

Bring wildlife to your yard with native plants



Belding



Wildlife Management Area

See plant lists beginning on slide 116.
Lists with scientific names begin on slide 125

**We all want to bring birds and
butterflies to our yards**



A photograph of three children kneeling in a grassy field, examining plants. The child on the left is wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt and a pink headband, and is holding a plant to her nose. The child in the middle is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and is looking down at a plant. The child on the right is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt with colorful graphics and a pink baseball cap with a silver sequined brim, and is holding a plant. The text "Here's how you can do it" is overlaid in white on the image.

Here's how you can do it

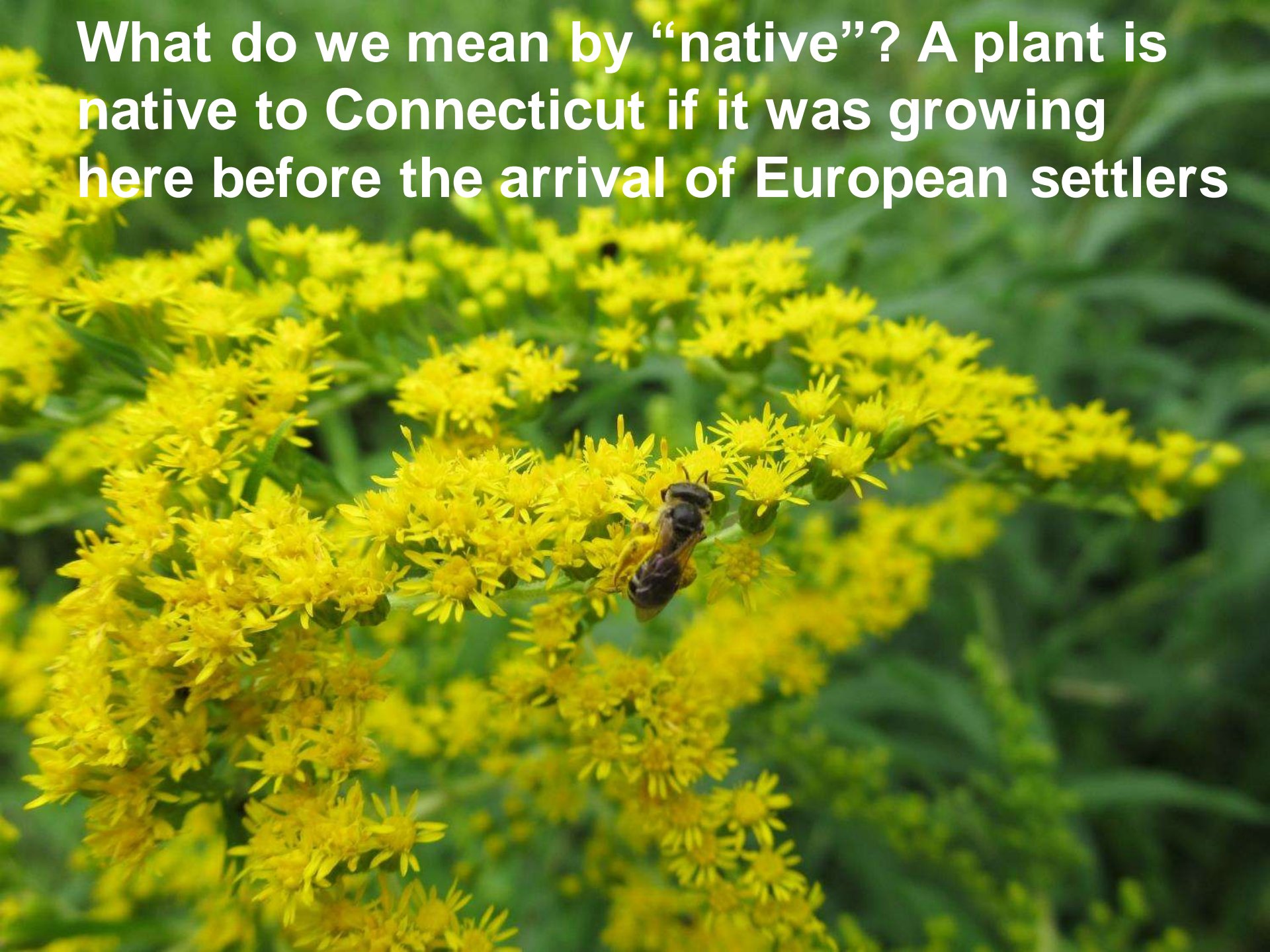
Most plant-eating insects (like butterfly caterpillars) can only feed on native plants



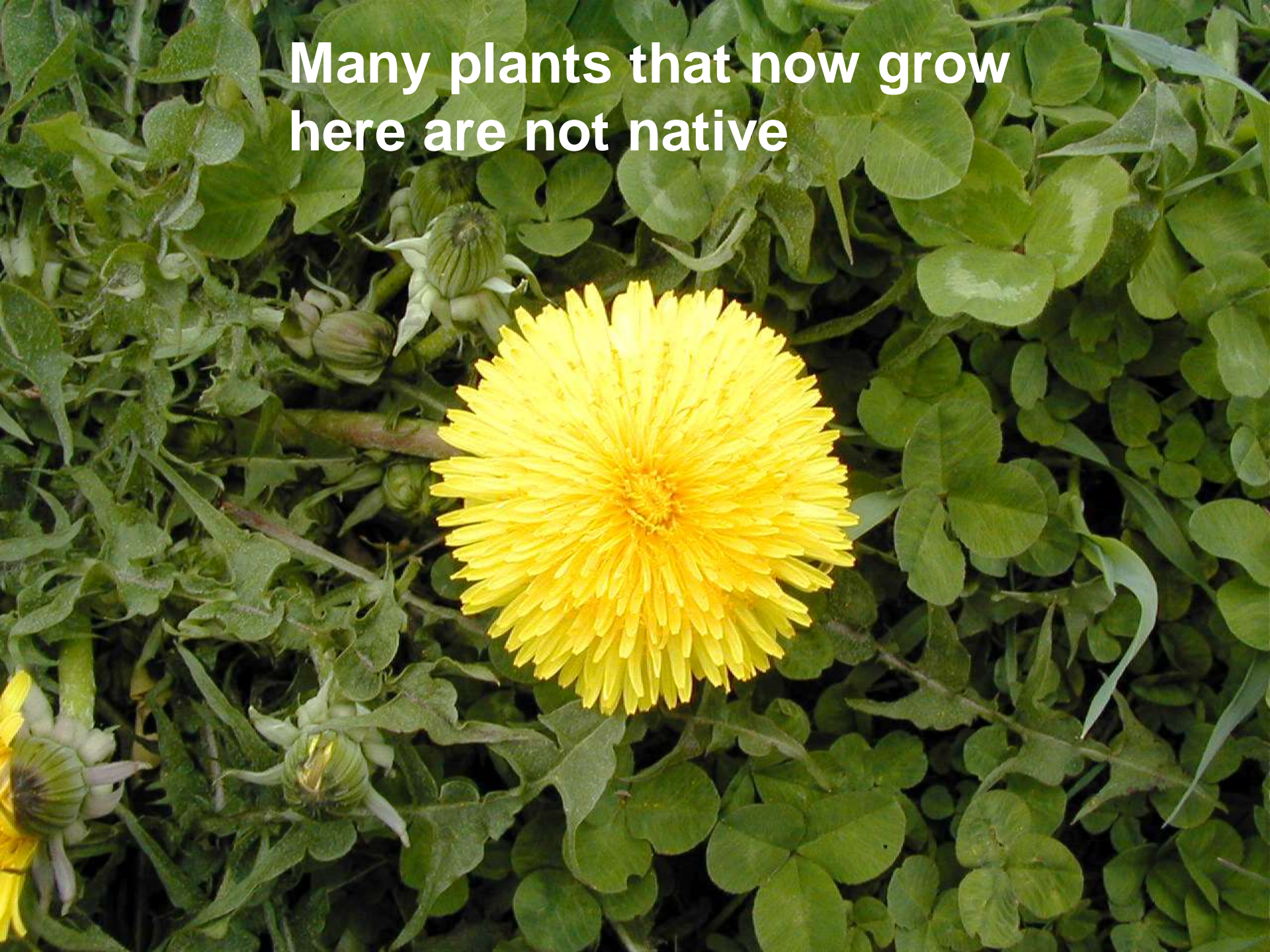


Planting native plants will provide food for plant-eating insects such as caterpillars (there are hundreds of different kinds), as well as provide food for the birds and other animals that feed on those insects

What do we mean by “native”? A plant is native to Connecticut if it was growing here before the arrival of European settlers



Many plants that now grow here are not native



And, many of the plants that are sold by nurseries are not native. Some are even invasive.



A yard with a variety of native plants will provide the requirements that birds and butterflies need to survive



All animals must
find shelter . . .



© PAUL W. FUSCO

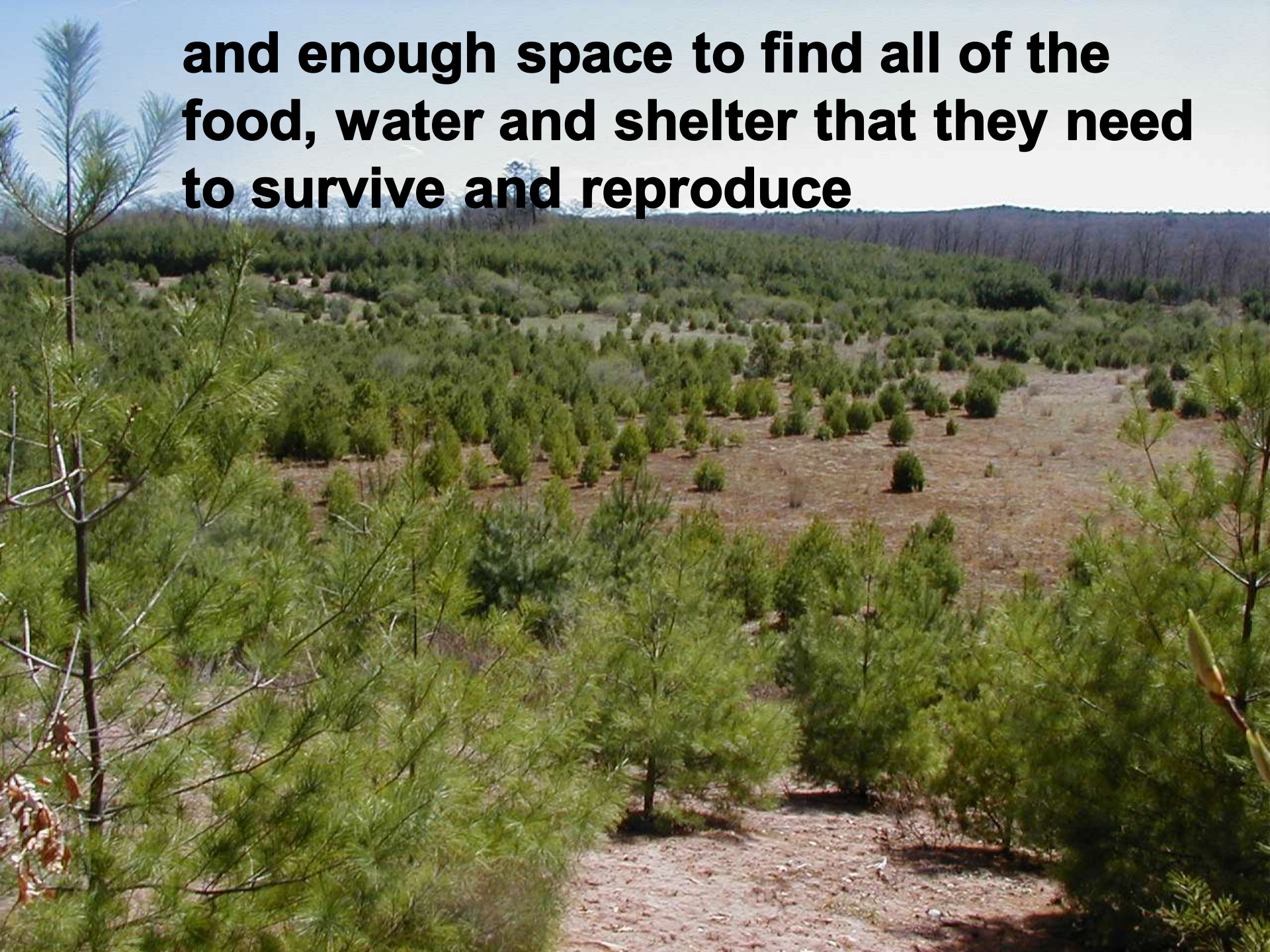
and food in order to survive



They also need water,



**and enough space to find all of the
food, water and shelter that they need
to survive and reproduce**



**But over half of the lower 48 states has
been converted to cities and suburbia**

“All species need space in order to dodge the extinction bullet. So far, we have not shared space very well with our fellow earthlings.” - Douglas W. Tallamy

Image from NASA/DMSP

Many species of birds and other animals are disappearing



Brown thrasher

The biggest threat to wildlife . . .



is loss of habitat



**As we convert land to houses and lawn,
we are taking away food, water, shelter
and space**



“...the wild creatures we enjoy and would like to have in our lives will not be here in the future if we take away their food and the places they live.” – Douglas Tallamy



A photograph of a lush garden path. The path is a narrow strip of green grass, flanked on both sides by dense, tall green plants and flowers. On the left, there are large white flowers and pinkish-purple ones. On the right, there are yellow flowers and more pinkish-purple ones. In the background, there are more green plants, a blue evergreen tree, and a white fence or wall. The overall scene is vibrant and full of life.

But, we can provide food, water and shelter for those wild creatures right in our own yards

A photograph of a large, overgrown lawn in front of a white house. The grass is tall and uneven, with some brown patches. In the background, a white house with several windows is visible, along with a paved driveway on the left side. The overall scene suggests a neglected or unmanaged yard.

“If nothing moves in your landscape but a lawnmower, it’s time to think of designing a natural yard.” – Rochelle Whiteman

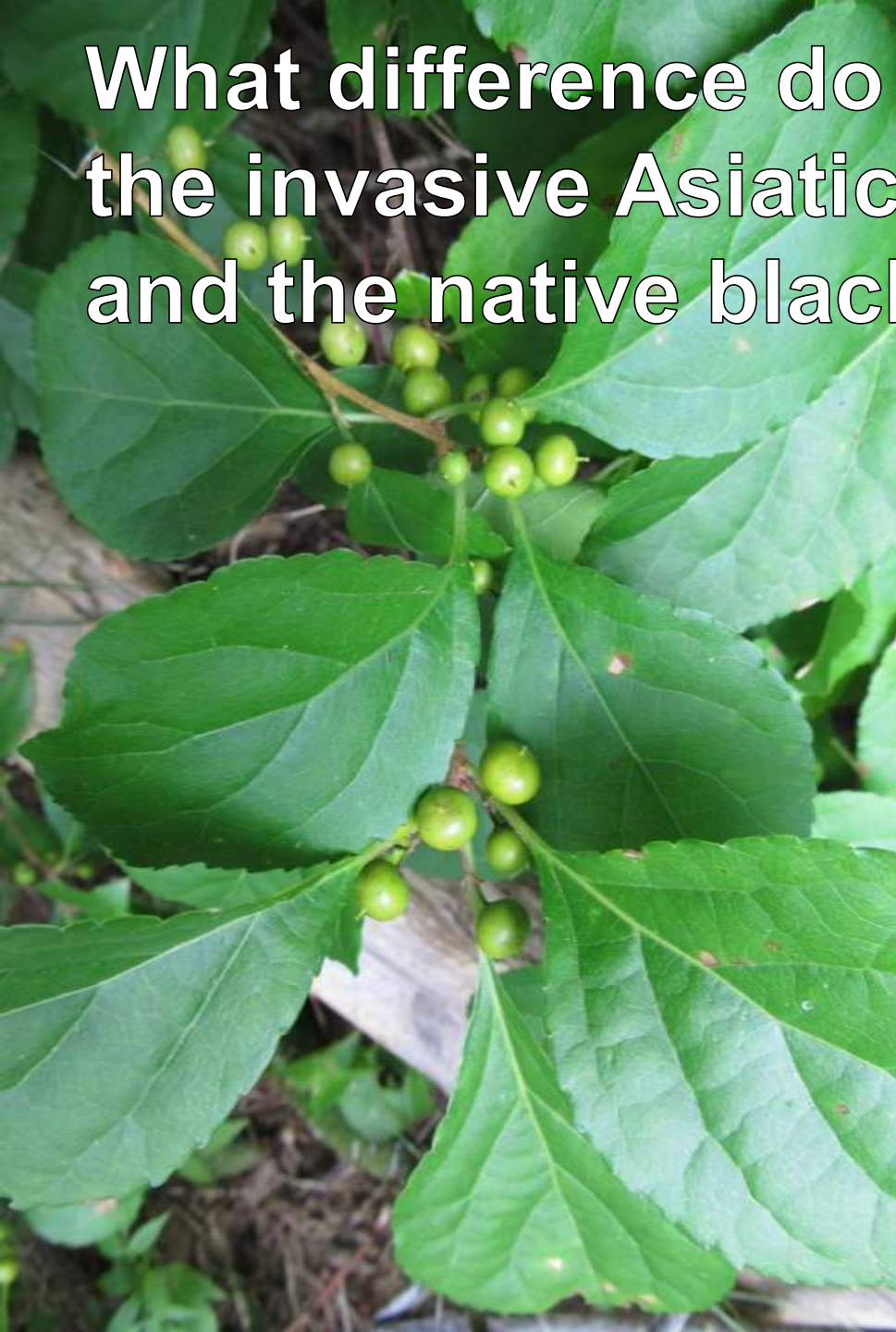


**Why native plants?
Consider the following:**

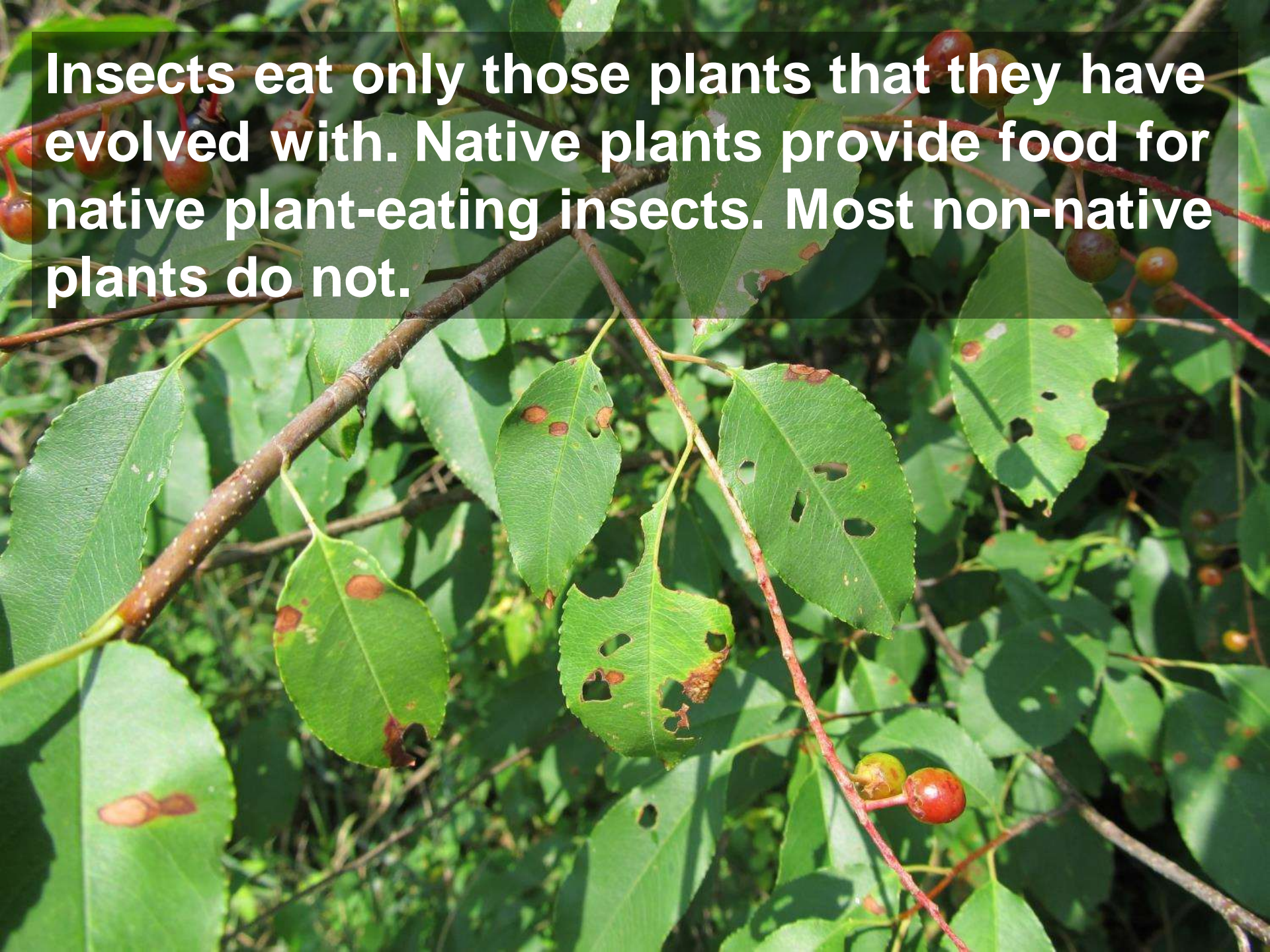


There will be more food for wildlife if the plants growing in your yard are native plants

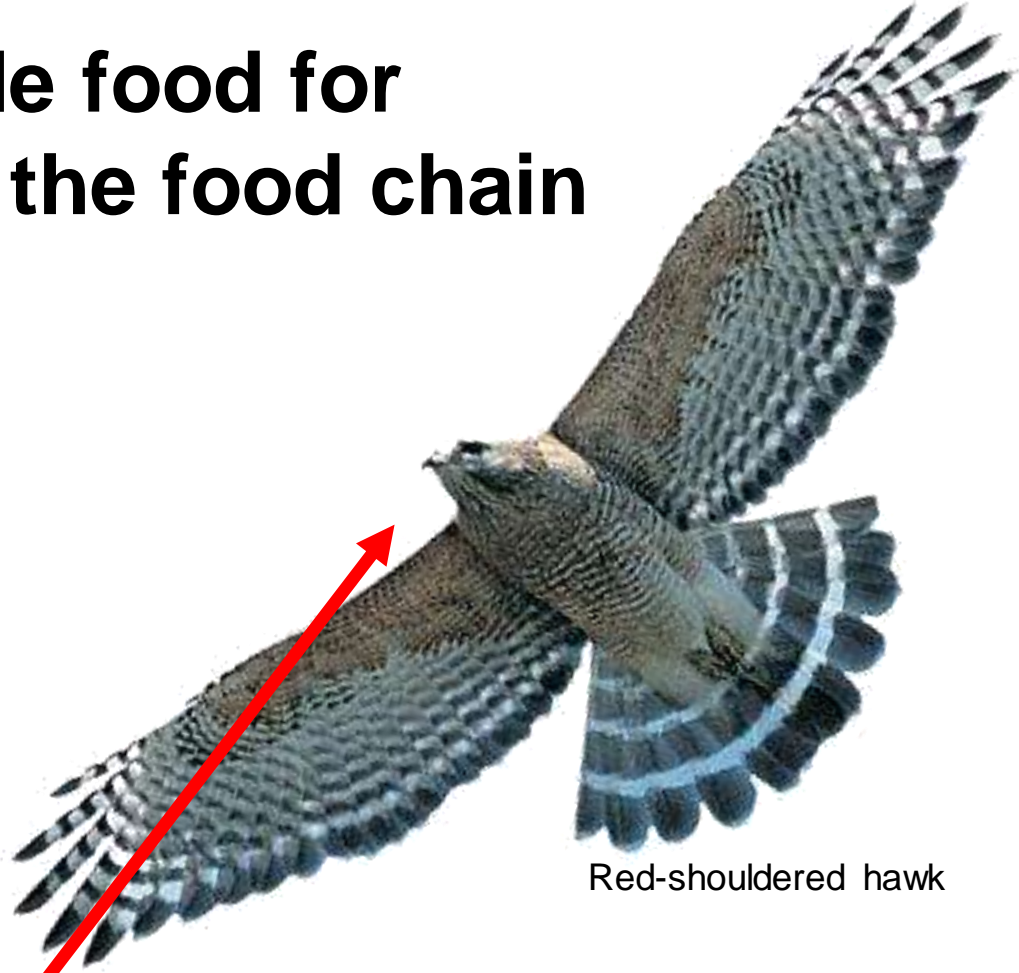
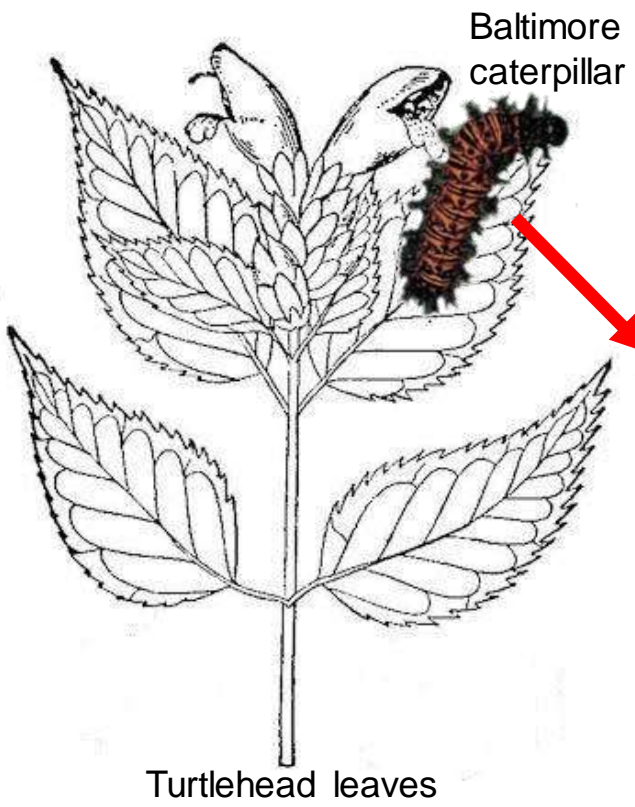
What difference do you see between the invasive Asiatic bittersweet (left) and the native black cherry (right)?



Insects eat only those plants that they have evolved with. Native plants provide food for native plant-eating insects. Most non-native plants do not.

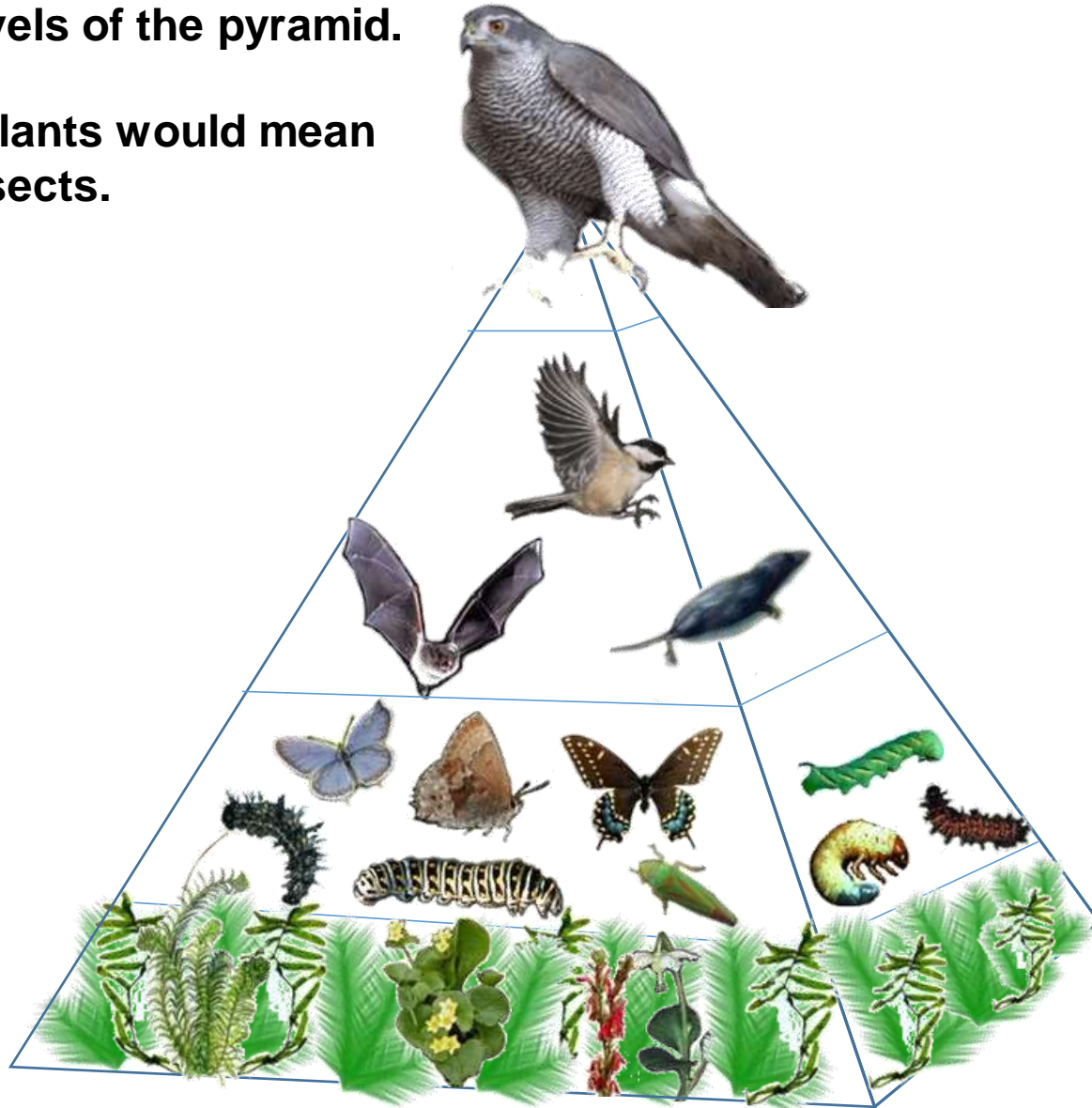


Those insects provide food for animals higher up in the food chain



A better way to view this is with a food pyramid. Plants make up the base of the pyramid. Lots of plants are needed to feed the next level up. Insects, more than any other group of animals, are responsible for converting energy from plants up to the higher levels of the pyramid.

Losing native plants would mean losing many insects.





“Insects are the little things that run the world” – E. O. Wilson



And what is it that nearly all of our terrestrial birds feed to their young?



© PAUL J. FUSCO

Insects!



© PAUL J. FUSCO

Nearly all of our terrestrial birds raise their young on insects



© PAUL W. FUSCO

Many of those insects are caterpillars that feed on plants. Native plants.



A photograph of a suburban landscape. In the foreground, there is a large, well-maintained lawn with a mix of green and brown grasses. In the background, a white house with several windows is visible, along with a paved driveway and some landscaping. The overall scene is typical of a suburban residential area.

Within the suburban landscape, native plants have been replaced by lawns (consisting of mostly alien grasses),

A photograph showing a dense thicket of bushes and shrubs in the foreground, with a forest of tall trees in the background. The bushes are mostly green with some yellowing, suggesting late summer or early autumn. The trees in the background are tall and thin, with green foliage. The text "invasive plants," is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

invasive plants,

and other non-native ornamentals

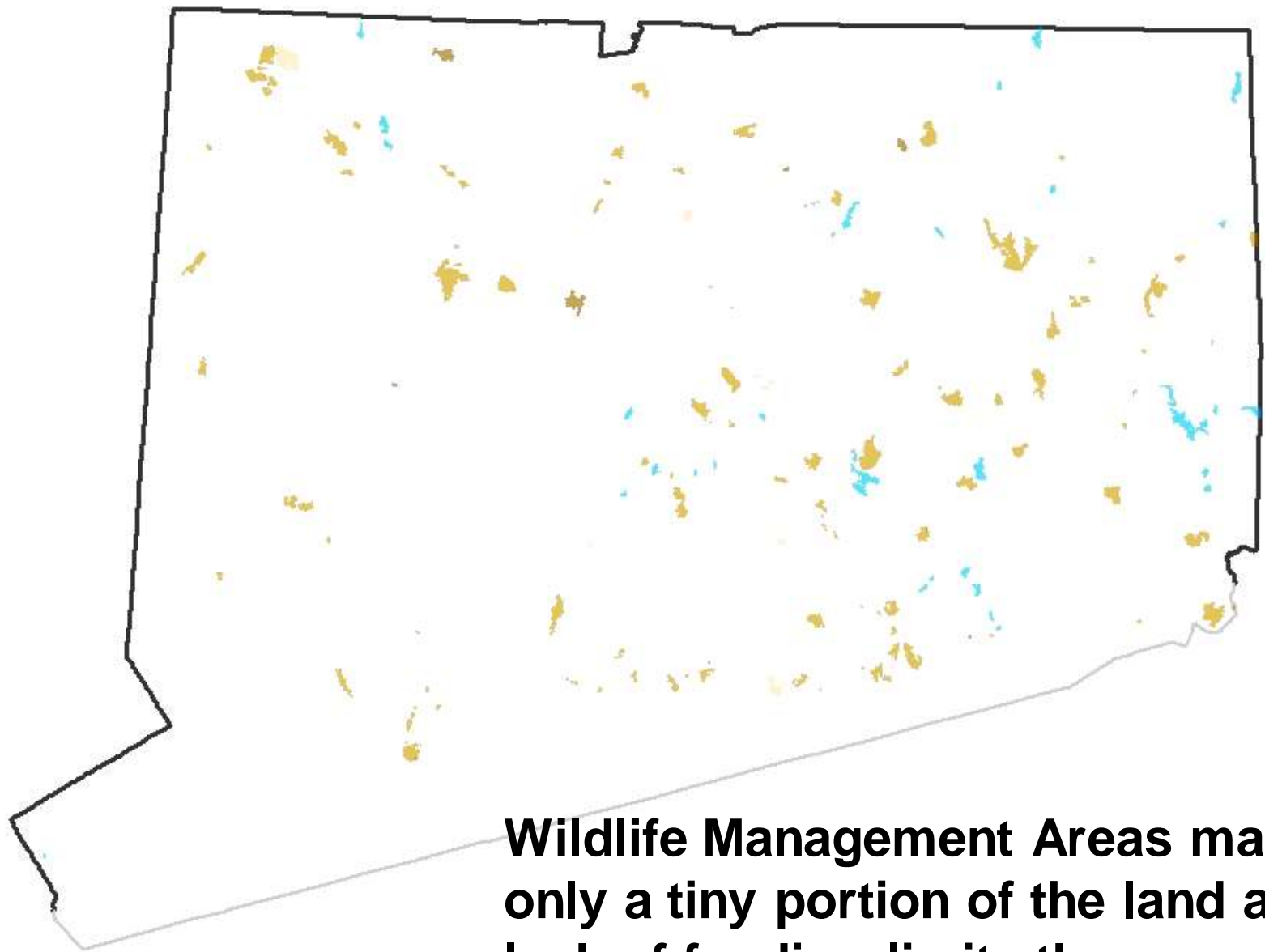


But the suburban yard has great potential to help wildlife



How much wildlife habitat is protected in Connecticut?





Wildlife Management Areas make up only a tiny portion of the land and lack of funding limits the amount of habitat that can be managed

That is why wildlife needs the help of private landowners



How much space is needed?



Eastern bluebirds can survive in relatively small patches (as little as an acre) of grassland habitat with an abundance of insects. This is a species that many backyards in Connecticut can help to sustain.



But even if your yard is smaller than that, you can still help wildlife by planting native plants



Jane Seymour

You may not have enough space in your yard to sustain brown thrasher, a shrubland species that has become rare in Connecticut,



**but you probably have enough space
for a shrub patch big enough to attract
gray catbirds**



“Which animals will make it, and which will not. We make this decision every time we plant or remove something from our yard.”

– Douglas Tallamy





So what should we remove?

Invasive: Multiflora rose



Invasive: Norway maple



Red-leaved variety



Green-leaved variety

Invasive: Japanese barberry



Invasive: Asiatic bittersweet



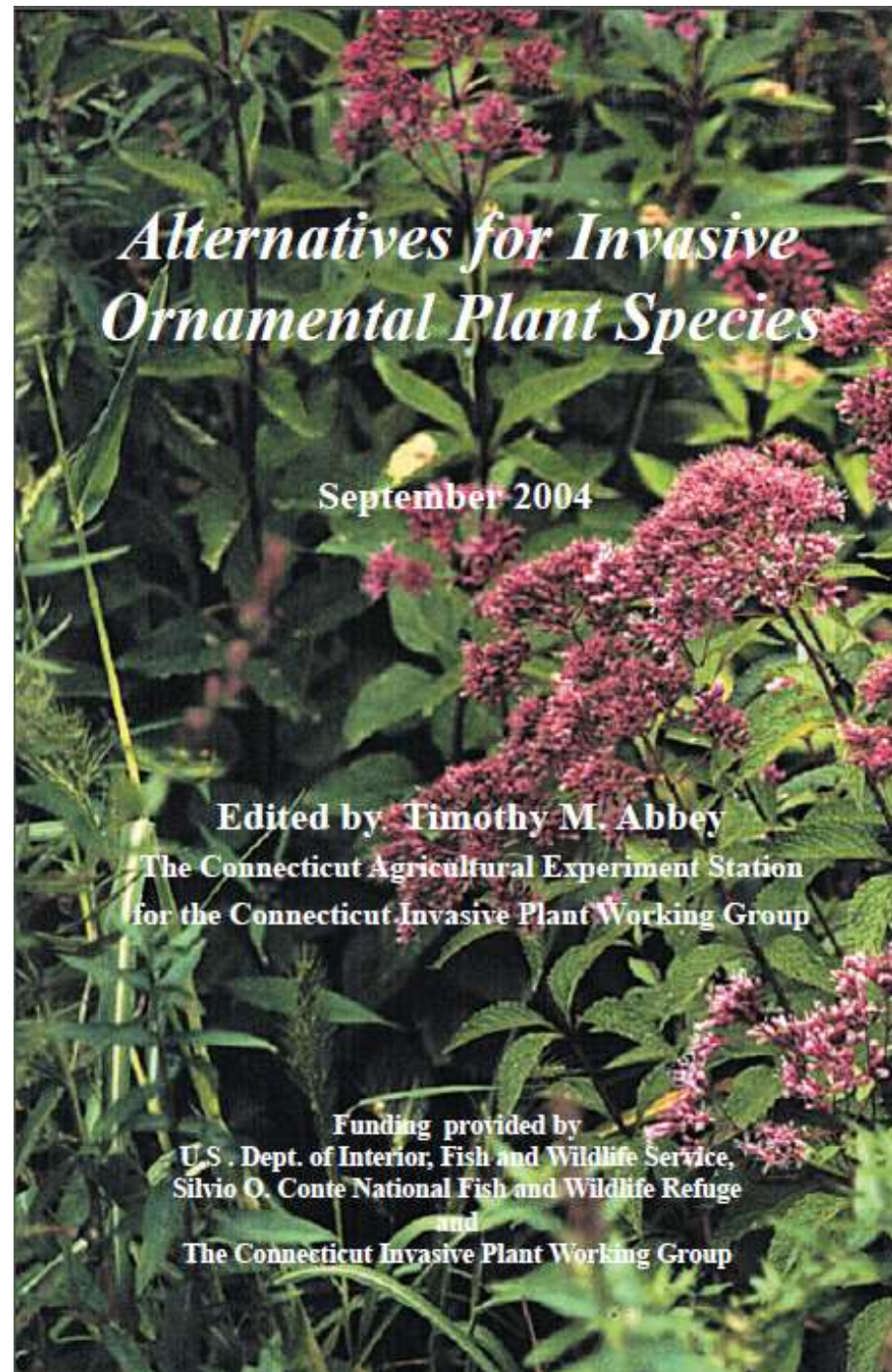
Once the invasive plants have been removed, what will replace them?



Check out this publication to see some alternatives to the more common invasive ornamental plants (see link at end of slideshow)



Invasive: Morrow's honeysuckle



*Alternatives for Invasive
Ornamental Plant Species*

September 2004

Edited by Timothy M. Abbey

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group

Funding provided by
U.S. Dept. of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service,
Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge
and
The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group

So instead of autumn olive,





Caterpillar



Adult

how about winterberry, which not only has beautiful red berries, it is also the plant that the Harris' three-spot caterpillar feeds on

And, the berries persist into the winter when they feed birds like robins and bluebirds



Willows, such as pussy willow, have leaves with white undersides like autumn olive, but willows provide food for over 400 native moth and butterfly caterpillar species, including mourning cloak and viceroy





Kate Redmond

Mourning cloak caterpillar



Kate Redmond

Mourning cloak butterfly



Viceroy caterpillar



Viceroy butterfly

Viceroy



Monarch



The viceroy is a monarch look-alike. You can tell the difference by the black lines on the hindwings of the viceroy.

Instead of invasive burning bush,



which invades the forest understory,



Sharon Chemacki

How about highbush blueberry which not only has beautiful red fall color, it provides food for over 200 native caterpillar species including the spring azure



Spring azure adult

Or red-osier dogwood with stems that turn bright red in the winter



Native dogwoods provide food for over 100 species of caterpillars, provide nectar for pollinators,



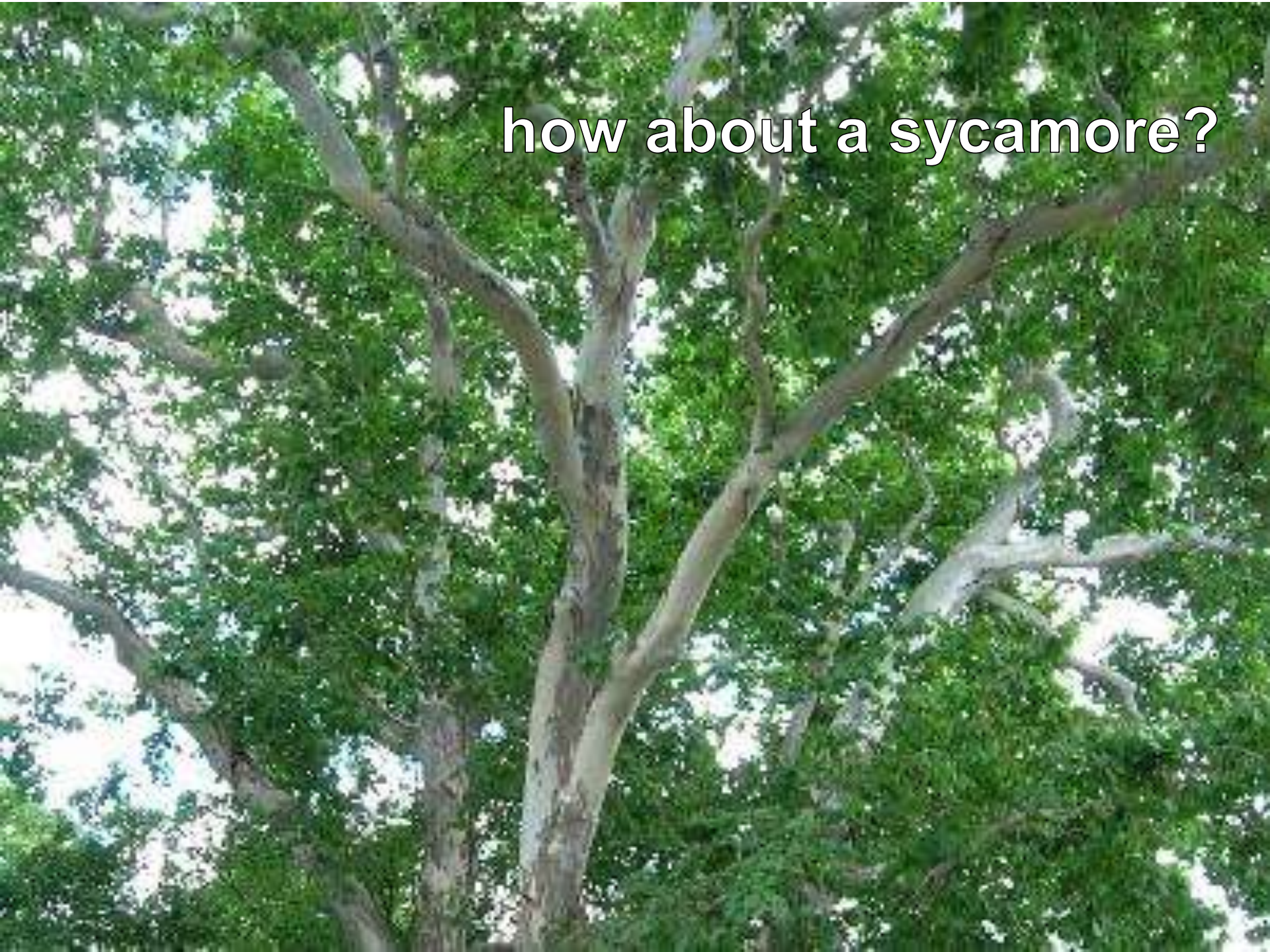
**and berries for birds to supplement
their diet of insects**



Looking for a shade tree? Instead of Norway maple,



how about a sycamore?





Sycamores provide food for an assortment of interesting caterpillars, including this one,





the sycamore tussock moth caterpillar which feeds only on sycamore



The adult moth is well-suited to living on the camouflage bark of this tree

Which Connecticut plant provides food for the greatest number of caterpillar species?



The mighty oak.

**Over 500 species of
caterpillars feed on its
leaves.**



Compare that to a popular landscaping plant – butterfly bush. How many of our native caterpillars can feed on this plant?



Butterfly bush

None



No native caterpillars have been found to feed on butterfly bush. This plant is also considered to be invasive on some parts of the country.

Butterfly bush invading streamside habitat.



Instead of butterfly bush, how about butterfly milkweed?



Monarch butterfly caterpillars feed only on milkweeds.





Common milkweed



Butterfly milkweed



Swamp milkweed



Without milkweed plants, monarchs would not exist.



Butterfly milkweed in the pollinator garden at the Belding Wildlife Management Area

Other specialists include the Baltimore checkerspot whose caterpillars feed on turtlehead



The spicebush swallowtail caterpillar feeds on spicebush or sassafras



Pamm Cooper

Joe Manfre

**Some more plants to think
about for your garden:**

**(Remember to provide both nectar
sources for pollinators, and host
plants for caterpillars)**

A photograph of a garden bed in a natural setting. The garden is filled with various plants, including tall green stalks with red flowers, clusters of orange flowers, and some pink flowers. The garden is bordered by a path of flat stones. In the background, there is a green lawn and a dense forest of trees.

Carolina rose has beautiful, fragrant flowers that attract bees and other pollinators. It also provides food for the camouflage looper which turns into the wavy lined emerald moth (seen below)



Wild columbine is one of the first native wildflowers to bloom in the spring



Remember to plant a variety of nectar sources that will bloom throughout the season

Bee balm blooms in July and
is a favorite of hummingbirds



Although hummingbirds feed primarily on insects,
they also depend on nectar for energy

Cardinal flower blooms into August, providing nectar for hummingbirds after the bee balm has gone by

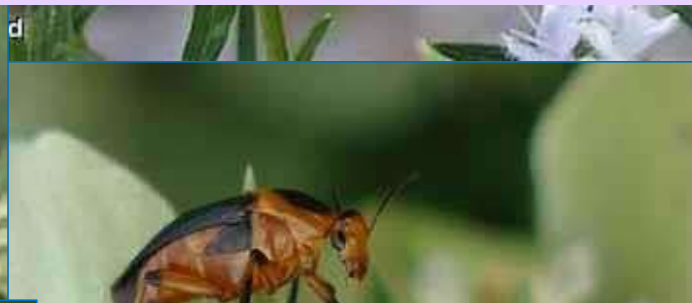


Trumpet honeysuckle provides nectar for hummingbirds and is a food plant for the hummingbird clearwing moth caterpillar





Mountain mint attracts a wide variety of pollinators. Look for hermit sphinx moth caterpillars feeding on it



New England aster blooms in September and October and is a host plant for many caterpillars



Caterpillars – a cure for Nature Deficit Disorder

A young boy wearing a blue baseball cap with a logo, sunglasses, and a white t-shirt is holding a small, fuzzy, yellowish-brown caterpillar on his right hand. He is looking directly at the camera. In the background, other people are visible, including a woman in a blue jacket and a man in a grey jacket. The setting appears to be outdoors in a wooded area.

For more on Nature Deficit Disorder, read *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv

**Imagine finding a camouflage looper.
(You have to look very closely.)**



Or a monkey slug caterpillar.



If you are starting with bare ground, perhaps after removing a section of lawn, don't worry if it looks a little sparse at first. Native plants are well-adapted to growing in our native soil.



Your native landscape will soon fill in



If you plant it, they will come...



Monarch butterfly



Great spangled fritillary



Silver-spotted skipper



Tiger swallowtail

But what about when the native wildflowers loose their blooms?



**That's a beautiful sight for American
goldfinch who feed on the seeds**



© PAUL J. FUSCO

Indigo buntings will fuel up on seeds before their fall migration



Some plants, like common evening primrose, will still have caterpillars that migrating warblers will fuel up on. (Hummingbirds also feed on the nectar of common evening primrose.)



Common evening primrose is a host plant for the caterpillars of several beautiful moth species



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/78366623@N00/456022742>



You may want to let a section of your yard “go wild”. Although some non-natives will likely invade and will need to be dealt with, native plants that might pop up may include joe pye weed, boneset and common evening primrose.



**If you have Joe Pye weed,
you will have butterflies**



Boneset attracts a variety of pollinators,



and things that
eat pollinators



**And things that eat things that eat pollinators.
The food web in action.**



But what will the neighbors think?





A neat grassy path through your native landscape will make it look managed and inviting

Jane Seymour



And as your plants bloom, don't be surprised to find your neighbors stopping by to ask questions, or simply to admire

Jane Seymour

**A few more things to think
about as you get started**

A photograph of a garden path. The path is made of light-colored gravel or sand and runs from the top right towards the bottom right. On the left side of the path, there is a dense area of tall, thin green grasses. On the right side, there are various green plants, including a large, leafy plant with broad leaves in the upper right corner. The overall scene is a lush, green garden setting.

A photograph of a grassy yard. The grass is green and interspersed with numerous small yellow dandelions and purple flowers. The text "Is your yard sunny?" is overlaid in the center in white. The background shows a concrete path or driveway at the top edge.

Is your yard sunny?

Shady?

Somewhere in between?



A vibrant garden scene featuring a variety of perennials. On the left, tall purple flowers with clusters of blossoms stand prominently. The center and right of the image are dominated by a dense carpet of bright orange flowers, likely Gaillardia, interspersed with green foliage. In the background, there are more green plants and a patch of white flowers. The overall impression is one of a well-maintained and colorful garden.

Will you be planting or
encouraging perennials?

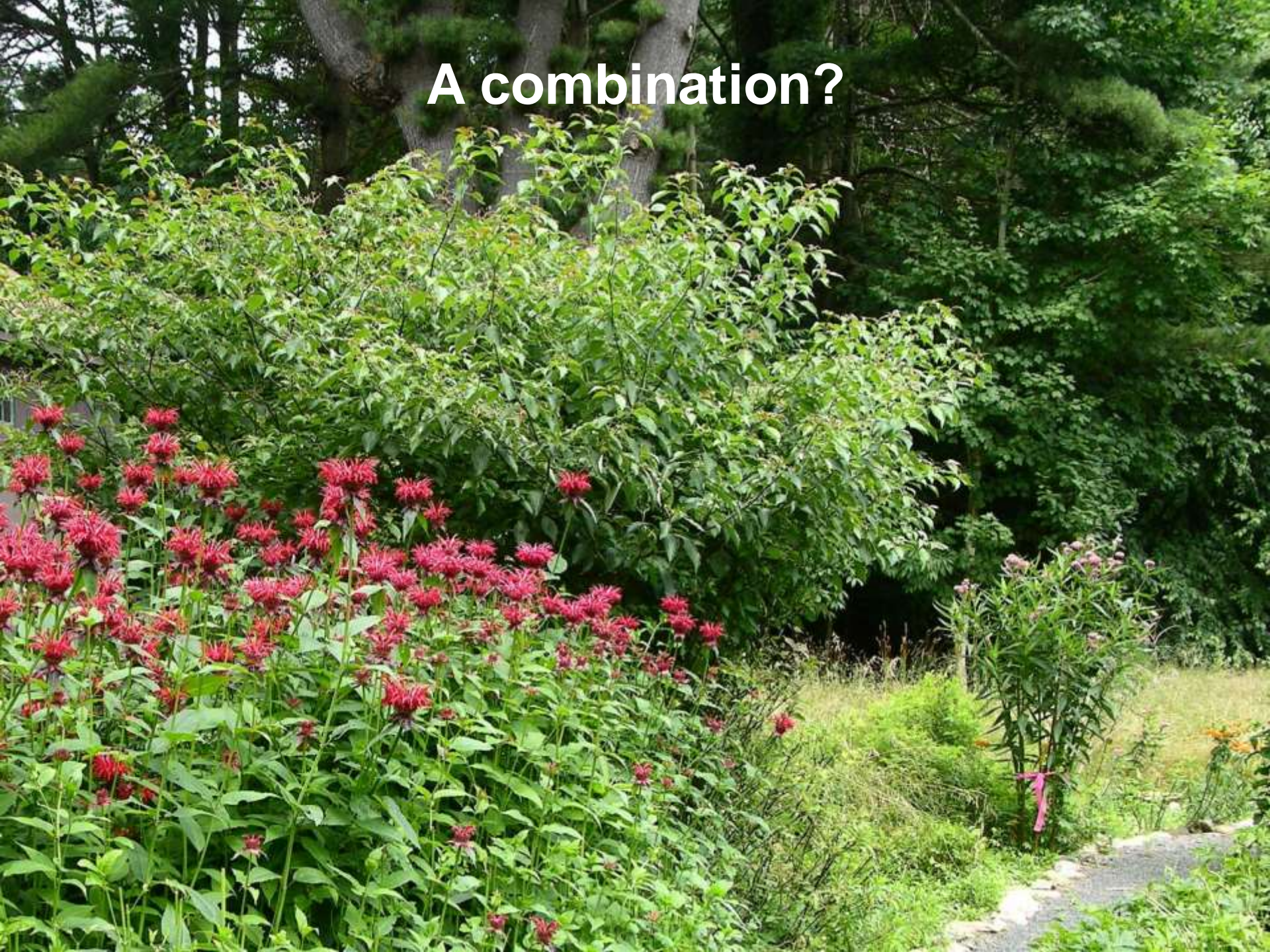
Shrubs?



Trees?



A combination?



Here is a partial list of plants native to Connecticut to help you get started



Perennials

Bloom time	Sun	Part sun	Shade
May	Blue-eyed grass Lupine, wild blue Pussytoes, field	Columbine, wild red Hepatica Mayapple	Carolina spring beauty Bloodroot Foamflower Dutchman's breeches
June	Golden alexanders Milkweed, common	Wild blue phlox Wild geranium Foxglove beardtongue	Wood anemone Golden ragwort Bluebead lily
July	Milkweed, butterfly Milkweed, swamp Wild bergamot Scarlet bee balm	Cardinal flower Culver's root	Black cohosh Ramps American spikenard
August	Joe-Pye weed Boneset Purple-headed sneezeweed Turtlehead Pearly everlasting Common evening primrose	Great lobelia Woodland sunflower	Hog peanut
September	Showy goldenrod New England aster Fall sneezeweed Small white American-aster Calico American-aster	Blue-stem goldenrod White snakeroot Heart-leaved aster Smooth aster	

Ground covers

Bloom time	Sun	Part sun	Shade
May	Birdfoot violet Strawberry, Virginia	Phlox, creeping	Dutchman's breeches Trout lily Canada mayflower
June	Bearberry Blue-eyed grass Virginia creeper	Golden ragwort	Wild ginger Bunchberry Partridgeberry
July		Yellow star grass Twinflower	Wintergreen (tea berry)
August			
September	Heath aster		

Shrubs/Vines

Bloom time

Sun

Part sun

Shade

May

Fragrant sumac
Beach plum
Northern bayberry

Running serviceberry
American black currant
Nannyberry

Spicebush
Pinxter bloom
Nannyberry
Hobblebush

June

Sweetbells
Red chokeberry
Virginia rose

Highbush blueberry
Northern bush-honeysuckle
Elderberry

Winterberry
Mountain laurel
Great laurel
Rosebay rhododendron

July

New Jersey tea
Staghorn sumac

Red-osier dogwood
Trumpet honeysuckle
Purple-flowering raspberry

Arrowwood

August

Sweet pepperbush
Meadowsweet
Steeplebush
Shrubby cinquefoil

Sweet pepperbush

September

Witch hazel

Grasses, sedges, rushes and ferns

Sun

Part sun

Shade

Dry

Little bluestem
Poverty grass
Purpletop
Purple love grass
Indian grass
Big bluestem

Pennsylvania sedge

Average

Path rush
Virginia wild rye
Switchgrass
Lurid sedge
Soft rush

Spreading sedge

Wood rush

Common polypody

Christmas fern

Moist

Cotton grass

Gray sedge
Fox sedge
Cotton grass

Silvery sedge
Spike rush

Maidenhair fern
Cinnamon fern
Ostrich fern

Other Important Shrubs and Trees

Oaks

Willows (including pussy willow)

Black cherry

Dogwoods

Alder

Hickory

Aspen

Maple

Shadbush (serviceberry)

Hornbeam

Eastern redcedar

Northern white-cedar

Beaked hazelnut

American hazelnut

Sweetbay

Sweet gale

Fireberry hawthorn

Sweetfern

Beware of plants that are described as “naturalized”. These plants are not native. Asiatic bittersweet and other invasive plants are “naturalized”.

To see if a plant is native to Connecticut, visit the New England Wildflower Society at:

<https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/>

To search for native plants by state, visit the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at

<http://www.wildflower.org/plants/>

The CT Botanical Society lists a few native wildflowers to get started with native plant gardening:

<https://www.ct-botanical-society.org/Gardens/view>

The native plants that have been listed here are available for sale at native plant nurseries in CT. More native plant species may become available for sale in the future. When buying native plants, ask about the source. It's better to buy plants that were grown from a local seed source than from a seed source from a different region, in order to preserve the local genetics.

Where to buy natives:

Earth Tones native plant nursery - <http://www.earthtonesnatives.com/>

New England Wildflower Society's Garden in the Woods - <http://www.newfs.org/grow>

Ernst Conservation Seed - www.ernstseed.com

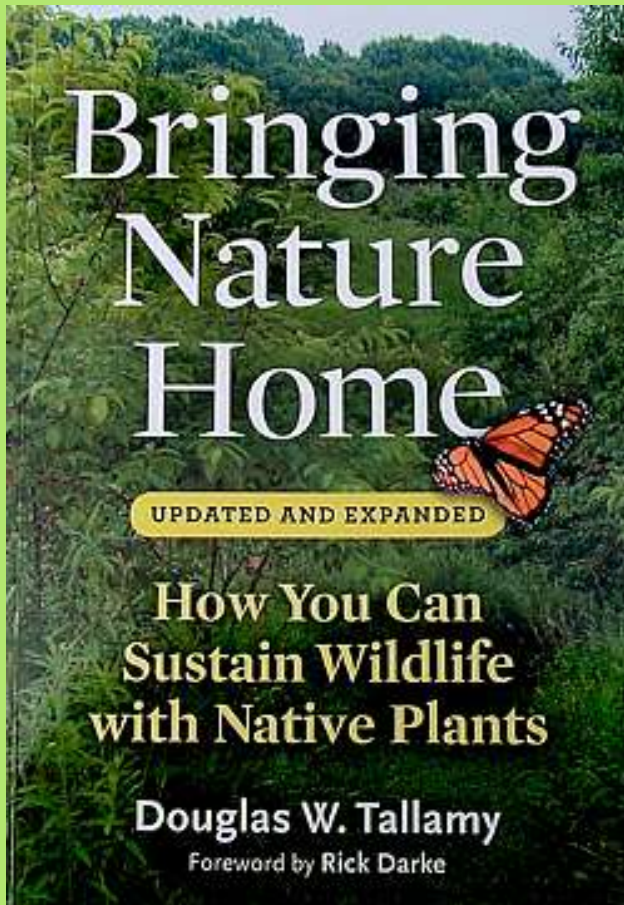
New England Wetland Plants - <http://www.newp.com/>

The North Central Conservation District has an annual native plant sale. Visit <http://www.conservect.org/Default.aspx?alias=www.conservect.org/northcentral>

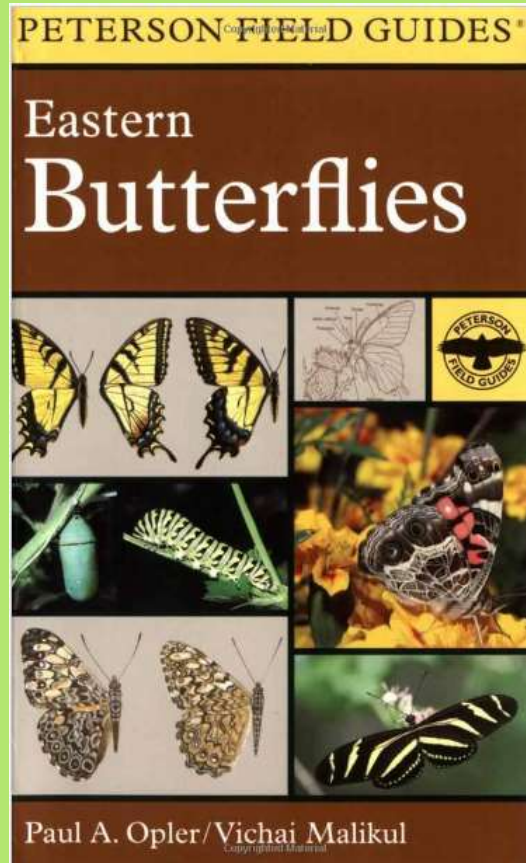
CT DEEP's Connecticut Native Tree and Shrub Availability List has a list of native plants and the nurseries that sell those plants:

http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/wildlife/pdf_files/habitat/ntvtree.pdf

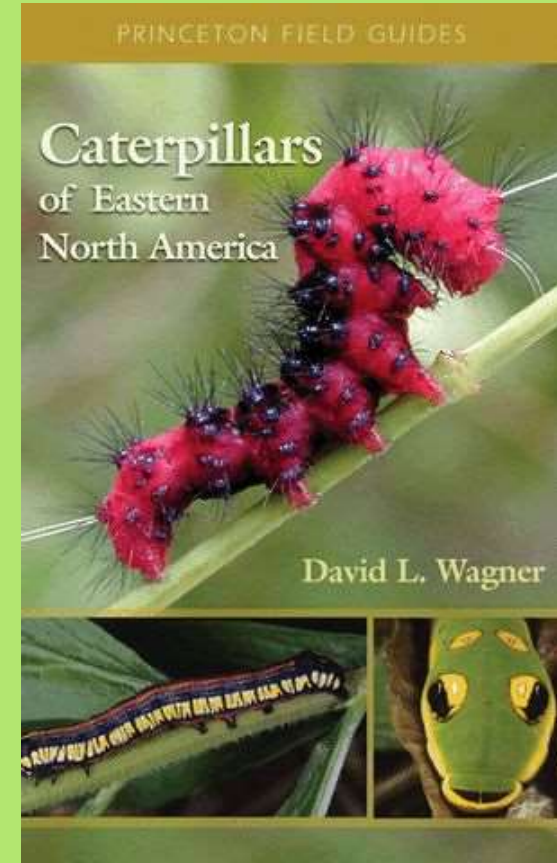
Resources:



This is the top book on the subject of sustaining wildlife in your yard with native plants.



This book lists host plants for different species of butterfly caterpillars.



This book lists host plants for different species of moth and butterfly caterpillars.

Common and scientific names

Perennials

American spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*)
Black cohosh (*Actaea racemosa*)
Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)
Bluebead lily (*Clintonia borealis*)
Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium spp.*)
Blue-stem goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*)
Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
Calico American-aster (*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*)
Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
Carolina spring beauty (*Claytonia caroliniana*)
Columbine, wild red (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)
Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)
Fall sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*)
Foamflower (*Tiarella spp.*)
Foxglove beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)
Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)
Golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*)
Great lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)
Heart-leaved aster (*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*)
Hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis*)
Hog peanut (*Amphicarpaea bracteata*)
Joe-Pye weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*)
Lupine, wild blue (*Lupinus perennis*)
Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)
Milkweed, butterfly (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
Milkweed, common (*Asclepias syriaca*)
Milkweed, swamp (*Asclepias incarnate*)
New England aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)
Pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)
Purple-headed sneezeweed (*Helenium flexuosum*)

Pussytoes, field (*Antennaria neglecta*)
Ramps (*Allium tricoccum*)
Scarlet bee balm (*Monarda didyma*)
Showy goldenrod (*Solidago erecta*)
Small white American-aster (*Symphyotrichum ericoides*)
Smooth aster (*Symphyotrichum laeve*)
Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)
White snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*)
Wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
Wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)
Wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
Wood anemone (*Anemone cinquefolia*)
Woodland sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*)

Ground covers

Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
Birdfoot violet (*Viola pedata*)
Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)
Bunchberry (*Cornus Canadensis*)
Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*)
Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)
Golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*)
Heath aster (*Symphyotrichum ericoides*)
Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*)
Phlox, creeping (*Phlox stolonifera*)
Strawberry, Virginia (*Fragaria virginiana*)
Trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*)
Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*)
Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)
Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*)
Wintergreen (tea berry) (*Gaultheria procumbens*)
Yellow star grass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*)

Shrubs/Vines

American black currant (*Ribes americanum*)
Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*)
Beach plum (*Prunus maritima*)
Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*)
Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatic*)
Great laurel (*Rhododendron maximum*)
Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)
Hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanooides*)
Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*)
Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)
Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)
New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)
Northern bayberry (*Morella pensylvanica*)
Northern bush-honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)
Pinxter bloom (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*)
Purple-flowering raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*)
Red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*)
Redosier dogwood (*Swida sericea*)
Rosebay rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*)
Running serviceberry (*Amelanchier stolonifera*)
Shrubby cinquefoil (*Dasiphora fruticose*)
Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)
Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
Steeplebush (*Spiraea tomentosa*)
Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)
Sweetbells (*Leucothoe racemose*)
Trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
Virginia rose (*Rosa virginiana*)
Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

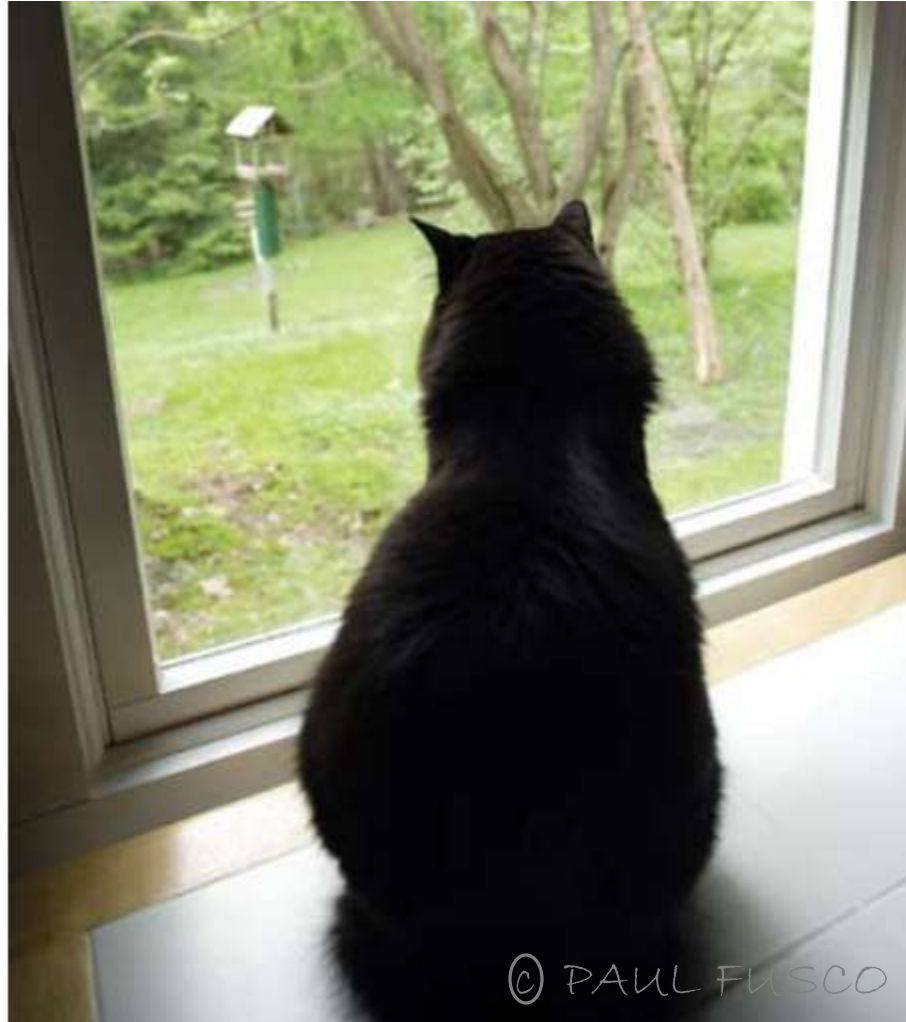
Grasses, sedges, rushes and ferns

Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)
Common polypody (*Polypodium virginianum*)
Cotton grass (*Eriophorum virginicum*)
Fox sedge (*Carex vulpinoidea*)
Gray sedge (*Carex grayi*)
Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
Lurid sedge (*Carex lurida*)
Maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*)
Path rush (*Juncus tenuis*)
Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)
Poverty grass (*Danthonia spicata*)
Purple lovegrass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)
Purpletop (*Tridens flavus*)
Silvery sedge (*Carex canescens*)
Soft rush (*Juncus effuses*)
Spike rush (*Eleocharis palustris*)
Spreading sedge (*Carex laxiculmis*)
Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatu*)
Virginia wild rye (*Elymus virginicus*)
Wood rush (*Luzula multiflora*)

Other important trees and shrubs

Alder (*Alnus incana*)
American hazelnut (*Corylus Americana*)
American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
Aspen (*Populus spp.*)
Atlantic white-cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*)
Beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*)
Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
Dogwoods (*Swida spp.*)
Eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
Fireberry hawthorn (*Crataegus chrysoarpa*)
Hickory (*Carya spp.*)
Maple - red (*Acer rubrum*), silver (*Acer sacharinum*), sugar (*Acer saccharum*)
Oaks (*Quercus spp.*)
Shadbush (serviceberry) (*Amelanchier canadensis*)
Sweet gale (*Myrica gale*)
Sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*)
Sweetfern (*Comptonia peregrina*)
Willows, including pussy willow (*Salix spp.*)

Once you have attracted birds and other wildlife to your yard, remember to further protect them by keeping cats safe indoors. Outdoor cats kill over a billion birds a year.



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For more information on the Cats Indoors campaign, visit the [American Bird Conservancy](https://www.americanbirdconservancy.org/)

Remember, there are lots of possibilities when landscaping your yard for wildlife, so have fun and go native!



Visit us at the

Belding



Wildlife Management Area

<http://www.ct.gov/deep/belding>

