

Bring wildlife to your yard with native plants



Belding



Wildlife Management Area

See plant lists beginning on slide 38
Lists with Latin names beginning on slide 47

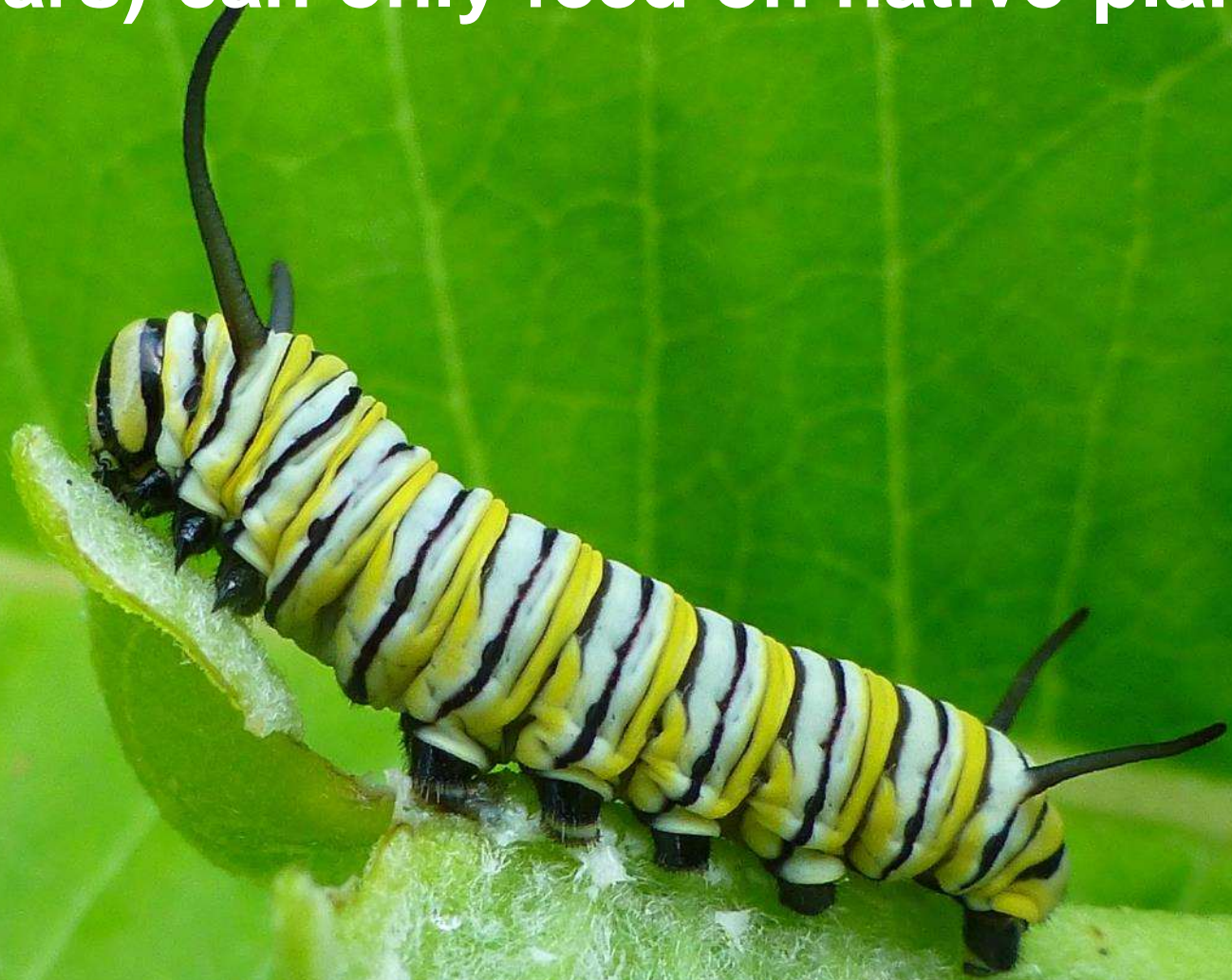
**We all want to bring birds and
butterflies to our yards**



Here's how you can do it



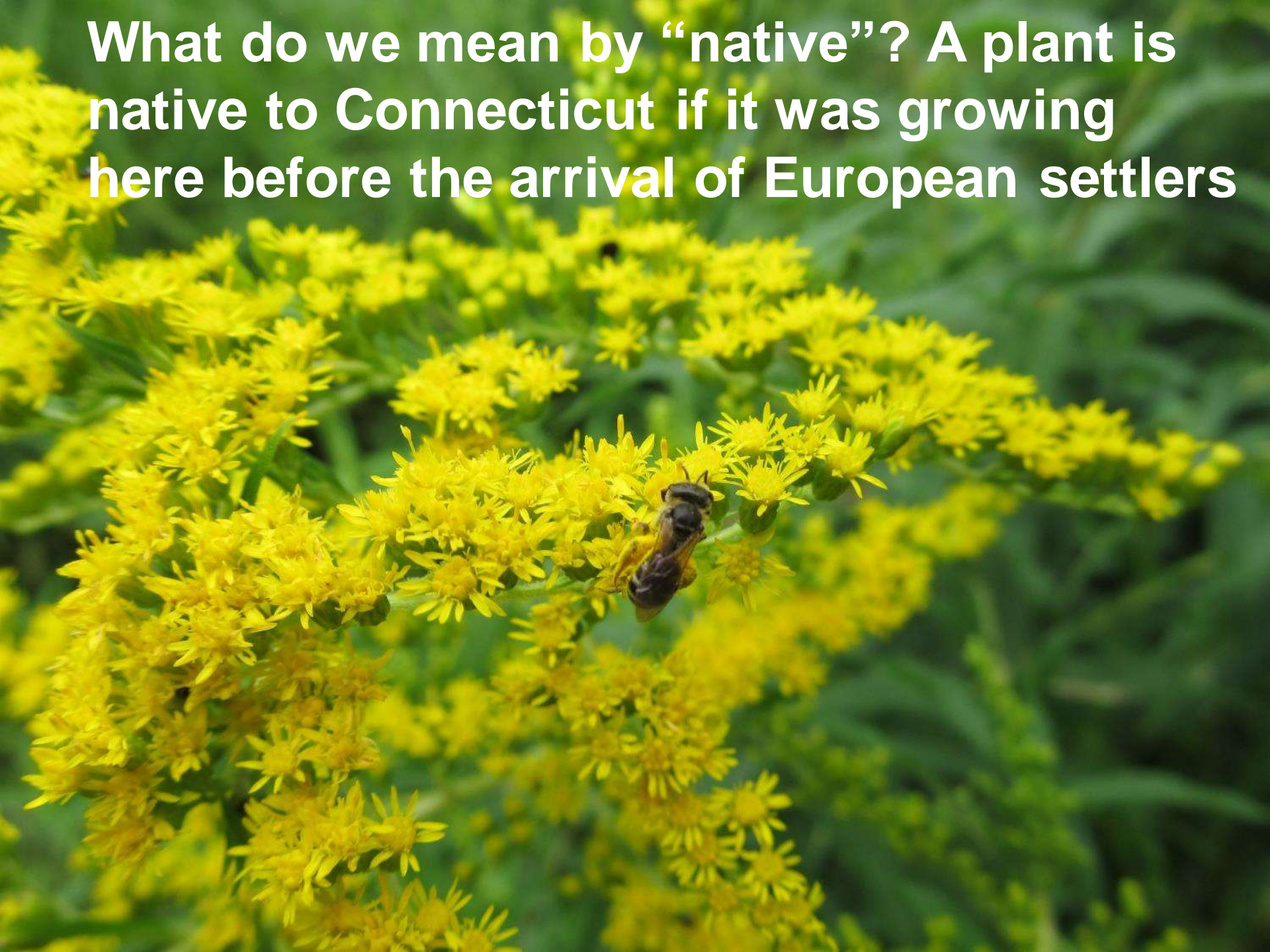
Most plant-eating insects (like butterfly caterpillars) can only feed on native plants



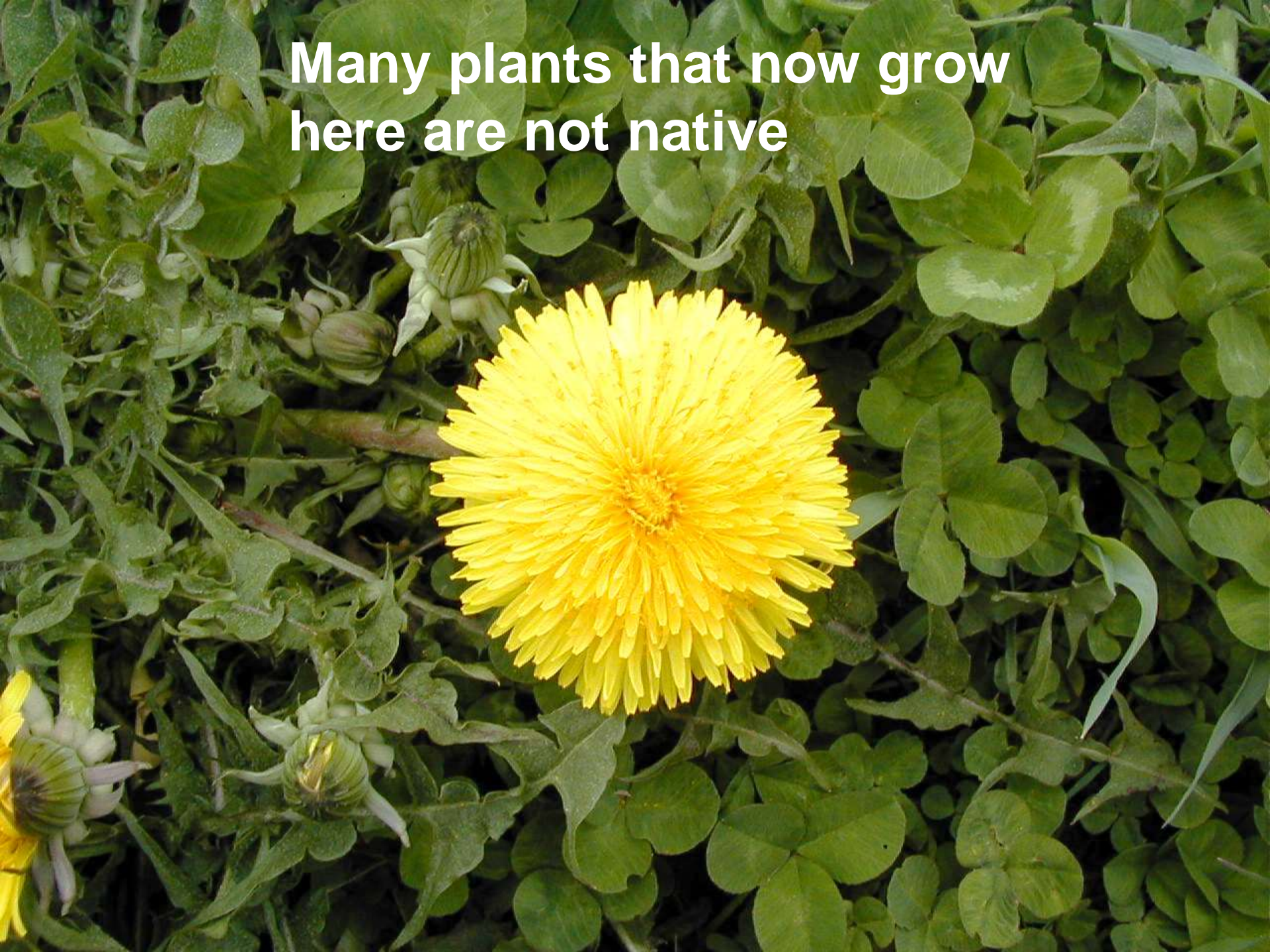


Planting native plants will provide food for plant-eating insects such as caterpillars (there are hundreds of different kinds), as well as provide food for the birds and other animals that feed on those insects

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 butterflies and birds need to survive



Nearly all of our terrestrial birds raise their young on insects



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



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, which does not feed any of our native caterpillars



Butterfly bush

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

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 native landscape:**

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

A photograph of a garden bed filled with various plants. In the foreground, there are large green plants with long, lanceolate leaves. Behind them, there are clusters of bright red flowers, likely bee balm. To the right, there are orange and pink flowers. The garden bed is bordered by large, light-colored rocks. In the background, there is a grassy area and a dense forest of tall trees.

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



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



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



**But what about when the native wildflowers
lose 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.)



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.**



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

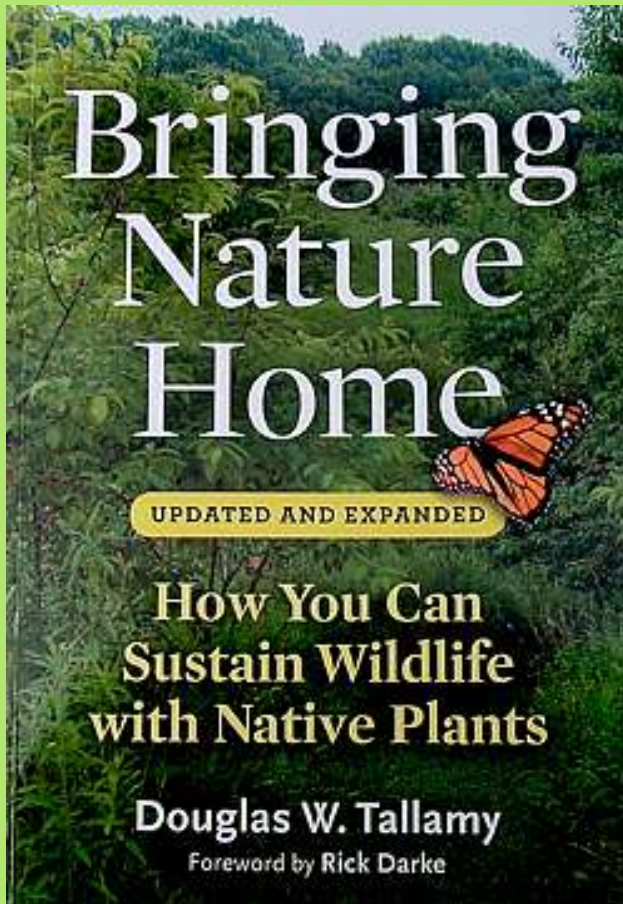
New England Wetland Plants - <http://www.newp.com/>

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

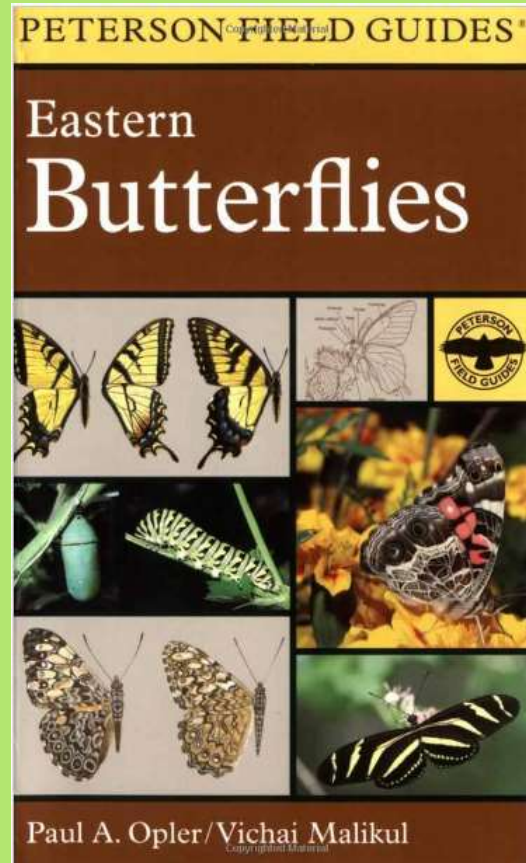
CT DEEP's Connecticut Native Tree and Shrub Availability List has a list of native plants and the nurseries that sell those plants:

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

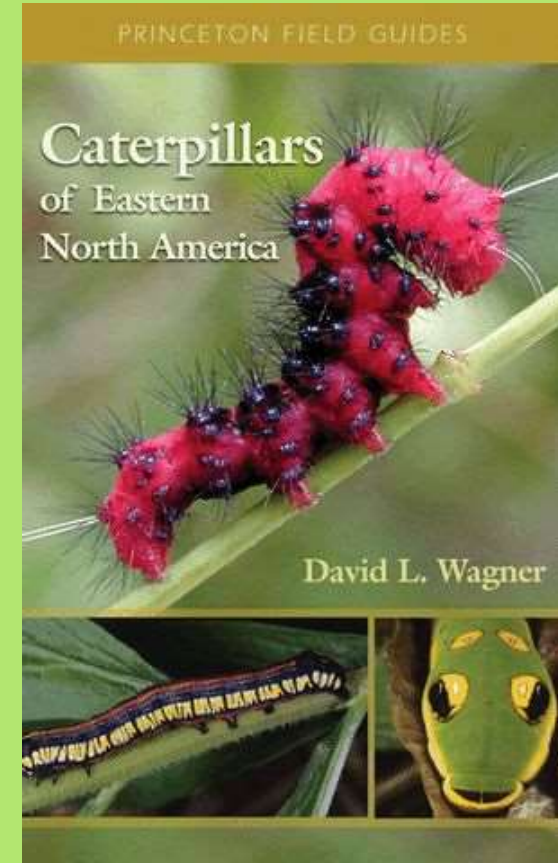
Resources:



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.

Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group

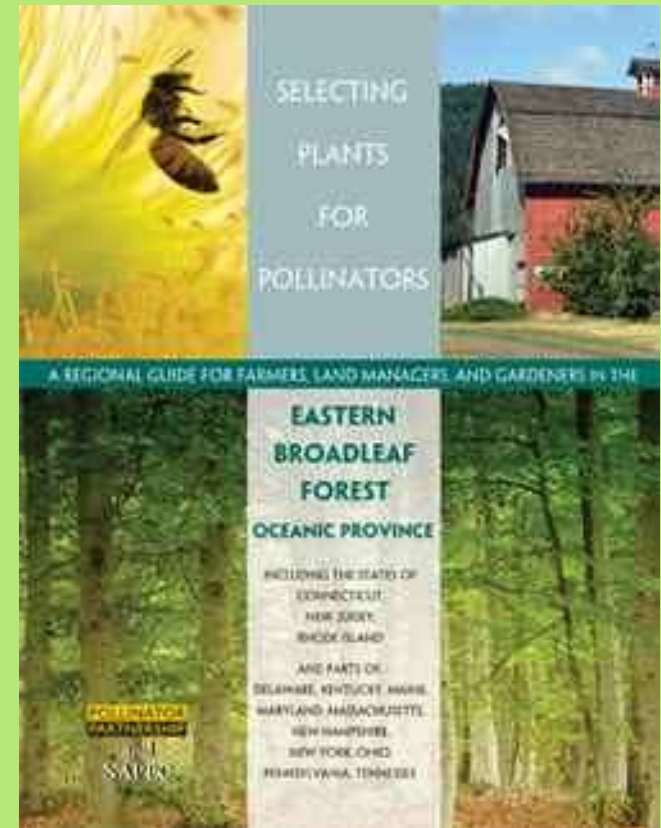
<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg/>

- Native plant list
- Invasive plant management
- Alternatives for Invasive Ornamental Plant Species



Pollinator Partnership

<http://www.pollinator.org>



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 lantanoides*)
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 tenui*)
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 chrysocarpa*)
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.*)

Visit us at the

Belding



Wildlife Management Area

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

