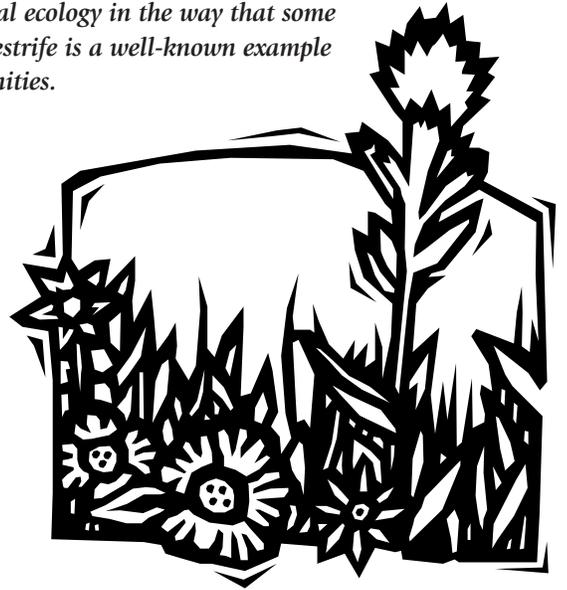


Native Plants

Native plants are an important part of our natural heritage. They have adapted to our soils and climate, and they provide homes and shelter to many other types of life. This in turn fosters a healthy, balanced ecosystem which is more resistant to damage by pests and diseases. Plants that have evolved in southern Ontario do not disrupt local ecology in the way that some exotic plants from other continents can. Purple loosestrife is a well-known example of an exotic plant that can damage natural communities.

Welcoming native plants back into our yards is also a way of showing our pride in the Peterborough area – a celebration of its unique beauty. Did you know that the Peterborough region historically contained woodland, wetland as well as prairie plants?

Of course not all native plants will survive in all areas of Peterborough County. Some are suited to wet areas, woodlands, clay soils, or sandy sites. Peterborough is situated near the edge of the Canadian Shield – an area scoured by historic glaciation. Land on the Shield is typically underlain with granite, and soils are thin and acidic. These areas support different types of native plants than the deeper, alkaline soils in the southern parts of Peterborough County which are underlain with limestone bedrock. Becoming familiar with native plants and restoring them to local landscapes is a very satisfying way to build community health!



Sources of Native Plants

Ask for native plants at your local garden centre. Make sure that the plants you purchase have been nursery-propagated. Never dig plants from the wild – damaging a natural area to obtain plants is not acceptable. Many sources of native plants are becoming available. A few to try include:

Peterborough Ecology Park. A good selection of native plants available throughout the growing season, many from locally-collected seed. On-site native tree nursery and display gardens with interpretive signage. Visitors welcome. Call (705) 745-3238 for information.

Peterborough County Stewardship Council. Can provide native trees and shrubs for rural landowners. A good resource for tallgrass prairie information. (705) 755-1951.

Richardson Farms, Pontypool. Wholesale supplier of many native trees and shrubs (bareroot stock). (705) 277-2312.

Society for Ecological Restoration. Produces a catalogue of native plant growers in Ontario. www.serontario.org (705) 748-1634

Local Sites to Visit

Jackson Park

(Parkhill and Monaghan Rd., Peterborough).
An excellent example of a white pine forest and natural shoreline along Jackson Creek.

Mark S. Burnham Provincial Park

(Hwy #7, east of Peterborough).
A fine example of a maple/beech/hemlock forest with many native wildflowers.

Rainbow Cottage Resort

(Otonabee River at Rice Lake).
A large tallgrass prairie restoration project; tours available. (705) 939-6995

Some Native Plants of the Peterborough Region

EVERGREEN TREES

- Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*)
 - tolerant of partial shade
- Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)
 - tolerant of shade, sensitive to wind
- Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*)
 - prefers acidic soil
- White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)
 - tolerates wide range of conditions
- White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)
 - tree of Ontario, fast-growing
- White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)
 - hardy, drought-tolerant tree

DECIDUOUS TREES

- Basswood (*Tilia americana*)
 - fast growing, shade tolerant
- Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
 - great wildlife tree, now uncommon
- Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
 - excellent city tree
- Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)
 - prefers acidic soil
- Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)
 - prefers acidic soil
- Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)
 - fast growing, tolerates damp soil
- Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
 - not tolerant of pollution
- Tamarack (*Larix laricina*)
 - tolerant of damp soil
- White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*)
 - excellent city tree
- White Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)
 - fast growing, hardy tree

VINES

- Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)
 - climbing vine with colourful berries
- Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)
 - birds love berries, shade tolerant
- Virgin's Bower (*Clematis virginiana*)
 - fluffy, decorative seed heads
- Wild Grape (*Vitis riparia*)
 - clusters of sour, edible berries

SHRUBS

- Alternate-leaf Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)
 - shade tolerant woodland shrub
- Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
 - very hardy, sour edible cherries
- Common Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
 - fast growing, birds love berries
- Common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*)
 - very drought tolerant
- Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*)
 - low shrub, drought tolerant
- Grey Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)
 - drought-tolerant shrub, berries for birds
- Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)
 - tolerant of damp soil, berries for birds
- Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)
 - dry or wet soil, berries for birds
- Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)
 - red branches, great shoreline shrub
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier sp.*)
 - birds love berries, drought-tolerant
- Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*)
 - similar to Red Osier, blooms later
- Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
 - fast growing, grows from root suckers, full sun
- Swamp Rose (*Rosa palustris*)
 - small single flowers, dry or wet soil

GRASSES

- Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
 - indicator of tallgrass prairie ecosystem, full sun
- Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
 - beautiful golden seed heads
- Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
 - low grass, reddish in fall
- Side-oats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)
 - very drought-tolerant, full sun
- Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)
 - tall, decorative airy seed heads

FORBS (Wildflowers)

- Anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)
 - creeping shoreline groundcover
- Blackeyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
 - drought-tolerant, orange flowers
- Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)
 - early blooming woodland plant
- Blue Iris (*Iris versicolor*)
 - common shoreline plant
- Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
 - brilliant orange blossoms, dry soil
- Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
 - red blooms, damp soil or shade
- Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)
 - needs shade, white blossoms early spring
- Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*)
 - common fall bloomer, many species
- Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)
 - damp soil or shade, blue blossoms
- Heath Aster (*Aster ericoides*)
 - white blossoms, drought-tolerant
- Helen's Flower (*Helenium autumnale*)
 - tall, fall bloomer, wet or dry soil
- Jack in the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
 - woodland plant
- Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*)
 - wetland plant, pink/purple blooms
- Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*)
 - early spring, wetland plant
- New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)
 - fall bloomer, purple flowers
- Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
 - pink blooms, wetland plant
- White Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)
 - drought tolerant, June bloomer
- White Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)
 - familiar woodland plant
- Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
 - pale mauve blossoms, drought-tolerant
- Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
 - woodland wildflower, June blooms
- Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*)
 - woodland groundcover for acid soil