



Native Plant Lists

Lists of native plants for Toronto are provided for trees, shrubs, vines and herbaceous plants. All listed species are native to Toronto except for the ones marked (RT) which are rare in Toronto. The species marked with an asterisk (*) are often substituted with non-native varieties at nurseries. Please use the scientific (Latin) names and avoid cultivated varieties when purchasing plants at a commercial nursery. Most of these species are available at local nurseries, however, you may need to contact several outlets to find a specific plant. Asking for less common native species may help to increase their availability in the horticultural trade. Native species recommendations are given for a range of habitat conditions with each species' preferences for soil and sunlight conditions.

Species Attributes

There are many native plants that have ornamental qualities equal to horticultural selections. You can choose native alternatives to non-native varieties by matching flower or foliage colour, seasonality, overall shape and size. Native plants also provide shelter and food sources for native wildlife. The fruit of most shrubs and vines including dogwoods, Viburnums, elderberry, sumac, serviceberry, chokecherry and raspberries attract a wide range of birds and small mammals. Tree species such as Eastern white pine, hemlock and hawthorns provide cover for many bird species. Herbaceous plants provide nectar for butterflies and bees. Other species are fast growing or have deep root systems that help stabilize bare sites. You will find many native plants to suit your particular needs.

Plant Diseases and Pests

Some species are vulnerable to specific diseases or pests and should not be planted in great quantities or in close proximity to affected species. These species should be monitored and possibly inspected by a **professional arborist** if problems are detected. The following species should be monitored:

- Beech Bark Disease affects American Beech and is causing many beech trees to die.
- Some currants and gooseberries (*Ribes* species) can harbour White Pine Blister rust and should not be planted in close proximity to White Pine.
- Red Cedar can carry cedar-apple rust, which affects hawthorns.
- American Elm has not been included on the list since they are prone to Dutch Elm Disease which spreads readily and kills large stands of elm.
- Restrictions on specific tree species plantings may also apply, depending on where you live in the city, to try to contain infestations such as the Asian Long-Horned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer (look for updates on the forestry web site).

More tree pest and disease information and updates can be found under **Forest Health Care** at the Urban Forestry web site shown below.

Native Plant Lists for Toronto's Woodlands

- Native Trees
- Native Shrubs
- Native Vines
- Native Ferns, Grasses & Wildflowers

For further information see more detailed references:

Forestry Facts

- #1 Successful Planting Design
- #2 Selecting and Buying Native Plants
- #3 Controlling Invasive Plants
- #4 Guidelines for Planting and Maintenance