

What makes a plant native?

Native plants are species that evolved in a specific region without any known human involvement.

Why are native plants important?

Native plants co-evolved with native species of insects and animals. They are an important part of our regional ecosystem.

What is a larval host plant?

Caterpillars are very picky eaters. Each species of caterpillar will only eat a few species of plants.

How do plants defend themselves?

Plants don't like to be eaten. Some have thorns, some have waxy leaves and some produce bad tasting chemicals. Some plants even trap and digest insects.



About our Logo: The Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) is a host plant for the Silvery Checkerspot (*Chlosyne nycteis*) butterfly. The caterpillars eat the leaves of the Black-eyed Susan. The Carolina Chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*) feeds the caterpillars to its young. Adult birds will eat the butterflies, the caterpillars and the seeds of the Black-eyed Susan.

On the cover: Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pendatum*). Photo by Kathy Fell

This project was funded by a 30 in 30 Green Grant from Keep Virginia Beautiful, in partnership with Altria and Coca-Cola. For more information, visit our web site at www.plantvirginianatives.org/about-2



Benjamin Franklin
Middle School
Demonstration Garden



Can you find these native plants growing along the trail?



Photo by Gary Fleming

Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) blooms from March to April and is pollinated by flies. One species of moth caterpillar eats the leaves. Birds and turtles eat the berries. The plant contains calcium oxalate, which is poisonous for people.



Photo by Gary Fleming

River Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) blooms from June to October. Seven species of moth and skipper caterpillars eat the leaves. Birds and small mammals eat the seeds.



Photo by Ed Coleman

Green and Gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*) blooms from May to June. No caterpillars eat this plant, but many pollinators visit the flowers. Birds and small mammals eat the seeds.



Photo by Gary Fleming

White Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*) blooms from August to October. Three species of butterfly caterpillars eat the leaves. Hummingbirds and insects visit the flowers. The seeds are eaten by fly and moth larvae.



Photo by Kathy Fell

Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) blooms from April to June. Twenty-seven species of butterfly and moth caterpillars eat the leaves. Birds and small mammals eat the seeds.



Photo by Gary Fleming

Blue Flag Iris (*Iris virginica*) blooms from April to May. Eleven species of moth caterpillars eat the leaves. Hummingbirds and insect pollinators visit the flowers.



Photo by Gary Fleming

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) blooms from March to April. Thirteen species of butterfly and moth caterpillars eat the leaves. Birds eat the red berries.



Photo by Gary Fleming

Great Blue Lobelia (*obelia siphilitica*) blooms from July to October. Six species of moth caterpillars eat the leaves. Hummingbirds and insect pollinators visit the flowers.



Photo by Gary Fleming

Basil Beebalm (*Monarda clinopodia*) blooms from May to September. Twelve species of moth caterpillars eat the leaves. Hummingbirds and insect pollinators visit the flowers.



Photo by Ed Coleman

May Apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) blooms from March to May. Six species of moth caterpillars eat the leaves. Box turtles and small mammals eat the fruit.



Photo by Gary Fleming

Spreading Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium reptans*) blooms from April to June. Two species of moth caterpillars eat the leaves. Butterflies and native bees visit the flowers.



Photo by Kathy Fell

Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) is green all year. Five species of moth caterpillars eat the leaves. Grouse, wild turkey and deer may eat the leaves in winter.



Photo by Gary Fleming

Hoary Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum incanum*) blooms from July to August. Four species of moth caterpillars eat the leaves. Butterflies and other insect pollinators visit the flowers.