

THINK SPRING! THINK NATIVE!

If you are planting flowers consider planting some natives in your garden.

See native plant listing [Accessible-Illinois-Native-Plants-for-the-Home-Landscape-Brochure.pdf \(iiseagrant.org\)](https://www.iiseagrant.org/Accessible-Illinois-Native-Plants-for-the-Home-Landscape-Brochure.pdf)

If you are planting a new tree, think about choosing a native option.

In Illinois there are 29 different native hawthorns, 21 native oaks, 11 native willows, 10 native hickories, eight native conifers, and 7 native maples to choose from.

[checklist of illinois native trees 0.pdf](#)

The Role Native Plants Play in Algae Prevention

Algae is caused by a variety of factors: nutrient pollution, high water temperature and stagnant water. As homeowners, the cause that we can impact is nutrient pollution, excess of phosphorous and nitrogen. These nutrients enter the lakes via geese feces, fertilizers, and poorly managed septic systems. Native plants in nonlake front owners also makes a positive impact on our lakes. All homeowners' water runoff and nutrients drain into culverts then into our lakes. The excess nutrients that enter the lakes contribute to the algae formation. Native plants will also limit the amount of excess nutrients entering your lake by storing it in their deep roots.

For shoreline lake owners, a buffer zone of native plants provides two benefits in algae prevention. The first is that it functions as a natural filter for chemicals prior to reaching the lake. The native plants because of their deep roots, filter and store nutrients preventing them from reaching our lakes. The second benefit is that the shoreline buffer discourages Canadian geese. The geese prefer a gentle grassy slope coming out of the water. Canadian geese feces increase the nutrient loading in a lake which contributes to algae formation. A buffer zone of native plants is helpful for preventing geese from residing on your lake. Planting tall native plants 25-30 feet in width and as long as you can will minimize the access point of the geese. As geese cannot see over/through the buffer zone, they do not feel secure from predators and are hesitant to enter property.

MORE ADVANTAGES OF PLANTING NATIVES

Low maintenance:

Once established, native plants generally require little maintenance.

Beauty:

Many native plants offer beautiful showy flowers, produce abundant colorful fruits and seeds, and brilliant seasonal changes in colors from the pale, thin greens of early spring, to the vibrant yellows and reds of autumn.

Healthy Places for People:

Lawns and the ubiquitous bark-mulched landscapes are notorious for requiring profuse amounts of artificial fertilizers and synthetic chemical pesticides and herbicides. The traditional suburban lawn, on average, has 10x more chemical pesticides per acre than farmland. By choosing native plants for your landscaping, you are not only helping wildlife, but you are creating a healthier place for yourself, your family, and your community.

Helping the Climate:

Landscaping with native plants can combat climate change. In addition to the reduced noise and carbon pollution from lawn mower exhaust, many native plants, especially long-living trees like oaks and maples, are effective at storing the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.

Conserving Water:

Because native plants are adapted to local environmental conditions, they require far less water, saving time, money, and perhaps the most valuable natural resource, water. As they have deeper root system native plants also act as a filter system, keeping excess nutrients from entering the watershed and thereby decreasing algae in our lakes.

Wildlife

Rely on insects, either directly or indirectly. Insects' primary food source is native plants. Native plants provide vital habitat for birds and many other species of wildlife. The colorful array of butterflies and moths, including the iconic monarch, the swallowtails, tortoiseshells, and beautiful blues, are all dependent on very specific native plant species. Native plants provide nectar for pollinators including hummingbirds, native bees, butterflies, moths, and bats. They provide protective shelter for many mammals. The native nuts, seeds, and fruits produced by these plants offer essential foods for all forms of wildlife.

Lake County Forest Preserve Native Plant Sale Planned

Enhance your gardening efforts with our upcoming Native Plant Sale. The sale takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 11 and 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Sunday, May 12 at the [North Bay Pavilion](#) within [Independence Grove Forest Preserve](#) in Libertyville. Inventory is limited and first come, first served. The best plant selection will be on Saturday. Plants are not restocked overnight. We encourage shoppers to bring boxes to transport plants home.



[Possibility Place Nursery](#) provides the plants. Admission to Independence Grove is free for all Native Plant Sale customers. Plant prices vary. The Native Plant Sale is an annual fundraiser benefiting our environmental education programs and events of the Lake County Forest Preserve.

EWM WEED TREATMENT

The ProcelleCOR treatment completed last spring has been a success. Thanks to all the individuals that volunteered their time and given donations to make this project a reality. The weeds that you are currently seeing in our lakes are primarily curly leaf pondweed which will die down naturally around the middle of June. Lake County Public Health ecological services will continue to monitor both lakes for EWM, but has not seen any reemergence to date. Lake County Forest Preserve has been pleased with the results and are considering using it in Sun Lake. If they do move forward with treating Sun Lake, it would be a benefit for our lakes. It would keep EWM fragments from coming into East Loon Lake and reseeding. It also will improve the water flow in Sun Lake which feeds East Loon Lake, thus improving the water flow into East Loon.

Question or suggestions Contact us at stewardofthelakes@gmail.com