

# 2010 Native Plant Sale

Sponsored by the Chester Township Environmental Commission

**Use the Enclosed Form to Order Plants by April 30th  
Pick-up Plants on Saturday, May 8th**

## **What Are Native Plants?**

In general "native plants" are those species that were here before the settlers arrived from Europe hundreds of years ago. That means those species that evolved here over time and in response to the local climate, soils, rainfall and interactions with other species. The settlers eventually imported many plants and in fact today about 25% of our flowering plants are non-native or "alien" species.

## **Alien Plants Can Be Invasive**

Many of the alien plants which were brought here are beneficial and provide food and resources for the benefit of everyone. However, some non-native, alien plants can become a serious threat to biodiversity and can out-compete and displace native plant species. This is because the aliens may not have the natural controls such as insects and plant competitors which tend to control them in their native territories. That can enable invasive alien plants to spread quickly, and grow so densely that native species can't compete.

## **What Are The Benefits Of Native Plants?**

Since they evolved in our region, native species are well adapted to local environmental conditions. Therefore, once established they are hardy and normally do not require watering, fertilizers, or harmful pesticides. This helps protect our water supplies by reducing run-off of chemicals into our streams and aquifers. (Newly planted natives must be given time to establish themselves and will require some watering during the first year or two when rainfall is insufficient.)

Native plants provide familiar sources of food and shelter for wildlife. They attract a greater variety of butterflies, hummingbirds, songbirds and other wildlife. There is no evidence that alien plants are superior to natives. In fact, native plants are often more beautiful, colorful and more harmonious in size, shape and texture when used in our local landscapes, woodlands and fields.

## **Why Is The Environmental Commission Sponsoring A Native Plant Sale?**

Planting native species contributes to the overall health of natural communities which in turn helps to protect our environment, including the air we breathe and our critical water resources. A healthy environment also lifts spirits by protecting our natural world. The use of native plants is on the rise across the country and more nurseries are propagating them so that naturally occurring wild populations are not decimated by irresponsible, and often illegal, collecting. By sponsoring a sale of nursery-propagated native plants the Chester Township Environmental Commission hopes to encourage interest in them by making them available for purchase by our citizens.

## **A Word About Deer**

Deer also like native plants – but for different reasons! Before their population got out of scale the balance of the natural world ensured that the plants would survive. That is not necessarily the case today and deer have been known to wipeout natural stands of many plants. A hike in the Evans Preserve and similar areas will reveal the loss of much of our best wildflowers, shrubs and saplings. (This is another excellent reason why our citizens can help restore our native species.) However, in order for all of us to become stewards of our environment some type of protection against deer will have to be provided for your plants.

If you already have a fenced area that deer do not graze, that is ideal. You may want to consider replacing some of the aliens with natives in those protected areas. By the way, a fenced-in wooded area of just 20 feet square can provide a home for literally a hundred native wildflowers. Strategically placed shrubs (native of course!) can reduce the impact of the fencing.

# Native Plant Sale - Saturday, May 8, 2010

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**Orders Must Be Received By April 30th**

**Orders Must Be Picked Up At The Chester Township Municipal Building**  
**On Saturday, May 8th Between 10 AM and 1 PM**

		Total Ordered	Price Each	Total \$
<b><u>Woodland Wildflowers (Partial Sun to Shade)</u></b>				
Aquilegia canadensis	Wild Columbine	1 Gallon	\$ 4.50	
Cimicifuga racemosa	Black Cohosh	1 Gallon	\$ 7.25	
Claytonia virginica	Spring Beauty	1 Quart	\$ 5.85	
Hepatica americana	Round-lobed Hepatica	1 Quart	\$ 5.85	
Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal Flower	1 Gallon	\$ 4.50	
Phlox stolonifera	Creeping Phlox	1 Gallon	\$ 5.50	
Sanguinaria canadensis	Bloodroot	1 Quart	\$ 5.85	
Stylophorum diphyllum	Wood Poppy	1 Gallon	\$ 5.50	
Tiarella cordifolia	Foamflower	1 Quart	\$ 5.85	
Trillium grandiflorum	Great White Trillium	1 Quart	\$ 5.85	
<b><u>Wildflowers for Full Sun</u></b>				
Amsonia hubrechtii	Hubricht's Bluestar	1 Gallon	\$ 5.25	
Echinacea tenesseeensis	Tennessee Coneflower	2 Gallon	\$ 7.95	
Oenothera missouriensis	Missouri Primrose	1 Quart	\$ 2.65	
Ratibida pinnata	Globular Coneflower	1 Quart	\$ 2.65	
Rudbeckia maxima	Great Coneflower	1 Quart	\$ 2.65	
<b><u>Woodland Shrubs (Part Shade)</u></b>				
Calycanthus floridus	Sweetshrub	3 Gallon	\$ 12.95	
Clethra alnifolia	Summersweet Clethra	3 Gallon	\$ 12.95	
Lindera benzoin	Spicebush	3 Gallon	\$ 14.95	
Myrica pennsylvanica	Bayberry	3 Gallon	\$ 14.95	
<b><u>Woodland Trees (Part Shade)</u></b>				
Aesculus parviflora	Bottlebrush Buckeye	3 Gallon	\$ 14.95	
Cornus alternifolia	Pagoda Dogwood	3 Gallon	\$ 12.95	
Diospyros virginiana	Common Persimmon	3 Gallon	\$ 9.95	
Magnolia tripetala	Umbrella Magnolia	1 Gallon	\$ 15.95	

Total Order Amount _____	
Add 7% NJ Sales Tax _____	
Total Amount Due _____	

**Use This Form To Order**

Please Enter Your:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Make Your Check Payable To "Chester Township" And **Mail By April 28th** To:

**Chester Environmental Commission**

**1 Parker Road**

**Chester, NJ 07930**

## Chester Township Native Plant Sale - May 8, 2010

### Planting Suggestions

To plant container-grown wildflowers, shrubs and trees dig a hole that is about twice the diameter of the container but about the same height. Depth of planting is extremely important. The crown of the plant should be about the same level or slightly higher than the surrounding soil. Place the excavated soil in a wheelbarrow or similar and amend the soil by adding leaf-mold and builder's sand so that the resultant mixture is one-third each excavated soil / leaf mold / sand, all well mixed. (Leaf-mold can be obtained for free from Morris County's "mulch yard" in Mt. Olive. Call 973-829-8584 for information. Builders sand can be purchased by the bucket [bring your own] from suppliers such as Meier Stone.) Remove the plant from the container and place in the planting hole. Check depth and adjust as needed. Back-fill loosely with the amended mixture and water slowly using a watering can. After the water drains down and the soil settles add more amended mixture and form a shallow bowl to capture rain water for the plant (do not backfill soil higher than the original crown of the plant). For all except the full-sun wildflowers, mulch the plant using leaves, pine needles or other material that won't mat and prevent rain water from reaching the plant. For example, don't use peat moss for mulch. Full-sun wildflowers may rot if mulched. For the first summer and autumn water new plants thoroughly once a week if it doesn't rain at least 1 inch in the interval.

A word about soil types. Soil pH is a measurement of acidity / alkalinity. In our area the pH can range from pH 7 which is neutral to pH 5 which is fairly acid. Woodsy soils, especially oak woods, are typically pH 5-6. Ordinary or average soils are typically pH 6-7.

### Woodland Wildflowers (Partial Sun to Shade)

Aquilegia canadensis - **Wild Columbine** is a graceful, erect plant (up to 24") that attracts hummingbirds with its yellow flowers that bloom in May. Prefers light shade and moist soil with pH 6-7.

Cimicifuga racemosa - **Black Cohosh** is a bushy perennial reaching 4 to 5 feet, with finely cut leaves and feathery-white, fragrant flowers. Prefers light shade and moist soil with pH 5-6.

Claytonia virginica - **Spring Beauty** forms ephemeral carpets of flowers for a few weeks in spring in the woodland garden. Partial shade and well-drained woodsy soil.

Hepatica americana - **Round-lobed Hepatica** is one of the first wildflowers to emerge in spring. Partial shade and moist soil are preferred by this low-growing wilding with beautiful mottled leaves.

Lobelia cardinalis - **Cardinal Flower** prefers sun to light shade and produces beautiful crimson blooms in late summer. Reaches from 2 to 3 feet and prefers moist soil with pH 4-6.

Phlox stolonifera - **Creeping Phlox** is an excellent groundcover with flowers that vary in color from violet to pink to white. Plant in light shade with moist soil with pH 5-6.

Sanguinaria canadensis - **Bloodroot** has 3 inch white flowers that appear in early spring, followed by beautiful green-gray foliage. Forms large colonies over time, but is not aggressive. Moist, woodsy soil.

Stylophorum diphyllum - **Wood Poppy** produces beautiful yellow blooms on two-foot high stems. Partial shade and wet to moist, woodsy soil.

Tiarella cordifolia - **Foamflower** forms large clumps, 3 to 10 inches high, with white flowers in spring.

Trillium grandiflorum - **Great White Trillium** are woodlands royalty! Magnificent white flowers in May and attractive green foliage. Partial shade and well-drained woodsy soil. The kings of woodland wildflowers!

## Wildflowers for Full Sun

Amsonia hubrechtii - **Hubrecht's Bluestar** has light blue flowers and lovely asparagus fern-like foliage. Reaches about 3 feet tall and attracts butterflies. Well-drained, sunny location for best results.

Echinacea tennesseensis - **Tennessee Coneflower** has rose-colored "daisy" flowers in summer. Grows to about 30 inches tall in average, well-drained soil. Great plant for butterflies. Drought tolerant.

Oenothera missouriensis - **Missouri Primrose** has yellow flowers in summer. Grows to about 14 inches tall in average, well-drained soil. Great plant for butterflies. Drought tolerant.

Ratibida pinnata - **Globular Coneflower** prefers full sun, and will thrive in dry to moist (but well-drained) soil. Blooms in summer with long lasting yellow flowers with drooping petals. Reaches 2 -3 feet or more.

Rudbeckia maxima - **Great Coneflower** blooms in summer with yellow flowers and has sword-shaped gray-green leaves. Reaches 4 feet or more in ideal conditions. Attracts butterflies.

## Woodland Shrub-like Plants (Part Shade)

Calycanthus floridus - **Sweetshrub** can reach 6-9 feet when located in partial shade to sun in moist, woody soil. Maroon to red blooms in May. Drought tolerant – a care-free plant.

Clethra alnifolia - **Summersweet Clethra** has fragrant white flower spikes in summer that attract butterflies. Reaches 3-6' and spreads through suckering. Will grow in sun to partial shade in average soil.

Lindera Benzoin - **Spicebush** can reach 8-15 feet when located in partial shade to sun in moist, woody soil. Soft, bright yellow blooms in early spring. Important food supply for butterfly larva.

Myrica pennsylvanica - **Northern Bayberry** is multi-stemmed with lustrous dark green foliage. Reaches 4-6' and spreads 6-8 feet. Will grow in sun to partial shade in well-drained, acidic soil.

## Woodland Trees (Part Shade)

Aesculus parviflora - **Bottlebrush Buckeye** is multi-stemmed and forms a clump 10' high and spreads 8-10 feet wide. Masses of creamy white flower spikes. Sun to partial shade in moist, woody soil.

Cornus alternifolia - **Pagoda Dogwood** is an ornamental small tree with white blooms in early summer followed by blue-back fruits that birds love. Part to full shade in average soil with medium moisture.

Diospyros virginiana - **Common Persimmon** can reach 30-50 feet tall and 15 to 25 feet in width. White and yellow blooms in late spring. Important food supply for wildlife.

Magnolia tripetala - **Umbrella Magnolia** has creamy white blooms, 6 to 10 inches in diameter in late spring. Will reach 20-30' in moist, well-drained soil and part shade to sun.

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