

Native Landscaping Resources

Winston Churchill: “However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results.” If you are considering native landscaping advice or services the most important qualification you can require is to be shown **PHOTOS** (not sketches) of previous projects at least three years old. Recent increased interest in stormwater management and green landscaping many generated many newly-minted “experts” that make recommendations based on little actual experience with native species (and no inclination to take Churchill’s advice). Many unfortunate native landscaping mistakes have resulted from this situation.

State Library of Iowa: Has a recorded “how to use native plants” presentation by Inger (available on request), and her summary papers available online: <http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/ld/continuing-ed/ce-archive/landscape>

Plant Iowa Natives: a new group working to get more native species in local nursery/garden centers. Also is compiling lists of service providers, designers, internet sales sources. <http://www.plantiowanatives.com/>

Iowa Native Lands recommended plants: lists of natives sorted by height, moisture requirements, light requirements. Also a list of plants to avoid and reasons for doing so. Compiled by Inger Lamb.
http://www.prrcd.org/inl/recommended_plants.htm

Wild Ones native landscaping organization: nation-wide group that promotes gardening with native species, has a journal and website, much useful and thoughtful information, membership supported. Journal editor: journal@for-wild.org, executive director execdirector@for-wild.org, <http://www.for-wild.org/native.html> landscaping articles.

Ion Exchange: sells hundreds of native species as small plugs or seed. The plugs are inexpensive and work well if you get them in the ground soon upon arrival. Water plugs for the first couple weeks if the weather is dry – no longer unless there is severe heat/drought. <http://www.ionxchange.com/>

Prairie Moon Nursery: sells hundreds of species of native plants (seed, bare root, pots). The bare roots are more expensive than plugs or seed, but can quickly produce a more mature bed. Catalog is a treasure trove of information about growth requirements, seed germination times etc. Note, all potted native species can get root bound very easily.
<http://www.prairiemoon.com/>

Invasive species information: to check if a plant you are considering has a reputation for causing problems, do an internet search with the plant name (official Latin name if possible) and include the word “invasive”. Most natives are not a problem but it’s still useful to check, and certainly if you are thinking about a non-native plant. Some very good sites to just “browse” for problem species:

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>

<http://www.invasive.org/>

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html>

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/>

Wonderful Backyard Conservation/Native Landscaping concepts book: *Bringing Nature Home: How you can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants.* Douglas W. Tallamy, 2007, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, ISBN-13 978-0-88192-992-8 (hardcover ISBN 978-0-88192-854-9)