



NASHVILLE NATIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM

Initiatives and Resources

2025

C

Certification

Obtain a native-plant related certification for your yard or business yard

A

Advocacy

Work with local groups and legislators to implement changes around native landscaping and invasive plant species

R

Rewilding

Expand native plantings and gardens in your yard or volunteer to assist with a community rewilding project

E

Education

Raise awareness in your community about the benefits of native plants





Why Certify Your Native Habitat?

Educate Yourself: Learn about the necessary elements for creating a native habitat to support the intended goals of the specific certification.

Educate Others: Inspire neighbors and community members by showcasing the impact of native gardening and habitat restoration.

Support: Contribute to the mission of the sponsoring organization through your certification fee and the purchase of a yard sign.

Recognition: Establish credibility if certain neighbors are critical or making complaints about your yard.

Tips to Get Started

Read through these local and national certification options; explore our native plant sources and make a plan!

LOCAL CERTIFICATIONS

The Habitat Connection Certified Bird Sanctuary



This program is focused on helping small property owners in the Nashville and Franklin areas understand the native plants and other habitat elements birds need to survive and thrive in Middle TN.

The certification process includes a personalized, two-hour on-site consultation, an in-depth recommendations report, and ongoing support to help you complete certification.

Tennessee Urban Forestry Council



Certified Arboretum

The Certified Arboretum is for properties with at least thirty different species of well-maintained trees, open to the public and proactively utilized for experiential education about trees and the important role they play in communities.

Certified Tree Sanctuary

The Certified Tree Sanctuary is for homeowners who want their property to inspire family, friends, and neighbors through exemplary tree stewardship with at least ten different species of trees.

Tennessee Smart Yards



A program that guides Tennesseans on practices they can apply in their outdoor spaces to create healthier, more ecologically-sound landscapes and communities.

Nine principles of stewardship serve as the foundation for the program and are explored in online modules and practical workshops taught by UT-TSU Extension and water resource professionals.

The goal is to make your yard better for the environment and to act like a sponge to soak up water.



NATIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

National Wildlife Federation

Certified Wildlife Habitat

Everyone can enjoy and protect wildlife where they live, learn, work, play, and worship.

This program provides simple steps and a wealth of resources to create beautiful spaces that make a big impact for local and migratory species from small window boxes to vast habitat corridors.

Wild Ones

Certified Native Habitat

Certifying your native habitat and displaying a Certified Native Habitat Sign is a step towards connecting with a community of like-minded individuals who are making a real difference.

To certify, you must be a member of Wild Ones and pledge to work towards 75% native habitat.

International Hummingbird Society

Certified Hummingbird Garden

Show your support for local and migrating hummingbirds, and turn your garden into a Certified Hummingbird Haven.

Anyone can transform their garden into a haven that provides local and migrating hummingbirds with food, water, sanctuary and an eco-friendly environment.

North American Butterfly Association

Certified Butterfly Garden

We can all make a positive impact on butterflies regardless of where we live.

Local butterfly gardens of all shapes and sizes are critical to creating habitat that supports these crucial pollinators.

Add native nectar and caterpillar food plants to your garden to help butterflies survive and thrive!

Monarch WayStation

Create a Monarch WayStation to help assure the preservation of Monarch butterflies and the continuation of the spectacular Monarch migration phenomenon.

Creating a Monarch Waystation can be as simple as adding milkweeds and nectar sources to existing gardens or maintaining natural habitats with milkweeds.

No effort is too small to have a positive impact.

Homegrown National Park

Get on the Map

Getting on the Homegrown National Park Biodiversity Map showcases your commitment to restoring nature and inspires others to take action.

By adding your space, you contribute to a growing movement that regenerates biodiversity and strengthens local ecosystems.

Together, our individual efforts create meaningful change!



Why Advocate for Native Plants?

Advocating for native plants in your local community can have a big impact on biodiversity, water conservation, and ecosystem health.

How to advocate in your community?

Public Education and Awareness
Community Involvement
Advocacy and Policy Change
Hands-On Projects



Tips to Get Started

Support parks that focus on habitat conservation or ecosystem restoration

Query the NNPS Facebook Group for specific opportunities to donate time or money to a local park or organization

Replace an invasive plant in your yard/community with a native plant

Check out the resource pages to learn more about plants native to Tennessee and where to purchase native plants

Share knowledge about invasive & native plants with your HOA/community

Write an article for your HOA newsletter; create a presentation for an HOA member meeting; coordinate an invasive pull

Work with your HOA to encourage and allow more native plant landscaping

Push for incentives for HOA homeowners who use native plants and read **Top 10 Ways HOAs Can Support Birds and Butterflies**

Create a Trade-A-Tree Program

Work with a local utility such as **Metro Water Services** to initiate this type of program in Nashville

Support a local nursery that grows native plants

Check out the resource pages for a list of nurseries and non-profits sourcing native plants in Nashville and Middle Tennessee

Petition for native plant-friendly policies (like reduced or prohibited pesticide use) on city-owned properties and in new developments

Contact your **Metro Beautification** commissioner or **Metro Council Representative** and/or attend a council meeting to initiate a petition or policy



What is Rewilding?

Rewilding is the restoration of native plants and natural processes to support biodiversity, ecosystem health, and wildlife resilience.

How to rewild in your community?

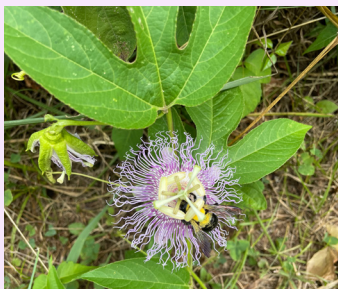
Expand native plantings and gardens in your own yard or volunteer to assist with a community re-wilding project



Tips to Get Started

Propagate or start a pollinator garden from native seeds

Purchase seed mixes from the **Tennessee Environmental Council's "Generate Some Buzz"** program or choose specific flowering seeds from **Plant for a Change**



Sign-up and support local native plant initiatives!

Participate in local initiatives like **Neighbors 4 Native Plants** that offers twice-yearly pollinator kits tailored to your yard

Keep abreast of local native plant sales and festivals across the state

Join the **NNPS Facebook** or **Rewild Nashville**, or sign-up for newsletters from organizations like **Wild Ones Middle Tennessee** or **TN Smart Yards**

Learn about local native trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceous plants

Explore a **detailed list of native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants** that support butterflies and moths in Davidson County

Increase native plants in your yard by adding native trees, shrubs or wildflowers

Purchase native plants from local nurseries like **Wonder Gift and Garden** and **GroWild Inc** or get landscape design help from **Habitat Landscapes** and other organizations

Organize or participate in a community native plant volunteer project or help maintain a local native plant garden!

Explore volunteer opportunities with local organizations like **Friends of Warner Parks** or **Tennessee Environmental Council** or **Second Sunday Gardeners**



Educating Yourself and Others

Educate yourself first! Read books like **Bringing Nature Home**, or **The Humane Gardener**, subscribe to a **Native Plant newsletter**, take an in-person or online native plant course through the **TN Naturalist Program**, sign up for walks and programs at your **nearest Nature Center**, and use plant ID apps like **iNaturalist** or **Seek**



Tips to Get Started

Raise awareness through social media

Join a Facebook group like **Nashville Native Plant Symposium**, **Wild Ones Middle TN Discussion** or **Homegrown National Park** and share activities

Reach out to local news outlets to raise awareness

Contact local media outlets (**WPLN**, **Nashville Banner**, **TN Wild Side**, **WNPT**) about featuring a native plant story or community initiative

Create or share an educational presentation

Reach out to the **NNPS FB page** to request a presentation or to post your own. You can also **access and share the Symposium session videos**

Research and share tips for avoiding pesticides and herbicides

Read and share resources such as the Xerces Society **Herbicide Fact Sheet** or **Reducing Pesticide Use**, or learn about the **Mosquito Bucket of Doom**

Learn & share information about invasive plants

Download Tennessee Invasive Plant Councils' **Invasive Plant Primer for the Home Landscape** to learn about identifying and controlling common TN invasives



Organize or assist with educational workshops on native plants in your neighborhood, church, school, etc.

Connect with potential presenters and guest speakers through the **NNPS Facebook**, **Wild Ones Middle TN Discussion**, **TN Naturalist Program**, or **Second Sunday Gardeners**



NATIVE SEEDS and PLANT RESOURCES

Dry Shade and Winter Interest Plants

Habitat Landscapes

A detailed list of dry shade tolerant and winter interest native plants

Native Plants of North America

Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center

Search for native plants by common or scientific name and get details on planting and habitat

Botanical Garden Plant Finder

Missouri Botanical Garden

Look up, view a photo and read about the 7500 plants grown in their display gardens

Native Plant Finder by Zip Code

National Wildlife Foundation

Find the best native plants to help wildlife - based on the research of Dr. Doug Tallamy

Invasive Plant List

Tennessee Invasive Plant Council

Comprehensive list of plants that are not native to Tennessee and are invasive

North America Vascular Flora

The Biota of North American Program

Search for plants to determine if they are native to your specific region

Herbaceous Host Plants

Wonder Gifts and Garden

A list of TN native flowering plants and the number of butterflies and moths they host

Tree, Shrub & Vine Host Plants

Wonder Gifts and Garden

A list of native trees, shrubs and vines and the number of moths & butterflies they host

Online Source for Native Wildflower Seeds

Plant for a Change

Purchase seeds for the top 5 native wildflowers of Eastern North America

Online Source for Native Seeds and Plants

Prairie Moon Nursery

Shop over 700 species of natives based on sun, shade, pollinator favorites & grasses

TN Native Wildflower & Grass Seeds

Roundstone Native Seed

A local source for regionally adapted ecotype seed mixes for large habitat seed orders

TN Native Wildflower Seed Mix

TN Environmental Council

A local source for regionally adapted ecotype seed mixes for homeowners



NASHVILLE NATIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM

Resources List

2025

NATIVE SEEDS and PLANT RESOURCES cont...

Environmental Urban Forestry Consulting

Davey Resource Group-Nashville

Consulting on wetland and stream restoration, tree preservation and more

Tennessee Native Nursery

Growild, Inc

Over 1,000 species of native wildflowers, trees, shrubs & grasses. Contract and public sales by appointment

Native Plant Landscape Design

Habitat Landscapes

Expert help in native plant landscape design and installation in Nashville and Middle Tennessee

Invasive Plant Management

Invasive Plant Control

Expert invasive plant management and control for homeowners, parks, farmers and more

Land Management Experts

Kindred Land Management

Expert help in managing forests, prairies and habitat improvements for wildlife

Map of Local Nurseries

Neighbors 4 Native Plants

Google Map of nurseries around town that carry at least some native plants

Pollinator Kits for your yard

Neighbors 4 Native Plants

Davidson County non-profit coordinating seasonal pollinator kits

Seasonal TN Native Plant Sales

Wild Ones Middle Tennessee

Local native plant sales held in the spring and fall

Native plant focused garden shop

Wonder Gift & Garden

Native plants, local art, and everything you need for your backyard habitat





WILDLIFE INFORMATION and RESOURCES

North American Keystone Plants

Homegrown National Park

Learn about keystone flowering plants, trees and shrubs that support the most wildlife

Mosquito Bucket of Doom

Sidewalk Nature

Learn all about why all pesticide sprays are not good and how to naturally combat mosquitoes

Mosquito Bucket of Doom PDF

Sidewalk Nature

Download a printable PDF of simple Bucket of Doom instructions to share

Preventing Bird Window Strikes

AllAboutBirds.org

Learn why birds hit windows and how you can prevent it

Save Birds from Window Strikes

Feather Friendly

Online source for window decals to prevent bird window strikes

State of the Birds Report

North American Bird Conservation

2025 State of the Birds report providing status assessment on the health of birds

All Things Birds

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

A wealth of information on enjoying, understanding and protecting birds

How Invasive Plant Removal Benefits Birds

Friends of Warner Parks

A concise overview of bird decline and how non-native plants impact birds

Insects and Other Pollinators Information

Xerces Society

Learn more about insects and other invertebrates that benefit from native plant initiatives

Bee Basics: An Introduction to our Native Bees

USDA & Pollinator Partnership

A detailed PDF publication about native bees and bee conservation

Tour Metro's Stormwater Demo Campus

Metro Water Services

Request a tour of the Stormwater Demo Campus for your students, friends, colleagues

