

## Native Importance...

### Non-native/invasive species outcompete native plants

- Some species (non-native) may be intrinsically better competitors
- The absence of enemies leaves non-natives with more resources for growth and reproduction
- Local adaptation of native species may be essential only during extreme environmental conditions
- Native species may be threatened, or become endangered due to non-natives

### Habitat loss is a primary threat to the survival of native species

- Urbanization = **habitat destruction**
- Road construction= **habitat fragmentation**
- Pollution and disruption of ecosystem function= **habitat degradation**

*\* These conservation issues result in small population sizes of native species in the Kingston area.*

### PLANT NATIVE

(Help revive native communities)

## Why Grow Native?

### Benefits:

- Provides natural landscapes and preserves biodiversity
- Native plants are well adapted to their respective environments
- Has a mutually beneficial relationship with other organisms in the area
- Require little additional water, fertilizer, pesticides, or other chemicals

### The use of native plants in a garden can provide:

- **Economic benefits**- reduces energy costs, water and maintenance
- **Ecological benefits**- enhances ecosystem stability and reduces chemical use
- **Aesthetic benefits**- provides natural beauty

### *Ecological tips for Choosing Native:*

1. Choose native species found in your biogeographic region.
2. Use plants that share the ecotype of local populations
3. Plant at the right time

## Backyard Blossoms

### "Bringing Nature Home"



## A Guide to Planting Native Gardens

# Recommended Native Species for the Kingston Area

**Nodding Onion**



*Allium cernuum*

**Canada Columbine**



*Aquilegia canadensis*

**Ox-Eye Sunflower**



*Heliopsis helianthoides*

**Hoary Vervain**



*Verbena stricta*

## Nodding Onion

**A perennial. Grows up to 30-60 cm with large white-pink flowers.**

*Light:* direct sun

*Soil:* various soil types (dry or moist)

*Blooming:* late June- August

*Features:* attracts pollinators (Halictid bees), food for mammals, drought tolerant and deer resistant.

## Canada Columbine

**A perennial. Grows up to 30-60 cm with bright red-yellow flowers.**

*Light:* light shade/direct sun

*Soil:* wide range of soils (dry or moist)

*Blooming:* spring-flowering

*Features:* deer resistant, attracts pollinators (butterflies and hummingbirds), self pollinating

## Ox- Eye Sunflower

**A perennial. Grows up to 5 ft tall, with large, bright yellow ray flowers.**

*Light:* full sun/ partial shade

*Soil:* any moderately fertile soil/ moist soil

*Blooming:* midsummer to fall

*Features:* attracts butterflies, songbirds enjoy the seeds, deer resistant

## Hoary Vervain

**An annual. Grows up to 2-3 ft. Has a hairy stem and a cluster of purple flowers.**

*Light:* prefers full sun

*Soil:* prefers sandy soils

*Blooming:* late summer (July-September)

*Features:* drought resistance, seeds often consumed by small mammals, attracts butterflies

## Where to Native?

- Lemoine Point Native **Buy** Plant Nursery (Kingston, ON)
- Seeds shipped from the Wildflower Farm (Orillia, ON) ([www.wildflowerfarm.com](http://www.wildflowerfarm.com))

Find nurseries near your area through NANPS ([www.nanps.org](http://www.nanps.org)) and OSER ([www.serontario.org](http://www.serontario.org))

**Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)**



## Butterfly Milkweed

**A herbacious perennial. Has attractive flowers ranging from an orange-yellow to reddish colour.**

*Light:* prefers ample sunlight, can be successful in partial shade

*Soil:* prefers well-drained sandy soils

*Blooming:* midsummer (July)

*Features:* tolerance towards drought, fire, and low moisture conditions, attracts Monarch butterflies as well as bees and various milkweed insects