



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!

Best Choices:

Your Plant Choices Matter

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>)

“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.**

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.

This guide was compiled by Kate Brandes. Designed by Maxfield Design. © 2015 Lehigh Gap Nature Center. This project was completed in partnership with the Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape. Funding was provided in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Environmental Stewardship Fund, administered by Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.



Special thanks to the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation and the Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape Initiative for funding this Program.

**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.

COMMONLY SOLD INVASIVES

Bradford Pear

Bamboo

Japanese or Chinese Wisteria

Burning Bush

Butterfly Bush

Japanese Barberry

Privet

Purple Loosestrife

Periwinkle

NATIVE ALTERNATIVE(S)

Redbud, Native Dogwoods, Shadbush

Eastern red-cedar

American Wisteria

Highbush blueberry
or Winterberry

Sweet pepperbush

Virginia sweetspire

Bayberry

Blazing-star
Joe-pye weed
Giant Hyssop

Golden groundsel, Barren strawberry
Creeping phlox, Green and gold

FEATURES OF NATIVE

Small trees with spring bloom

Dense, evergreen foliage; privacy

Similar to nonnative, but not invasive

Brilliant fall color; edible fruit
Bright-red berries in winter

Attract butterflies with flowers

Scented flowers and nice fall color

Glossy foliage can be pruned to hedge

Spikes of purple flowers in summer
Purple flowers attract butterflies
Attracts pollinators

Attractive groundcover

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



BRANSFORD
Eastern Redbud *Cercis canadensis*



LOUGHMILLER
Blazing Star *Liatris elegans*



LEANDER
American Wisteria *Wisteria frutescens*



MARCUS
Golden Groundsel *Packera obovata*



WASOWSKI
Giant Hyssop *Agastache foeniculum*



MATHEWS
Eastern Red Cedar *Juniperus virginiana*