

Growing plants in your garden that occur in surrounding natural landscape provides the resources birds and other wildlife need. This is a beautiful way to love your environment and support your local ecosystem. Using native plants also reinforces a "sense of place," creating distinctive qualities that make one place different from another.

### **Right Plant, Right Place**

Plant distribution is not uniform in nature, even over short distances or small areas. Some plants thrive most anywhere, while others require specific growing conditions. Plants that struggle in a garden may just need a change in location. Many native plants have a built-in advantage, as they are adapted to our soils and local climate. Visit the Mid-Atlantic Regional Garden in our National Garden to see plants that thrive in the Mid-Atlantic region.

### **Does Your Garden Flutter?**

Butterflies are important pollinators and a delight to see in any garden. Are you inspired by our Butterfly Garden in the National Garden and interested in growing butterflies in your garden? Get tips and suggested plants for the Mid-Atlantic region to assist local butterfly populations and grow your own easy-to-maintain butterfly garden.

### **Buy from Reputable Nurseries**

Native plants used in landscaping, coveted by collectors, or valued for medicine are sometimes plundered, and their loss reverberates through the ecosystem. Support local nurseries and buy plants grown by reputable nurseries.

### **Avoid Green Invaders**

Some non-native plants are "plant thugs." They typically lack natural predators, fail to provide food for wildlife, or spread like wildfire when their seeds are dispersed. They are expensive and success is often temporary. Remember, for every invasive plant, there is a good substitute.

### **Plant Hotline**

If you have questions about a plant in your garden, please feel free to reach out to our Plant Hotline. You can leave a message at (202) 226-4785 or send an email. Your inquiry will be forwarded to the appropriate person for a response.