

## **Native Advantages**

Use native plants in your landscape, and you'll reap a variety of rewards.

Match the right plants to your ecosystem and even a novice gardener will be enormously successful. That's because it's a perfect species for the habitat, and will flourish on its own.

Sustainable landscapes are much less expensive to maintain. You'll need far less water, no fertilizers, no imported soils. Swap lawns for fields of ferns and mosses and you'll reduce stormwater runoff and improve groundwater supplies. You're doing the forest you enjoy so much -- and your water well -- a real favor by allowing the leaves to remain in place.

The challenging soils of the Poconos are an asset, not a liability. The species that belong here relish exactly what appalls most gardeners. It's possible to create stunning landscapes, especially in wooded areas.

You're an active participant in the health of the planet. Your back yard landscape is an important part of the larger neighborhood ecosystem and much more than home decoration. It's a habitat for all kinds of life that helps maintain nature's food chains.

Because there are so many different kinds of ecosystems in the Poconos, your landscape will be unique and personal. You can use a very large array of herbaceous and woody perennials to create refuge spaces to relax and surround yourself with nature.

You can have a "wild" or a "manicured" look (or something in between) to suit your taste with the same set of plants, and still make a big difference in the conservation sense.

You'll discover the fascinating mosaic of nature in all its forms, for all the plants and animals interact with each other and each has a critical role to play.