

# Native Plants

Diana Alfuth  
Horticulture Outreach Specialist, UW-Extension  
Landscape Design Instructor, UW-River Falls



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## Why are we Interested?

- Aesthetics
- Maintenance
- Wildlife





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## Native Landscaping

### Native Ecosystems

- Prairie
- Woodland
- Savannah
- Wetland








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## Plant communities

Groups of plants that are adapted to the same conditions, including

- soil
- moisture
- climate




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## Aesthetics: What does "native" mean?

A plant common in a region prior to European settlement.

Yet, Native Americans moved plants around long before.



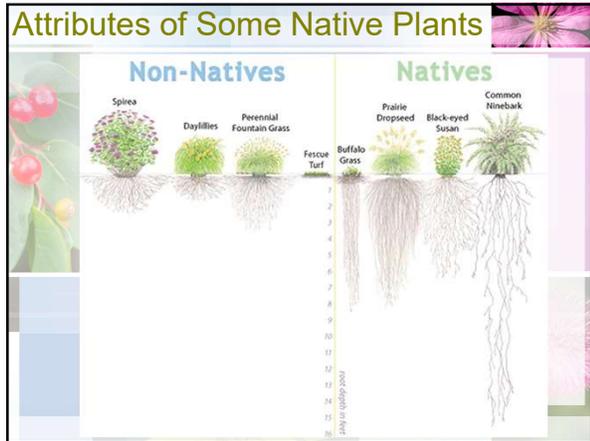

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## Characteristics of Native Plants

- Adapted to the area
- Supports native wildlife
- Checks and balances
- Less water, fertilizer, maintenance
- Aesthetics
- Provides more diversity over common "overused" landscape plants.



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### Characteristics of Exotics

- Invasive?
- Adapted to the situation
- Supports wildlife
- Water, fertilizer and maintenance needs vary
- Aesthetics – showy
- Pest resistant

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### Native Plants

Plantings create a “Sense of Place”

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### Native Plants

Wisconsin has many different native ecosystems, often very close to each other.

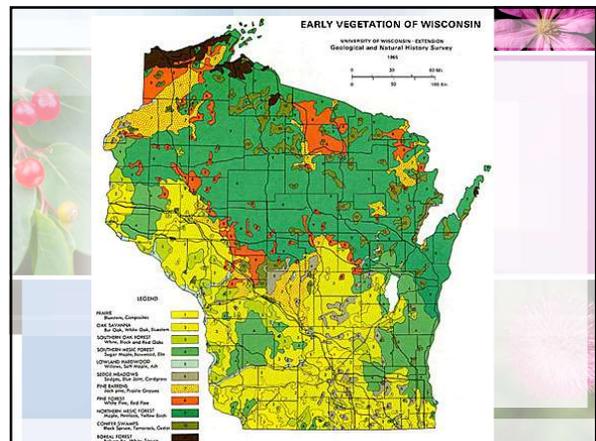
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### Native Ecosystems

How do you know what was in your neighborhood 200 years ago?

- Maps
- Remnants
- Folklore
- Diaries/stories
- Government surveys

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### Native Plants in the Landscape

In most cases, a larger area is needed to create an authentic native landscape or ecosystem.



Most of us must settle for incorporating some native plants into traditional landscapes.

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### Are Natives Always Better?

**Yards and landscapes are not always “native” conditions.**

- Soil conditions/compaction
- Heat islands
- Hydrology changes
- Other vegetation including exotics



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### Native Landscaping

**Create your native landscape to be as authentic as possible, within your existing conditions.**

**Choose your plants based on**

- \* Site Conditions
- \* Wildlife benefits
- \* Overall goal



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### Design: Authenticity

**Will you use species only?**

**Are varieties or cultivars acceptable to you?**



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### Native and Natural Design

**Provide plenty of variety to attract the most types of wildlife**




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### Plant Selection

**Start speaking Latin!**

**Use botanical names to be sure you have the right plants.**



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**Plant Selection**

**When you acquire your plants, shop local.**

**Local ecotypes may be better suited to your area**

**Local experts can help**



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**Plant Selection**

**With property owner permission, you can collect seeds and plants from the wild.**

**Always leave behind more than you take.**

**Make sure the plant will survive.**



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**Combining Plants**

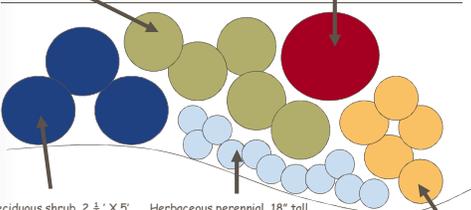
Evergreen shrub, 4' X 4', mounded, coarse texture, winter interest

Deciduous shrub, 6' X 6', upright, medium texture, fall interest

Deciduous shrub, 2 1/2' X 5', creeping, medium texture, spring interest

Herbaceous perennial, 18" tall, mounded, fine texture, summer interest (red flowers)

Ornamental grass, 40" tall, upright, medium texture, fall interest



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**ENJOY NATIVE PLANTS!!!!**

Always match the plant to the conditions.

Know the pros and cons of the plant.

Know your goal when choosing plants.

Appreciate every plant for what it is!!! ☺



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