

BUYING GUIDE:  
**Home Landscaping  
for Communities  
& Wildlife**

Promoting Healthy Green Spaces  
for Cleaner Water and Soil



**Northeast Residential Guide**

Lehigh Gap Nature Center  
(<http://lgnc.org>)

Take action in your yard to benefit your family and community.  
*Small steps can make a big difference.*

- Make your yard safer for your family and neighbors while also improving local water quality by limiting the use of pesticides and herbicides.
- Save money on fertilizer by composting leaves, grass clippings, and other kitchen and yard waste. Use the compost to fertilize your garden beds.
- Mimic nature and use leaves as mulch in your garden instead of paying for bagged mulch. For example, use fall leaves in your flowerbeds as a winter mulch. This protects your plants and serves as host material for many butterflies, moths, and other insects that are beneficial to your garden.
- Use a mulching mower on grass clippings and leaves to add nutrients and organic matter to the soil.
- Plant natives and use less chemical additives to automatically create more opportunities to enjoy nature right at home.

**Your Plant Choices Matter**

**Best Choices:**

**Native plants.** A native plant occurs naturally in the place where it evolved. These plants have an evolutionary connection to place and support healthy local ecosystems, strengthening the natural food chain in the places we live. Some plants that are widely available include: purple coneflower, aster, goldenrod, phlox, black-eyed susan, winterberry, ninebark, red maple, and serviceberry. Independent garden centers of any size are likely to offer an even broader array, especially if they participate in the American Beauties program (<http://www.abnativeplants.com>). Look for the label below at your garden center. See the resources section of this guide for more ideas on native plants. There are many to choose from!



**Avoid:**

**Invasive plants** are non-native species likely to cause harm to the environment, economy or human health. These robust plants thrive and that's part of the reason they are sometimes marketable ornamental plants. But they should be avoided in our yards since they are known to move into other areas they don't belong.

*"Everyone deserves beauty."*

Bernadette Cozart



Lehigh Gap Nature Center's Landscaping Program creates science-based recommendations to help residents make healthier landscaping choices.

**Share this guide with others to spread the word.**

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## COMMONLY SOLD INVASIVES

## NATIVE ALTERNATIVE(S)

## FEATURES OF NATIVE

Bradford Pear	Redbud, Native Dogwoods, Shadbush	Small trees with spring bloom
Bamboo	Eastern red-cedar	Dense, evergreen foliage; privacy
Japanese or Chinese Wisteria	American Wisteria	Similar to nonnative, but not invasive
Burning Bush	Highbush blueberry or Winterberry	Brilliant fall color; edible fruit Bright-red berries in winter
Butterfly Bush	Sweet pepperbush	Attract butterflies with flowers
Japanese Barberry	Virginia sweetspire	Scented flowers and nice fall color
Privet	Bayberry	Glossy foliage can be pruned to hedge
Purple Loosestrife	Blazing-star Joe-pye weed Giant Hyssop	Spikes of purple flowers in summer Purple flowers attract butterflies Attracts pollinators
Periwinkle	Golden groundsel, Barren strawberry Creeping phlox, Green and gold	Attractive groundcover



Eastern Redbud *Cercis canadensis*



Blazing Star *Liatris elegans*



Golden Groundsel *Packera obovata*



Giant Hyssop *Agastache foeniculum*



American Wisteria *Wisteria frutescens*

## OTHER RESOURCES:

### Where to Buy Native Plants:

<http://findnativeplants.com>

### The Great Healthy Yard Project:

<http://tghyp.com>

### Gardening for Wildlife:

<http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Gardening-Tips.aspx>

### Landscaping with Native Plants:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/nativeplants/>

### Native Plants and Natural Landscapes:

<http://www.wildones.org>

### Garden Design Template and Best Practices:

<http://www.iconservepa.org/plantsmart/nativeplants/>

### Natural Landscaping How-to:

<http://www.plantnative.org/index.htm>

### Landscaping in Urban Areas:

<http://ncsu.edu/goingnative/whygo/benefits.html>

### Deer Tolerant Native Plants:

[www.bhwp.org/.../file\\_ID96121.pdf](http://www.bhwp.org/.../file_ID96121.pdf)



Eastern Red Cedar *Juniperus virginiana*