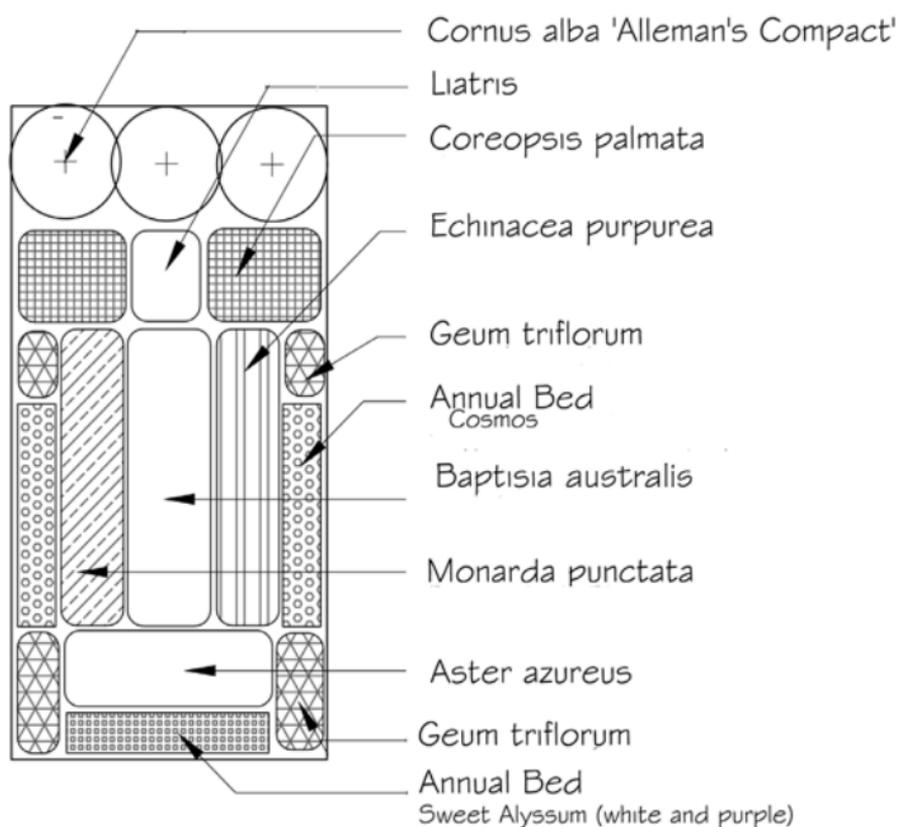




Native Plant Demonstration Garden



Frederick T. Owens
Village Hall
14700 S. Ravinia Avenue
Orland Park, IL
www.smartlivingOP.com



Why Native Plants?

Native wildflowers and grasses produce beautiful colors spring through fall. These plants have evolved naturally in North America and are well adapted to local conditions. As a result they are vigorous and hardy, and extremely resilient to the winter cold and summer heat.

They can easily be incorporated into existing flower beds or other landscaping features. Native plants can offer a variety of heights, shapes and textures in the landscaping. Once established native plants need very little pesticides, fertilizers, or watering.

Benefits of Native Plants

Saves Time and Money. Reduced watering, pesticides and fertilizers means more free time and less money spent on maintenance.

Increases Wildlife. Native flowers, grasses, and trees attract diverse species of birds, butterflies, dragonflies and other desirable wildlife. They increase biodiversity and help restore the area's ecosystem.

Improves the Environment. Roots of up to 10' – 15' help rainfall percolate into the soil and reduce erosion and runoff, which improves water quality. In rainy years they reduce runoff, flooding, and erosion and in drought years they remain green and growing with flowers in bloom. Native plants reduce the need for lawn care equipment and decrease the associated air pollution.

How Can I Use Native Plants at Home?

Native plants are becoming increasingly available at local nurseries and can also be found at regional suppliers. Many nurseries can also order them for you.

When selecting your plant, make sure you find the right plant for the area you intend to plant it. For instance, if you're planting in an area that gets a lot of sunlight, be sure to purchase a plant that grows well in the sun. The same goes for buying plants that grow well in shaded areas and have dry or wet soils.

Dogwood



Blazing Star



Tickseed



Purple Coneflower



Blue Wild Indigo



Dotted Mint



Blue Aster



Old Man's Whiskers



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Refurbished May, 2010

Acknowledgments

Openlands
Orland Park Garden Club
Clean Air Counts
Village of Orland Park Employees



Related Web Pages

<http://extension.illinois.edu/IPLANT>

Sources

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a partner in the Clean Air Counts Initiative
Project
of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus.”
www.openlands.org
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Wild Ones
The Conservation Foundation