Why Plant Native?

Support Birds, Insects, and Wildlife

Native plants are essential for all wildlife – especially for birds and the insects they need for survival. Almost 96% of our terrestrial bird species raise their young on insects, not seed. And birds need a lot of insects! It takes more than 4,800 caterpillars to raise one brood of chickadees.

Increase Pollinator Food Sources

Pollinators are declining across the Midwest and the entire country. Native plants provide abundant nectar for important pollinators including hummingbirds, native bees, butterflies, moths, and bats.

Conserve Resources and Protect the Environment

Native plants are well adapted to Ohio's local soils, temperatures, precipitation, and environmental conditions. Because of this, they often require less water and little maintenance once established.

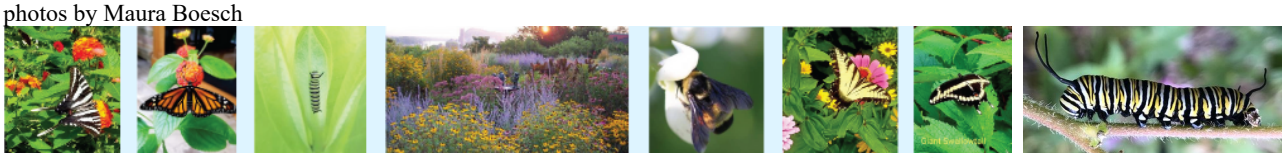
Reduce our Largest Crop - Turf Grass

The single largest crop grown in the United States is not corn, wheat or soybeans, but turf grass. Turf grass consumes water but does not provide any nectar for our pollinators, or shelter for our wildlife.

Help Combat Non-Native Invasive Species (NNIS)

Non-native Invasive plants can quickly dominate large areas and push out beneficial natives. Extremely aggressive, hard to control, and usually of little value to wildlife, these invasive plant species can overwhelm and destroy entire ecosystems.

photos by Maura Boesch



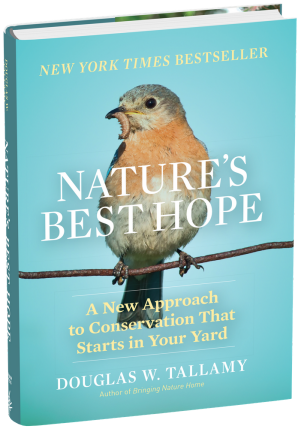
Find local native plant resources at wrightlibrary.org/NBHresources

If all mankind were to disappear, the world would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos.
-E.O. Wilson

www.ohionativeplantmonth.org/benefits-of-native-plants

Nature's Best Hope by Douglas Tallamy

Renowned entomologist and ecologist Douglas Tallamy teamed up with Wright Library in April 2021 for a community read and initiative to support the Miami Valley ecosystem. Tallamy's book Nature's Best Hope and his Homegrown National Park movement offer a hopeful and achievable plan for urban and suburban dwellers to help save the planet - Shrink the lawn and plant native! Create Wildlife Corridors where plants and animals can thrive. See our website for information and resources!



wrightlibrary.org/NaturesBestHope

Homegrown National Park

homegrownnationalpark.org

A Grassroots call-to-action to restore biodiversity. No Experience Necessary. Start Digging and get on the Map!

Doug's Five Easy Steps for Beginners

Step 1. Think, muse, strategize about how you might reduce the area that is now lawn. It doesn't matter how small or how large your plantings are; what's most important is that you get started, and you get on the MAP!

Step 2. A first step in reducing your lawn can be adding keystone plants in an area now lawn. You might choose an oak tree this fall and build a bed with leaf litter around it. BOOM! New powerhouse tree and less lawn!

Step 3. Leave the leaves wherever you can! Park your leaf blower and give yourself a break from the rake!

Step 4. Back to thinking, dreaming, musing and planning about where you can add a small patch of good pollinator plants, a "pocket meadow". It will be best to plant that in the spring but you can start thinking about that now.

Step 5. Start removing the ornamentals you now have that are known to be serious invasive species like Calary Pear, Burning Bush, Autumn Olive, Japanese Honeysuckle, and Miscanthus Grass.

Keystone Plants

Native oaks, cherries, willows, birches, cottonwoods, elms, goldenrods, asters, sunflowers. For More see: www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder

Wright Memorial
Public Library