>

HUGE INSECT DIE-OFF / INSECT APOCALYPSE

'A car "splatometer" study finds huge insect die-off'

Nov. 13, 2019, by Damian Carrington, Environmental Editor, *The Guardian* – Measuring how many bugs fly into car windshields might sound silly. But to scientists predicting an "insect apocalypse," the numbers are deadly serious. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/feb/12/car-splatometer-tests-reveal-huge-decline-number-insects>

'Insect apocalypse' poses risk to all life on Earth, conservationists warn

Feb. 12, 2020, by Damian Carrington, Environmental Editor, *The Guardian*
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/13/insect-apocalypse-poses-risk-to-all-life-on-earth-conservationists-warn>

The Insect Crisis, The Fall of the Tiny Empires That Run the World, by Oliver Milman. 2022. A devastating examination of how collapsing insect populations worldwide threaten everything from wild birds to the food on our plate.

BIRDS ARE VANISHING

"Birds are Vanishing from North America" – The number of birds in the United States and Canada has declined by 2.9 billion, or 29 percent, over the past 50 years (1970-2019), scientists find (*Science*, 2019). <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/19/science/bird-populations-america-canada.html>

"A Neonicotinoid Insecticide Reduces Fueling and Delays Migration in Songbirds," by Margaret Eng, Bridget Stutchbury, Christy Morrissey. *Science*, 13 September 2019, Vol. 365, Issue 6458, pp. 1177-1180. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/365/6458/1177>

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WHAT WE CAN DO

Here are just a few of the things that each and every one of us can do:

1. Plant NATIVES, especially Keystone Species (read Doug Tallamy's books to understand what Keystone Species are). If you live in the East, the "Eastern Temperate Forests - Ecoregion 8" plant list should be the backbone of your plantings: <https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Keystone-Plants/NWF-GFW-keystone-plant-list-ecoregion-8-eastern-temperate-forests.pdf> . If you live elsewhere, chose your Ecoregion at the following site: <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/keystone-plants-by-ecoregion>
2. Ask nurseries you frequent if their native plants have been treated with Neonicotinoids (see Xerces Society's document, "Protecting Pollinators from Pesticides: Buying Bee-Safe Plants," noted on page 4, for tips and how to ask these important questions) . If they don't know, ask them to find out. If the answer is yes, don't purchase and explain why, that Neonics are hazardous to the wildlife you are trying to attract and benefit.
3. Leave fallen leaves on the ground: they are full of insect life, they protect tree and shrub and perennial roots, they break down and naturally nourish your soil, and they prevent erosion. Listen to Doug Tallamy's talk about his latest book, *The Nature of Oaks* (search youtube Doug Tallamy Nature of Oaks), and learn that **oak leaves are the BEST fallen leaves to LEAVE on the ground because it takes them so long to break down (3 years or more)**. All that time (3+ years) they are providing for an abundance of LIFE that needs fallen leaves to survive. Heather Holm calls these leaves "Soft Landings" for the many caterpillars feeding on the tree above to land in and then nestle down into as they metamorphose into the next life stage before emerging as an adult butterfly or moth the following year: <https://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com/softlandings.html>
To truly preserve the life in leaf litter do not mow it / mulch it (that would chop up all that life using it).
4. DO NOT USE Pesticides (including Organic – they KILL too) or Herbicides or synthetic Fertilizers
5. Turn outdoor lights OFF at night (use motion sensor lights instead)
6. Remove as many invasive plants as possible on your property
7. Share some of your native "Chocolate Cake" perennial divisions (that are also Keystone Species: Asters and Goldenrods, for example) with others to help get them hooked
8. Read and give Doug Tallamy's books (*Bringing Nature Home*, *Nature's Best Hope*, and *The Nature of Oaks*) to family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors.
9. If you ever have a chance to hear Doug Tallamy speak, BE THERE and bring your neighbor, friend, family member, landscaper, lawn care service worker so they can learn to speak the same language. In the meantime Google "YouTube videos (or podcasts) Doug Tallamy" and you'll have dozens to choose from, many of which are keynote talks he's given about the importance of insects, native plants, fallen leaves, and much more. Watch Doug Tallamy's presentations and what you learn may change your life and/or the way you view life. Share video links with neighbors, friends, family members, co-workers.
10. Read and give Heather Holm's books about beneficial pollinators (*Pollinators of Native Plants*; *Bees, An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide*; and *Wasps, Their Biology, Diversity, and Role as Beneficial Insects and Pollinators of Native Plants*) to family members, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to help you (and others) understand beneficial pollinators. You'll learn key practices like leaving stem stubble during spring garden clean up and standing dead trees (these stems and dead trees provide pollinator nesting sites), utilize fallen branches and tree trunks to line garden or woodland paths (ditto: potential nest sites), leave fallen leaves, and avoid too much hardscaping, mulching, and turf so that ground-nesting pollinators have safe places to nest.