

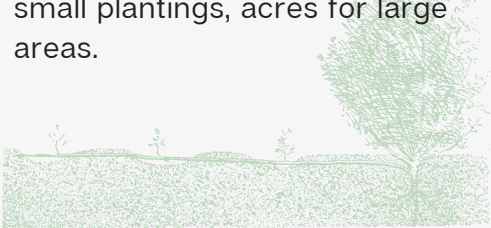


# STEPS FOR ADDING NATIVE PLANTS TO YOUR PROPERTY

Our step-by-step guide helps you meet your native landscaping goals whether you live on a city lot or in the country. Even adding a few native plants can make a difference.

## STEP 1: DELINEATE & MEASURE PLANTING AREA

This will help you figure out how many plants or seeds you will need. Measure in square feet for small plantings, acres for large areas.



## STEP 3: SELECT PLANTS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR SITE'S CONDITIONS & YOUR GOALS

## STEP 2: EVALUATE SITE CONDITIONS

- **Soil type:** Read the document [here](#)
- **Soil moisture & drainage:**  
Dry soils are extremely well-drained, usually with sand, gravel, rocks. Moist soils are regularly damp, only have standing water for short periods, usually loamy. Wet soils remain damp year-round, may have standing water for long periods.
- **Light regime:**  
“Full sun” has > 6 hours sun / day  
“Partial Sun” has 4-6 hours of sun / day  
“Shade” gets < 4 hours of sun / day

### References to help you with those selections:

- **Home garden:**
  - DNR “Native Plants for Beginners”
  - Local native plant nursery or garden center
  - “DNR’s Native Plant Recommendations for Landscaping and Natural Community Restoration”
- **Pollinator habitat:**
  - DNR “Native Pollinators” webpage
- **Bird habitat:**
  - DNR “Plants for Birds”
  - DNR “Create Habitat” for birds
- **Wild game habitat:**
  - DNR “Wildlife and Your Land” series
- **Stormwater management:**
  - DNR Rain Garden information
- **Ecological restoration**
  - “Prairie Primer” (UW-Extension publication)
  - DNR “Plant Species Composition of Wisconsin Prairies: An Aid to Selecting Species for Plantings and Restorations Based Upon Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison Plant Ecology Lab. Data”
  - “The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook for Prairies, Savannas, and Woodlands,” by Stephen Packard and Cornelia F. Mutel. Island Press: Washington D.C., 1997
  - DNR’s “Native Plant Recommendations for Landscaping and Natural Community Restoration”





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### STEP 4: DECIDE ON SEEDS, PLANTS OR BOTH

#### SEEDS

##### Pros:

- More cost-effective
- Can be sown throughout the year
- Plants better adapted to local site conditions

##### Cons:

- Can take 1-3 years for plants to establish and flower
- Weeds/plants that compete with growing seedlings need to be controlled



#### PLANTS

##### Pros:

- Immediate gratification
- Rapidly stabilize soils
- Can be installed in spring, summer & fall

##### Cons:

- More expensive than seeds
- Risk of transplant shock
- Regular watering needed for several weeks after installation.

### STEP 5: FIND A SOURCE FOR SEEDS & PLANTS

- See DNR “Wisconsin Native Plant Nurseries” for listing. Place orders over the winter to help ensure you get everything you want.
- Check DNR “Native Plants” website periodically for schedule of native plant sales.
- Connect with local garden clubs, Wild Ones chapters, and neighbors.
- Volunteer with local natural areas to learn how to collect native seed in the wild.

### STEP 6: CONSIDER HIRING HELP

See list of Wisconsin Restoration Contractors if you need professional assistance. Some native plant nurseries will also do home garden installations.

### STEP 7: KEEP A PLANTING LOG

Create a simple map of your planting showing where, when and what you planted. Observe and note which species were successful and which ones didn't work out.

### STEP 8: WINTER EVALUATION

Use your planting log to review and revise your goals as needed, and make plans for expanding and enhancing plantings.



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