

Madison Area Native Plant Sources

Good Oak Ecological Services in Madison provides native landscaping, ecological consulting and natural areas management services but also retails plants. A wide selection of trees, shrubs, woodland, prairie and wetland plants as well as seeds are available. Custom orders only. (www.goodoakllc.com)

UW Arboretum Annual Native Plant Sale is on May 7, 2011 at the UW Arboretum. There is a wide selection of trees, shrubs, woodland, savanna and prairie plants. There is no place better to see such a variety of native plants all in one place. (http://uwarboretum.org/foa/native_plant_sale.php)

Bluestem Farm in Baraboo has many species of woodland and prairie which are not available from larger growers. Plants can be picked up at the farmer's market on the capitol square on Saturday mornings. (www.bluestemfarm.com)

Woods Edge Farm in Muscoda, WI has a good selection of prairie and woodland species. You can also find them at the farmer's market on Saturday mornings. (www.woodsedgefarm.com)

Pasque Flower Farm in Pardeeville, WI specializes in prairie wildflowers and native grasses. You can find them at the Westside Community Market in Madison at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation building on Saturday mornings. Contact Kim Reinke at (608) 697-8866.

Prairie Nursery in Westfield WI is one of the largest native plant nurseries in the region. They have a good selection prairie species and a few savanna species as well. (<http://prairienursery.com/>)

Johnson's Nursery in Menomonee Falls is the best source for native trees and shrubs and also has forbs in larger containers. You will need to go pick up your plants yourself or pay the delivery fee. (www.johnsonsnursery.com)

Oak Prairie Farm in Pardeeville has a variety of prairie and wetland plants and seeds as well as ferns that are not available from other nurseries. (www.oakprairiefarm.com/)

Reeseville Ridge Nursery in Reeseville has an excellent selection of native (and non-native) trees and shrubs. These are small in size, but low-price as well. (www.wegrowit.com/Reeseville/ReesevilleRidgeCatalog.htm)

Taylor Creek Nursery in Brodhead offers prairie, savanna and wetland plants as well as many trees and shrubs. (<http://www.appliedeco.com/tcrn/>)

Prairie Future Seeds in Menomonee Falls sells seeds from 250 species native plants, and plants as well. (1-262-820-0221)

Prairie Frontier in Waukesha sells native wildflower and grass seed. If you are uncertain about the source of the plant, ask, since they sell non-native species and cultivars as well. (www.prairiefrontier.com)

Agricol offers a variety of native prairie and savanna species. However, they do not sell plants retail and the minimum order is 128 plants, ordered in multiples of four plants per species. Pick up plants at their nursery SE of Janesville. (www.agrecol.com)

Information Provided by:



Native Landscaping Tips

Planning:

- When buying plants, make sure to ask for **local-ecotype** plants.
- **Avoid generic “wildflower” seed mixes** from “big box” stores, these are NOT native plants!
- **Be inspired by local natural areas**, choose one as a model for your project.
- **Choose “associated species” that grow together** in the wild for your landscape.
- For a tidier planting, **avoid taller, aggressive species** of grasses and forbs.
- Don't just plant flowers, **ornamental native grasses will keep flowers** in check.
- Try to use your native planting to **solve a landscape problem**.
- **Birds love shrubs!**
- For butterflies you need both flowers for adult food, and **host plants for caterpillar food**.
- **Oaks** are the pillars of the midwest landscape, and they should be so in your yard too.
- **Start small.**

Design:

- Always **plan your projects around how the landscape is used**, or how you want to use it.
- Use **natural shapes, curved lines and soft edges** for the outline of your planting
- Add **structure** to your landscape **with stone**.
- **Trees and shrubs can also add structure**, and can help create the feeling of “outdoor rooms”.
- **Mass species together** for greatest impact.
- **Plant flowers with complimentary colors** close to each other.
- Plan on *at least* one plant per square foot. **More is better.**
- Plantings with more **diversity will be more stable in the long run.**

Installation:

- **Manage weed** problems BEFORE you get started.
- **Be careful around utility lines and tree roots.**
- **Install “harder” materials first:** stone then woody plants then perennials and grasses.

Maintenance:

- Native plants are **low maintenance**, but **not no maintenance**.
- **Water your plants** heavily every other day **for the first two weeks after installation.**
- **Water them during dry spells** during their first growing season.
- More watering will help them get established faster.
- Be sure to **manage weeds** while your plants are becoming established.
- Install your plants with a **healthy layer of mulch.**
- Leaf mulch can help improve poor quality soils.
- But as time passes, less mulch is better, use only it to dress up the edges of your planting.

What to Expect:

- Be Patient! It will take 3-5 years for your planting to become fully established.
- At best, half of your plants will bloom in the 1st year. Some will wait several years to bloom.

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