

Landscaping:

Get to Know Your Yard

Reach out to Natural Neighbors to learn more about adding native plants and features to your property that benefit pollinators and wildlife. Schedule a visit: rcouse@biodiversityworksmv.org

Preserve Existing Native Plants

The best native plants are the ones already in your yard. Minimize clearing of native species.

Become an Advocate

Join the many Islanders who are promoting nature-based landscaping. Share this information to encourage family, friends, and neighbors to join the movement!

Protect Our Land and Water

Whether native plants, ornamentals, or lawns, choose low-maintenance plantings that require less water and don't need fertilizer, herbicide, pesticides, or deer sprays.

It's not all or nothing

By adding native plants and reducing lawn size, you're fostering resilient ecosystems, preserving biodiversity, supporting pollinators, and creating landscapes that thrive with minimal intervention. All these actions build our resilience in the face of climate change.

Have a 5-year plan: Add three natives a year with a goal over time of **70% native and 30% cultivar/ornamental**. Transition towards a smaller, fertilizer-free Vineyard lawn.



An Initiative of

THE VINEYARD WAY



Looking for more information?

Scan the QR code for more information on the recommended list of plants, sample garden design, pictures, wholesale suppliers, and local resources.



Nature-based

Homeowners are crucial in building our island's resilience to climate change. By promoting **nature-based landscaping**, every native plant you add to your landscape and gardens is a step towards sustaining our local ecosystems for future generations. Your choices matter.

Add Native Species

They are adapted to our island's unique environment and create stepping stones of habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

Reduce and Transition Lawns

Advocate for landscapes with reduced lawn area, incorporating alternatives such as native ground covers or meadows and using grass species that require less water, mowing, and no fertilizers. Email info@vineyardconservation.org to learn more about creating a sustainable lawn.

Ask for Native Plants

Demonstrate your interest in nature-based landscaping by asking landscapers, gardeners, and nurseries to use natives.

PLANT LOCAL

A Quick Guide for
Martha's Vineyard
Homeowners



PLANT THIS 

NOT THAT 

Top 20 Native Plants

PROBLEM PLANTS 

Arrowwood	Burning bush
Bearberry	Japanese pachysandra or Vinca
Blue flag irises	Daylilies
Eastern red cedar	Leyland cypress
Goldenrods & Asters	Oxeye daisies
Inkberry	Boxwood or Japanese holly
Switchgrass	Silvergrass
In addition to Local top 20	
Bayberry	Privet
Virginia rose	Beach rose
Blueberry	Japanese barberry
For Lawns	
Clover, Rye, Fescues Creeping strawberry	Kentucky bluegrass



COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	BLOOM	FORM	SUN	SOIL	BENEFITS
American holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	SP			W/M	
Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	SP			M/D	
Beach plum	<i>Prunus maritima</i>	SP			M/D	
Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	SP			M/D	
Beetlebung	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	SP			W/M	
Blue flag iris	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	SP			W	
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	SU			W	
Eastern red cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	SP			M/D	
Inkberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	SP			W/M/D	
Joe Pye weed	<i>Eutrochium dubium</i>	SU			M/D	
Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	F			M/D	
New England aster	<i>Symphiotrichum novae-angliae</i>	F			M	
Orange butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	SU			M/D	
Pennsylvania sedge	<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	SP			M/D	
Red columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	SP			M	
Seaside goldenrod	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i>	F			M/D	
Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	SU			W/M	
Swamp rose-mallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	SU			W/M	
Sweet pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	SU			W/M	
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	SP			W/M	

BLOOMS SU Summer
SP Spring
F Fall

FORM Perennial Grass
 Shrub Tree

SUN Full
 Partial
 Shade

SOIL TYPE W Wet
M Moist
D Dry

BENEFITS Larval Host Bumblebee Nest site Birds
 Beneficial Insects Deer Resistant Nest Materials
 Butterfly Specialist bees Hummingbird

