

Native Plantings 101: Getting Started

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Overview

- What are natives, and why should we consider planting them?
- Selection plants for your native garden
 - Example plant lists for two sites within the Wenatchee Valley
- Seeding/planting
- Maintaining native plants



What are Native Plants?

- A plant that is a part of the balance of nature that has developed over thousands of years in a particular region...



Why Should We Plant Natives in Our Landscape?

- Correctly sited native plants are adapted to our climate, which can lead to less watering and maintenance
- When gardeners use native plants, they can have beautiful landscapes -- and play a vital role in protecting biodiversity.



Native Plant Selection – General Ideas

- Plant selection depends on the following:
 - Location, and how much you want to water
 - Sun exposure
 - Soils
 - Goals for your landscape
- Stagger blooms across the season, for both interest and pollinators
 - The majority of natives bloom in the spring, so take care to include summer and fall bloomers
- Go with diversity!



www.derbycanyonnatives.com

https://derbycanyonnatives.com/plants/wildflowers/

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Names	Height	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Exposure	Drought-Tolerant	Comment	Container Sizes
Achillea millefolium yarrow	12-24"	white	May-August	S, PS	X	Long-blooming, easy perennial, attractive to butterflies and seed-eating birds	3"
Agastache rupestris sunset hyssop	18-30"	pink/orange	late June-Sep	S	X	Finely textured foliage, fragrant. Hummingbirds love it. Southwest native.	3"
Allium cernuum nodding onion	15-20"	pink (white)	May-June	S	X	Bell-shaped flowers in nodding clusters, grows in expanding clumps	3"
Anaphalis margaritacea pearly everlasting	18-24"	white	June-Aug	S	XX	White flower clusters, silvery leaves. Rhizomatous. Butterfly plant.	3"
Antennaria microphylla rosy pussytoes	6-12"	pink to rose	May-June	S	X	Forms wooly gray mats, with clustered flowers borne above.	3"
Apocynum androsaemifolium spreading dogbane	6-16"	pink	May-July	S, PSH	X	Spreading plant with long bloom time, masses of fragrant pink flowers, very butterfly attractive	3"
Aquilegia formosa red columbine	24-30"	red/yellow	May-July	PSH		Bi-colored flowers: sepals red, petals yellow. Prefers moist places.	3"
Aruncus dioicus goatsbeard	36-60"	white	May-June	SH, PSH		Tall perennial with attractive foliage and long white flower clusters, found in shady moist forests	3"

https://derbycanyonnatives.com/plants/for-birds-and-butterflies/

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














Nectar Plants for Butterflies

WILDFLOWERS		
Botanical name	Common name	Butterflies attracted
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow	
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	pearly everlasting	
<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	showy milkweed	
<i>Aster</i> spp.	asters	orange sulphur
<i>Balsamorhiza sagittata</i>	arrowleaf balsamroot	
<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>	golden aster	
<i>Erigeron</i> spp.	fleabanes	
<i>Eriogonum</i> spp.	wild buckwheats	wood nymphs
<i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i>	Oregon sunshine	
<i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	blanketflower	
<i>Ipomopsis aggregata</i>	scarlet gilia	
<i>Lomatium</i> spp.	desert parsleys	swallowtails
<i>Lupinus</i> spp.	lupines	
<i>Mimulus</i> spp.	monkeyflowers	
<i>Monardella odoratissima</i>	coyote mint	
<i>Penstemon</i> spp.	penstemons	anise swallowtail

<https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/keystone-plants-by-ecoregion>

Top Keystone Plant Genera in North American Deserts – Ecoregion 10

[Native Plant Finder](#)

Plant type	Plant genus	Sample of common species (not all encompassing)	# of caterpillar species that use this as a host plant	# of pollen specialist bee species that rely on this plant
Trees	<i>Quercus</i>	Gambel oak (<i>quercus gambelii</i>), scrub oak (<i>quercus turbinella</i>)	208 	
	<i>Prunus</i>	Oregon cherry (<i>prunus emarginata</i>), chokecherry (<i>prunus virginiana</i>)	200 	
	<i>Populus</i>	Eastern cottonwood (<i>populus deltoides</i>), American aspen (<i>populus tremuloides</i>)	184 	
	<i>Pinus</i>	Limiber pine (<i>pinus flexilis</i>), single-leaf pinyon (<i>pinus monophylla</i>), ponderosa pine (<i>pinus ponderosa</i>)	163 	
	<i>Alnus</i>	Grey alder (<i>alnus incana</i>)	156 	
	<i>Betula</i>	Water birch (<i>betula occidentalis</i>)	153 	
	<i>Acer</i>	Rocky Mountain maple (<i>acer glabrum</i>), box elder (<i>acer negundo</i>)	102 	
	<i>Abies</i>	White fir (<i>abies concolor</i>), Rocky Mountain fir (<i>abies bifolia</i>)	80 	
Shrubs	<i>Salix</i>	Coyote willow (<i>salix exigua</i>), Goodding's willow (<i>salix gooddingii</i>)	240 	19 
	<i>Vaccinium</i>	Dwarf bilberry (<i>vaccinium caespitosum</i>), thinleaf huckleberry (<i>vaccinium membranaceum</i>)	116 	
	<i>Ericameria</i>	Rubber rabbitbrush (<i>ericameria nauseosa</i>), Parry's rabbitbrush (<i>ericameria parryi</i>)	20 	89 
	<i>Chrysothamnus</i>	Long-flowered rabbitbrush (<i>chrysothamnus depressus</i>), rabbitbrush (<i>chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>)	24 	87 
Flowering perennials	<i>Gutierrezia</i>	Sticky snakeweed (<i>gutierrezia microcephala</i>), broom snakeweed (<i>gutierrezia sarothrae</i>)	7 	89 
	<i>Helianthus</i>	Plains sunflower (<i>helianthus petiolaris</i>), Nuttall's sunflower (<i>helianthus nuttallii</i>)	52 	84 

Example Plant Palettes

- Two different sites
 - Low elevation, sunny (Wenatchee)
 - Upper Valley, part sun/part shade
- These plants are, from experience, easy to grow and generally available

Plant Palette for Sunny Low-Elevation Landscapes

- Trees
 - Douglas Maple



Plant Palette for Sunny Low-Elevation Landscapes

- Trees
 - Douglas Maple
- Large Shrubs
 - Scouler's Willow
 - Mock-orange
 - Serviceberry



15'-20' tall by 15' wide

Plant Palette for Sunny Low-Elevation Landscapes

- Trees
 - Douglas Maple
- Large Shrubs
 - Scouler's Willow
 - Serviceberry
 - Mock-orange
- Medium Sized Shrubs
 - Wax or Golden Currant



4-6' tall by 4-6' wide

Plant Palette for Sunny Low-Elevation Landscapes

- Trees
 - Douglas Maple
- Large Shrubs
 - Scouler's Willow
 - Serviceberry
 - Hawthorne (not close to apple orchards)
- Medium Shrubs
 - Wax or Golden Currant
- Small Shrubs
 - Gray Rabbitbrush
 - Shrubby Cinquefoil



Plant Palette for Sunny Low-Elevation Landscapes

- Perennials
 - Orange globemallow
 - Blue flax
 - Richardson's Penstemon
 - Sunset Hyssop
 - Snow Buckwheat
 - Any other buckwheat
 - Fleabane daisies
 - Bunchgrasses
 - Bluebunch wheatgrass
 - Indian ricegrass



Plant Palette for Sunny Low-Elevation Landscapes

- Annuals
 - Typically sown as seeds
 - Important for early garden color and growth
 - Native annual sunflower
 - Ballhead gilia
 - Farewell-to-spring
 - Tickseed
 - Beeplants
- Groundcovers
 - Kinnickick



Questions on Low Elevation Plants??



Plant Palette for Upper Valley Landscapes With Shade

- Trees
 - Bigleaf Maple
 - Vine Maple



10 - 25' tall by 15-20' wide

Plant Palette for Upper Valley Landscapes With Shade

- Trees
 - Bigleaf Maple
 - Vine Maple
- Large Shrubs
 - Scouler's Willow
 - Serviceberry
 - Mock-orange
 - Red-osier dogwood



8' tall by 6-8' wide

Plant Palette for Upper Valley Landscapes With Shade

- Trees
 - Bigleaf Maple
 - Vine Maple
- Large Shrubs
 - Scouler's Willow
 - Serviceberry
 - Mock-orange
 - Red-osier dogwood
- Medium Shrubs
 - Golden or Red-flowering Currant
 - Oceanspray
 - Highbush Cranberry



6-8' tall by 6-8' wide

Plant Palette for Upper Valley Landscapes With Shade

- Trees
 - Bigleaf Maple
 - Vine Maple
- Large Shrubs
 - Scouler's Willow
 - Serviceberry
 - Mock-orange
 - Red-osier dogwood
- Medium Shrubs
 - Golden or Red-flowering Currant
 - Oceanspray
 - Highbush Cranberry
- Small Shrubs
 - Snowberry



3' tall; hedge-forming

Plant Palette for Upper Valley Landscapes With Shade

- Perennials
 - Penstemons
 - Venus, Chelan, Shrubby
 - Buckwheats
 - Sulfur, creamy, strict
 - Showy Fleabane
 - Blanketflower
 - Leafy-bract Aster
 - Native grasses
 - Idaho fescue
 - Pinegrass

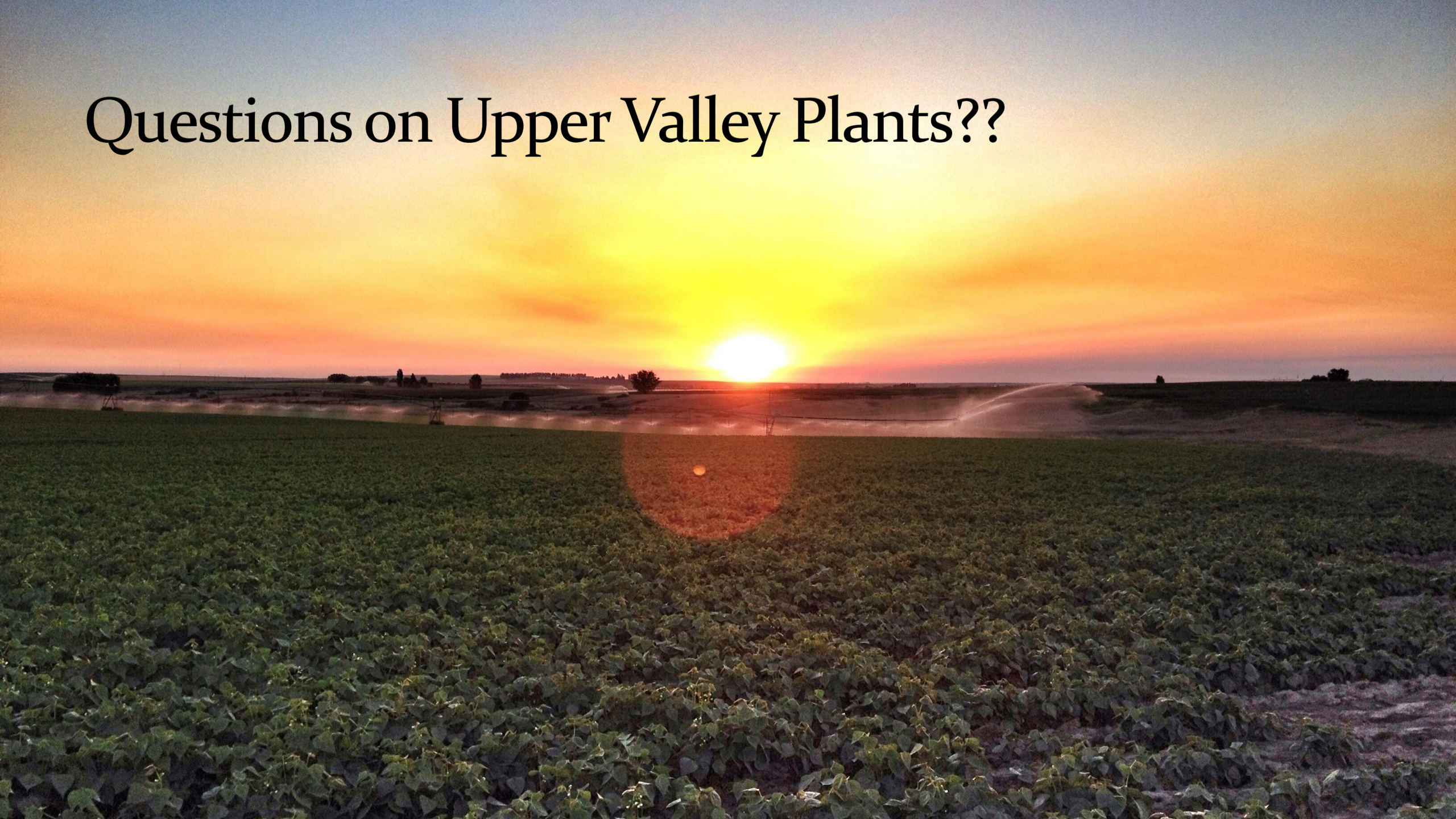


Plant Palette for Sunny Low-Elevation Landscapes

- Annuals
 - Typically sown as seeds
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 - Native annual sunflower
 - Ballhead gilia
 - Farewell-to-spring
 - Tickseed
 - Beeplants
- Groundcovers
 - Kinnickick
 - Wild strawberry



Questions on Upper Valley Plants??



Plant Materials

- Seeds
 - Appropriate for larger scale projects (larger than a 5,000-s.f. backyard)
 - Grasses can be easily seeded
 - Forbs and shrub seeds often have dormancy issues that challenge use by layman
- Live Plants
 - Appropriate for small to medium scale projects
 - OR
 - Species that are challenging to establish by seed, such as forbs and shrubs



Newly transplanted rosy pussytoes seedlings

Plant Materials

- Seeds
 - Seeding requires substantial site preparation work, weed control, and lots of bare soil for good SEED-TO-SOIL CONTACT
- Live Plants
 - Need less site preparation and weed control and plants are larger and more competitive



How to Purchase Native Plants

Washington Native Plant Society

<https://www.wnps.org/native-gardening/sourcing>



WASHINGTON NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NATIVE PLANT & SEED SOURCES 2024

This information is provided as a resource by the Washington Native Plant Society and does not imply an endorsement. For more information, suggested additions, or data changes, please contact WNPS at 206-527-3210 or info@wnps.org. The contacts listed here are updated several times a year.

Specialty Nurseries Some of these growers, nurseries and seed suppliers deal mainly in native plants. Others stock mostly non-natives yet may also have a good selection of natives. Many specialize in plants for wetlands, alpine and rock gardens, or trees and shrubs. Some will harvest seed or grow plants under contract. Confirm before visiting. Many nurseries require an appointment and may not keep regular business hours.

Use Local Native Plants Definitions of native vary from one grower to the next and may include cultivated varieties of native species, as well as plants from hundreds of miles away. For restoration and native habitat projects, it is usually best to use genetically varied stock originating from the nearest available natural sites. Local nurseries do not necessarily rely on local sources, nor is it always practical. Ask where a nursery's propagation stock or plants come from before selecting plants for landscaping or restoration projects.

RETAIL NURSERIES (=WNPS member organization)**

B.C.'s Wild Heritage Plants

47330 Extrom Rd.
Sardis, BC, Canada V2R 4V1
bcwildplants@gmail.com
604-858-5141
www.bcwildheritage.com

Biodiversity Nursery**

715A Larson St
Friday Harbor, WA 88250
melisa.pinnow@gmail.com
by appointment only
see online form
www.biodiversitynursery.com

Bosky Dell Natives

23311 SW Bosky Dell Ln.
W. Lynn, OR 97068-9130
boskydellnatives@aol.com
503-638-5945
FAX 503-638-8047
www.boskydellnatives.com

Cedar Mountain Perennials

7875 East Highway 54

**Clark College Native Plant
Center**

**Classic Nursery & Landscape
Co**

Timing of Planting

- Timing is unique to our climate
 - Seeding is easiest and most effective during the dormant season
 - Planting should occur during fall or spring
- With irrigation or watering, this window extends
 - Just avoid hot months, ideally



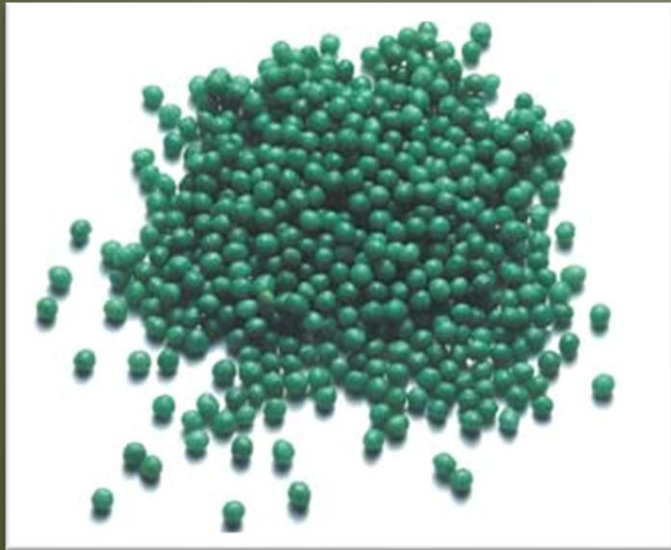
Planting Method

- Dig a hole
 - At least to the depth of the roots, and twice as wide as the container
- Plant crown at soil level
- Back fill with native soil
- Compact lightly
- Create watering basin
- Water in



Fertilization

- Slow Release or Compost
- Apply to soil surface
- Not recommended if site has intact top soil



Mulch, Mulch, Mulch

- Reduces weedy competition and reduces soil moisture loss
- 2-3' diameter (donut or tire shape)
- 1-2" depth (less right around plant base)
- Rock or bark/hog fuel
- Stay away from sheet/plastic mulches, which deprive soil of oxygen



Protection from Animals

- Deer
 - Important for woody shrubs and tree seedlings in areas with moderate or heavy use



Irrigation

- By Hand
- Installed systems
 - Drip or micro-sprinkler
- Broadcast irrigation is discouraged except for large, seeded areas
- Start with minimal watering, guided by monitoring, not a schedule



Irrigation

- Initial design is critical, which needs to take into account water needs
 - Within a line, you can change quantity of water, but not frequency
 - Plants with drastically different needs, should be on different lines
- Monitor for soil moisture every 4-5 days to begin with,



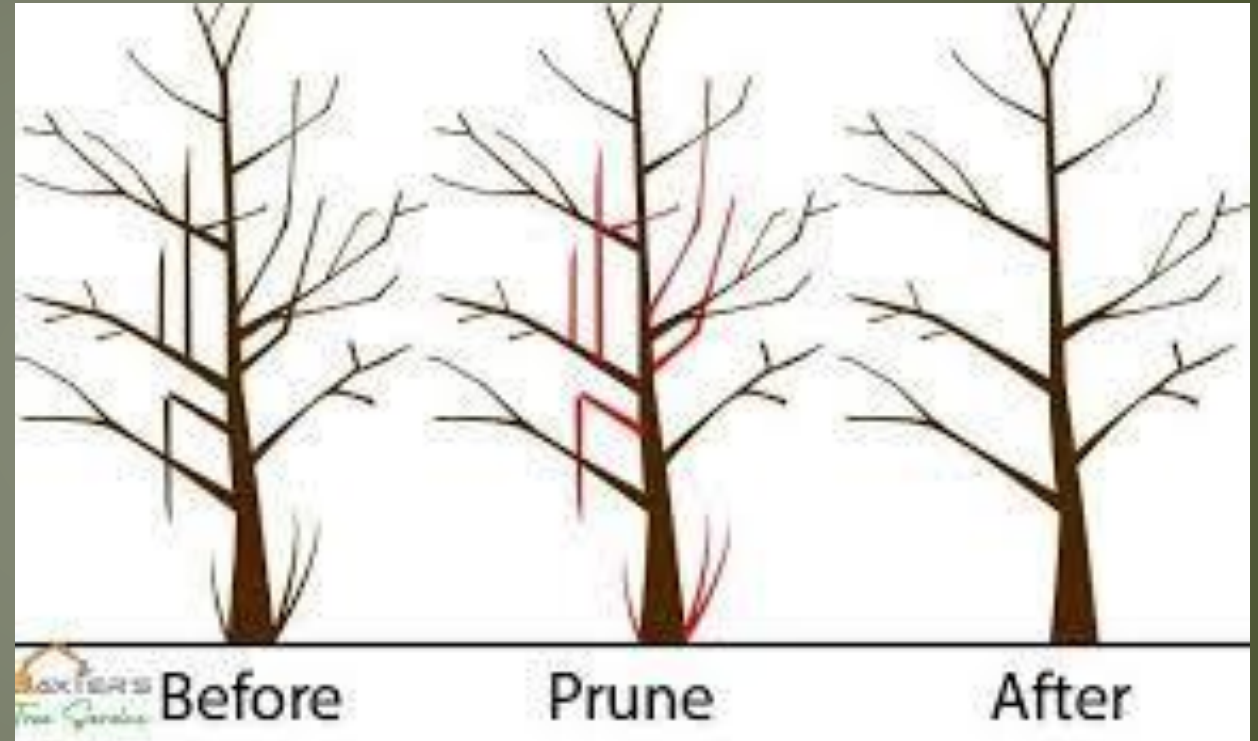
Maintenance

- Monitor soil moisture regularly, particularly during Years 1 and 2, water as little as you can get away with after that



Maintenance

- Monitor soil moisture regularly, particularly during Years 1 and 2, water as little as you can get away with after that
- Prune immediately for 3Ds
 - Dead-Diseased-Damaged
- Prune after well established, for shape
 - Native shrubs are very tolerant of pruning
 - Ideally during the dormant season
- Cut back perennials as late in the spring as you can tolerate



Thoughts on Gardening with Natives

- Embrace the natural garden aesthetic
 - Do we need our landscape to be “cleaned up” and “manicured”?
 - Last years stems and leaves are habitat!
 - Caveat – Firewise Zone 1
- But consider “cues to care”
 - Mowed paths through meadow, habitat signs, stone/gravel pathways, benches, etc.



Final Questions??

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