

# inSTALLations

April 2009



## Plant Parade

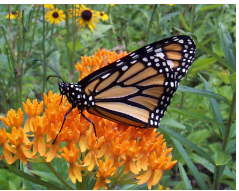
### Natives in Your Landscape

If you're looking for a low-maintenance, earth-friendly garden, then it's time to consider adding some native plants to your landscaping.



There are many advantages to choosing native species over non-natives. Once established in the appropriate location, native plants need neither fertilizer nor extra water. Their deep root systems and multiple stems help to slow the water and allow it to penetrate into the ground rather than running into the street and overloading the sewer system during a heavy rain. Also, for every native garden in your yard, you are reducing the amount of gasoline used in mowing a traditional lawn.

Native plants provide food and shelter for beneficial insects and birds. Members of the Milkweed family provide food for the larva of Monarch butterflies while the seeds of Coneflowers and Black-eyed Susans feed finches.



Visit the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association website ([www.mnppa.org](http://www.mnppa.org)) or the Wild Ones website ([www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org)) to learn more about native plants and the nurseries that produce them.

## Native Nuggets

If you choose native landscaping, you should avoid using pesticides of any kind. They will cause harm to the beneficial insects in your yard. In a balanced system, pest insects will be controlled by their natural predators (often insects themselves).



Native plants provide interesting variety in the garden. Just like cultivars, you can select natives based on seasonal interest such as fall color, bark patterns, flowering time, and attractive seed heads or berries.



Do not collect native plants from the wild unless you have permission from the land owner and know that the plant is neither threatened nor endangered.

**Visit the Information Desk for program information.**

**This inSTALLation is available online at [www.chippewanaturecenter.org](http://www.chippewanaturecenter.org) under the Naturalist Section.**