

New Hampshire Native Plants

{ Go Native

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Native Plants

Native plant is a term to describe plants indigenous or naturalized to a given area in geologic time.

This includes plants that have developed, occur naturally, or existed for many years in an area (e.g. trees, flowers, grasses, and other plants).

Some native plants rely on natural conditions, such as occasional wildfires, to release their seeds or to provide a fertile environment where their seedlings can become established.



Common Yarrow

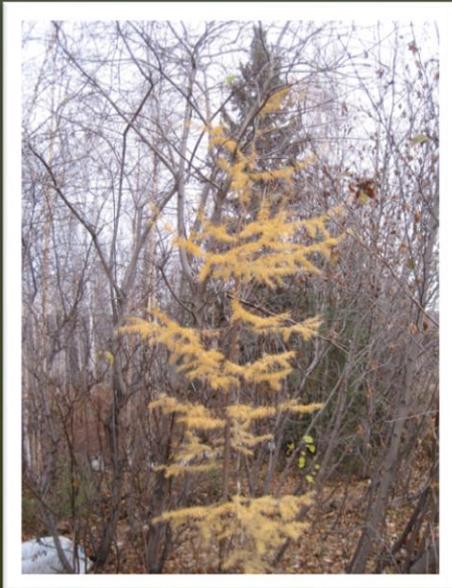


Lady Fern

Native Plants

Native plants form a part of a cooperative environment, or plant community, where several species or environments have developed to support them.

This could be a case where a plant exists because a certain animal pollinates the plant and that animal exists because it relies on the pollen as a source of food.



Tamarack



Woodland Phlox

New Hampshire Biophysical Environment

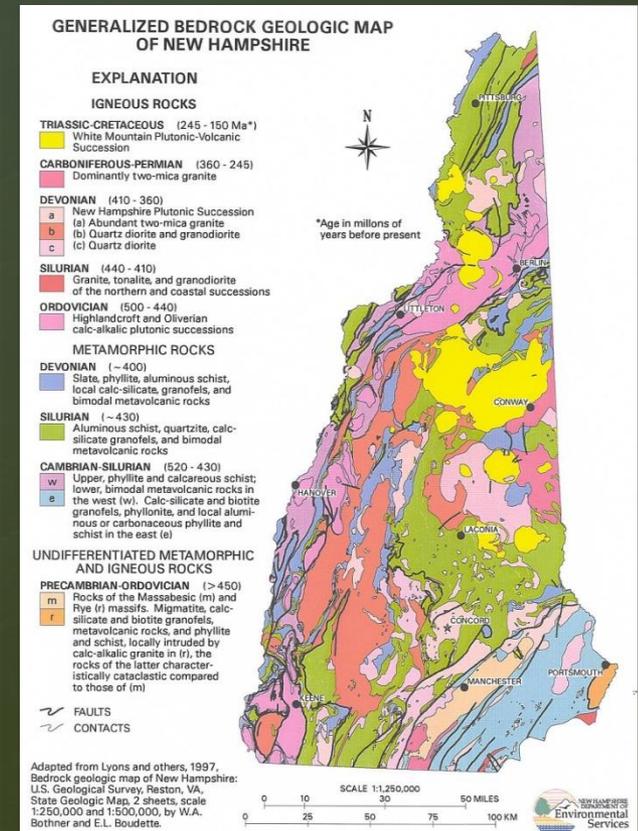
Native plants are prevalent because of climate, geology, soils and community dynamics

Climate

NH more variable than other nearby areas.
Convergence zone for major storm tracks.

Geology

Beautiful landscape-a product of repeated glacial advances and retreats.



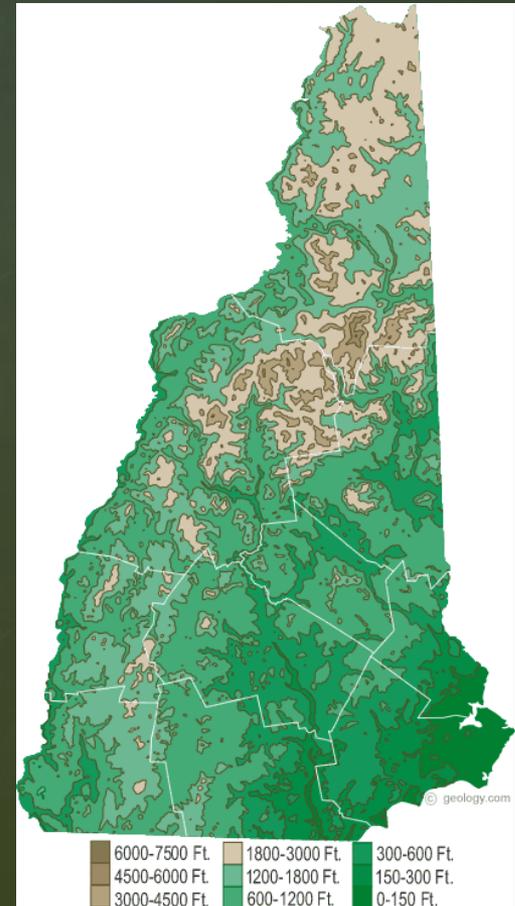
New Hampshire Biophysical Environment

Soil

Soil properties vary with climate, landform, topographic setting, surface material, water movement, and biologic activity.

Community Dynamics

Changes over long term from wind, floods, droughts, fires, ice and extreme temperatures.



New Hampshire Biodiversity

80% intact forest land

2,000 plant species 1,500 native.

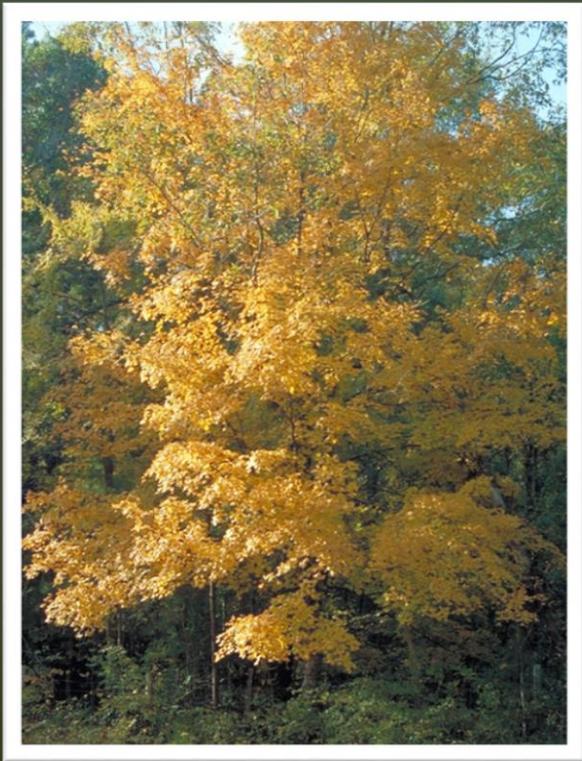
500 plant species introduced from all parts of the world.

A number of introduced plants are invasive.



New Hampshire Natives

Native plants are as much a part of what makes New Hampshire unique as our mountains, lakes, rivers, and coastline.

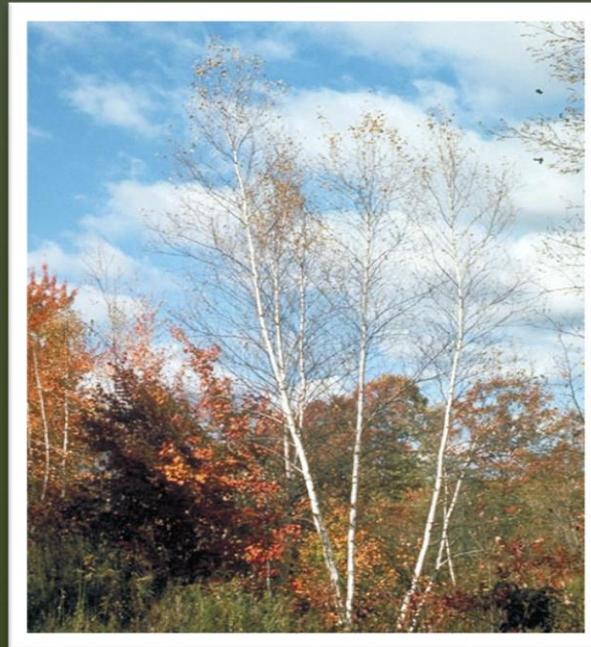


Native Plant Advantages

The native plant communities that abound in New Hampshire are a result of 10,000 years of development since the last ice age.

Native plants contribute to the unique New Hampshire environment as much as our mountains and lakes.

These plants have evolved to grow successfully where you plant them. Native plants allow for the natural systems to work for you.



Native Plant Advantages

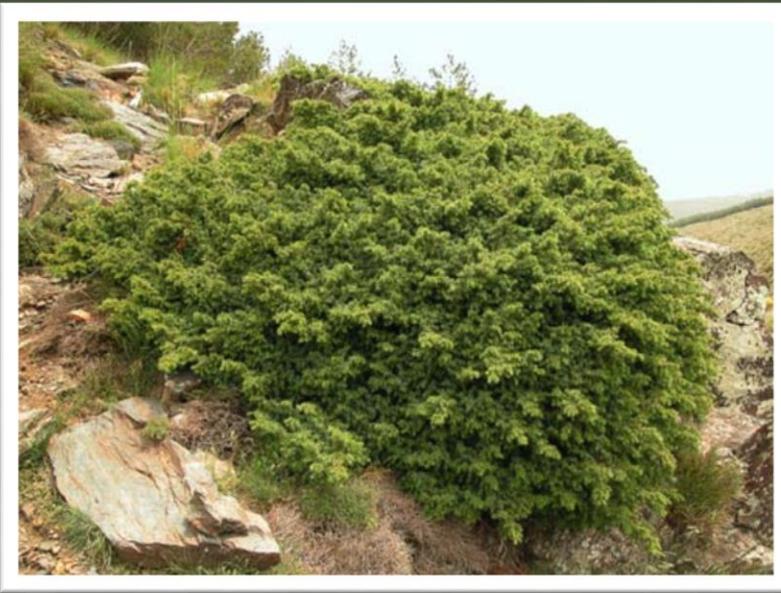
Native plants are a vital resource for sustaining wildlife. Song birds frequent landscapes with native plants. Most introduced plants do not provide seeds that are of value to wildlife.



Native Plant Advantages

Native plants offer advantages that introduced plants do not share-hardiness to successfully deal with winter conditions, ability to withstand most pests, are disease resistant, and have low maintenance requirements.

Most native plants have low watering requirements.
The need for repeated fertilization is eliminated.
They take care of themselves.



Native Plant Advantages

Native plants reproduce by sexual propagation (the DNA is slightly different in each generation) and as a result have a great degree of diversity that adds interest to a landscape.

They add a vibrant natural look.



Native Plant Advantages

There are no invasive native plants. They do not threaten to overtake other native plant communities.



Redosier Dogwood- *Cornus sericea*



The Redosier Dogwood is a fast-growing, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub with cherry red winter stems. The stems are especially showy against a snowy backdrop. Tiny white flowers appear in flat-topped clusters in late spring. Flowers give way to clusters of creamy white fruit in late summer. Fruit is very attractive to birds. It is a host plant for butterfly flies.

Bright red stems in winter, extremely winter hardy, tolerates a variety of conditions

Black Chokeberry-Aronia polifolia



This compact deciduous shrub offers four season beauty. Dainty white flowers in spring are followed by lush, shiny foliage in summer. The dark berries backed by the purple and red fall foliage is superb. The berries persist providing food for the birds and other wildlife all winter long. Low maintenance and tolerant of a wide rang of growing conditions.

Chokeberry gets its name from its sour fruit which can be sweetened with added sugar. While some specialty grocery stores offer the Aronia juice as an alternative to cranberry juice, native birds feast on the berries straight off the bush, whether sweet or sour!

Winterberry- *Ilex verticillata*

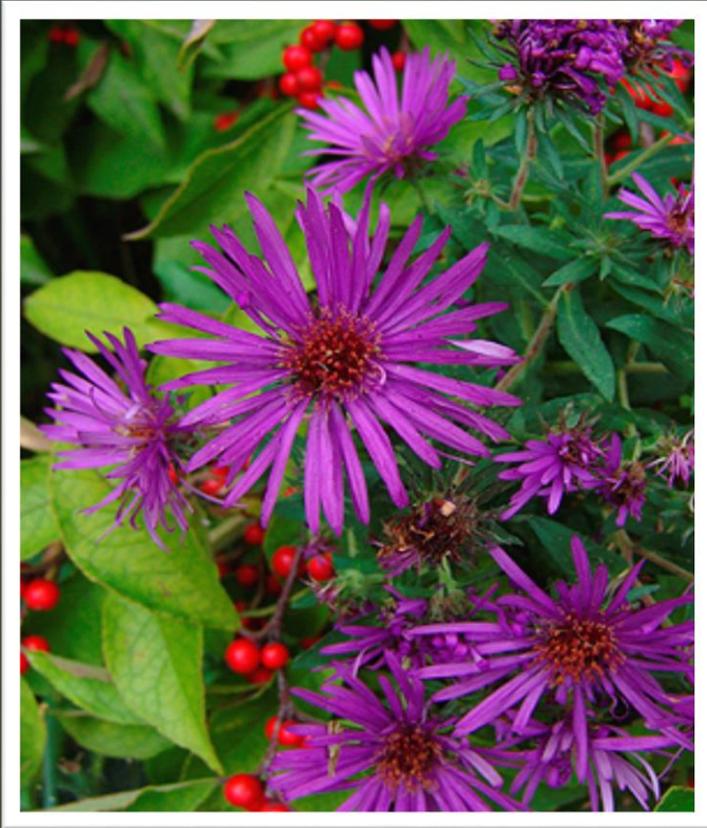


Winterberry is a deciduous holly that is slow growing, with an upright-rounded habit. Inconspicuous greenish-white flowers appear in late spring and give way to a crop of bright red berries in late summer to fall.

Berries are quite showy and persist through most of the winter, hence the common name.

Excellent year round interest, nectar attractive to bees, nesting site for birds

New England Aster- *Aster novae anglia*



Clusters of composite flowers occur at the ends of the upper stems.

Each composite flower consists of numerous gold or yellow disk florets, which are surrounded by 30 or more ray florets that are purple, lavender, or light pink. Each composite flower is about 1½" across. A mature plant may bear two dozen or more of such flowers, putting forth a showy display.

The flowers are visited primarily by bees and butterflies.

American Mountain Ash- *Sorbus americana*



The berries are a favorite wildlife food for many birds and mammals during the fall and winter months. Grouse, the jays and robins in particular relish the berries as do squirrels and rabbits.

American mountain-ash is a small, ornamental tree usually 15-20 ft. The crown is narrow, open and round-topped. Leaves occur on bright-red leaf stalks and turn golden-orange in the fall.

The small white, flowers are held in flat-topped clusters and are followed by broad clusters of bright, coral-red berries. Small tree with spreading crown or a shrub with many stems, and with showy white flowers, and bright red berries.

Common Bearberry *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* 'Massachusetts'



Common Bearberry is an evergreen groundcover that is suited to sandy or other well-drained soils with an acidic pH. It can be a marvelous solution for a difficult site since it grows where few other plants are happy. Its small green leaves have silver grey backs and often appear to be edged in silver. 'Massachusetts' flowers and fruits abundantly and is a disease-resistant.

Berries for birds and wildlife. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies

Butterfly Weed *Asclepias tuberosa*

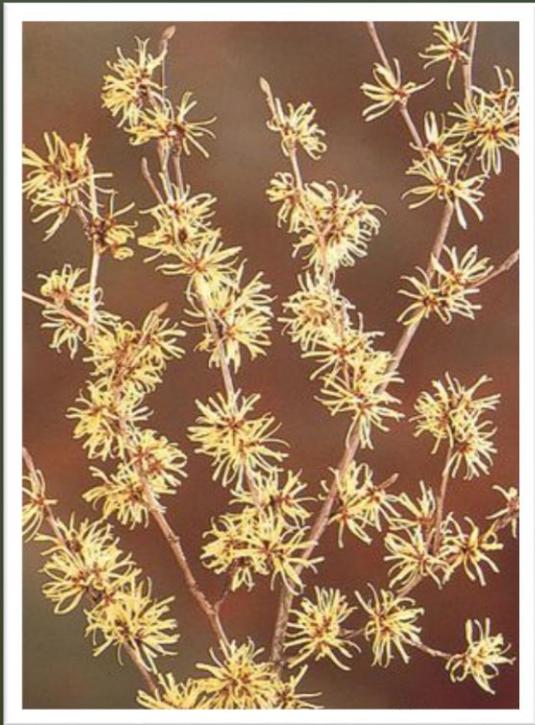


Deer leave this plant alone

Butterfly weed produces loads of bright orange flower clusters from early summer into autumn. The bright flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies. It is a host plant for Grey Hairstreak, Monarch and Queen butterflies.

The dried seedpods are often used in dried flower arrangements. This is an essential plant if you want to attract a variety of butterflies to your property, especially Monarchs.

American Witchhazel-Hamamelis Virginiana



The American witchhazel is a tall shrub or small tree with fragrant yellow flowers that open in late October or early November. It takes a full year for the fruit to mature. When the seed capsule splits open in fall, 1-2 black seeds explode out of it, landing up to 30 feet away.

Various birds and wildlife eat the seed after it falls to the ground. Deep, golden yellow fall leaf color can be outstanding.

Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies and bees, nesting site for birds.

Native Plant Project

The Mountain Garden Club is supporting Kennett HS with the installation of a native garden at the entrance.

Students to design garden, select and plant native plants

Native plants

- Are to replace invasive plants
- Add interest, diversity, color and balance



Things to Consider

Planting natives is an excellent way of protecting NH's biodiversity.

Native plants form the historical basis of our landscape providing food and shelter for wildlife.

Most introduced plants do not threaten the natural landscape. Some are invasive and displace native plants degrading the integrity and diversity of our native plant communities

Interesting Web Sites

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center www.wildflower.org/collections
then go to NH

<http://www.plantnative.org/rpl-nen.htm>

NH Cooperative Extension Native Plant List

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000427_Rep449.pdf

New England Wildflower Society

<http://www.newenglandwild.org/>

UNH Cooperative Extension Helpline 877-398-4769

Summary

Native Plants will make your gardening life easier and better

- Long life span
- Cold hardiness
- Light watering needed
- No staking required
- Insect and disease tolerant
- Numerous pruning not required
- Not invasive
- No need for heavy fertilizing
- Fits well in the landscape
- Possible solution for problem areas

