

Help Make Native Pollinators and Caterpillars Happy



Create Your Very Own Homegrown National Park!



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1. What is this Homegrown National Park concept? Answer: “*Creating a Homegrown National Park*” presentation by Doug Tallamy www.youtube.com/watch?v=scH94ZVThiw
2. If you have the space, plant one or more **oak** trees or acorns.
Learn why in the same internet link as above.
3. Most immediately, plant an *Asclepias tuberosa* **Butterfly Milkweed** plant and sow some dill, marigold and zinnia seeds.
Butterfly Milkweed is a native prairie-savanna plant that matures at just 12 inches to 24 inches size and features beautiful orange pollinator-attracting flowers when it is grown in full sun. Plant the Butterfly Milkweed plant in the ground in your garden or in a pot on your patio or porch or balcony. While it does not evidence so many flowers when it grows in shadier locations, its leaves in shade can still nourish Monarch butterfly caterpillars and host their cocoons.
While dill and marigolds and zinnias are not native to the Chicago region, dill hosts native Tiger Swallowtail butterflies. Marigolds and zinnias attract and support native pollinating insects and, in the case of zinnias, hummingbirds!

Native Plants Galore

Vascular plants are the majority of plants we see: wildflowers, grasses, trees, shrubs, vines, and ferns. Some are more beneficial to native pollinators and caterpillars than others. Approximately 1,650 vascular plants are native to the Chicago Region.

Illustrative of the fact that some native vascular plants benefit native pollinators and caterpillars more than others, the index that follows, ***Some Homegrown National Parks Plants In Commerce***, is an index of only 51 native plants, these being native plants that are readily commercially-available. As can be read in the HOST NOTES column, some of these only 51 native plants benefit more and/or different pollinators and/or caterpillars than others. So, if your goal is to most effectively support native pollinators and caterpillars with native vascular plants, choose wisely. Choose also for the growing conditions that you are able to provide. Into the greater beyond, enjoy the approximately 1,600 other native vascular plants that occur across the Chicago region, many of which are equally commercially-purveyed.

See also: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download/?cid=stelprdb1042140&ext=xls

Some Homegrown National Park Plants In Commerce

		HOST NOTES	Flower Color	Height	Blooming Season	Light	Soil	Exists at UCH?
Allium cernuum	Nodding Pink Onion	The nectar and pollen of the nodding flowers attract primarily bees, including honeybees, bumblebees, Anthophorine bees (Anthophora spp.), and Halictid bees (Lasioglossum spp.).	White-Pink	1'-2'	July	Full to part sun	Moist to mesic and soil containing black loam, sand, or rocky material	NO
Amorpha canescens	Leadplant	Abundant bees, butterflies, moths, beetles and other beneficial insects will be attracted to Lead Plant. In addition to the many different pollinators, Lead Plant is one of the larval hosts of the Dog Face Sulphur, also known as Southern Dogface.	Violet-Gray	1.5'-2'	June-July	Full to part sun	Average to dry soil; not picky	NO
Anemone virginiana	Thimbleweed	Beneficial native bees and other pollinators visit the flowers usually seeking pollen rather than nectar.	White	1'-2'	June-July	Part sun and part shade	Moist soil	NO
Aquilegia canadensis	Columbine	Attracts a variety of pollinators. The deep nectaries are perfectly shaped for hummingbirds and long-tongued insects.	Red-Pink	2'-3'	May-June	Full sun to shade	Average soil as long as it is well drained.	NO
Asclepias incarnata	Marsh/Swamp Milkweed	Milkweed plants have flowers that attract butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. In fact, it is the only host plant of the monarch butterfly. And there are a lot of other insects attracted to milkweed and that milkweed nourishes.	Deep Pink	2'-4'	July-August	Sun and part shade	Moist to wet	YES
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Milkweed	Host plant for larvae/caterpillars; very high pollinator value; larval food for Queen and Monarch butterfly; bees, moths, other butterflies	Orange	1'-2'	June-August	Sun	Moderately-moist	YES (or it may have dissipated over the years)
Aster/ Symphyotrichum laeve	Smooth Blue Aster	Most insects use this plant for nectar. The Pearl Crescent butterfly uses it as food for its larvae. Putting it in your garden is a great way to attract more butterflies to your garden.	Blue w/ Yellow	1'-3'	September	Sun	Drought resistant once established	NO
Aster/ Symphyotrichum novae-angliae	New England Aster	Very high pollinator value; yes host for larvae/caterpillars for moths; flowers too late for butterflies in most areas; very important for late season bees	Violet w/ Yellow	3'-4'	Aug-September	Sun	Moderate soil moisture	NO

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Aster/ Symphyotrichum novae-angliae 'Purple Dome'	'Purple Dome' New England Aster	Butterflies, bees; Offers late-season food for bees and butterflies; a larval host plant for the Pearl Crescent and Gorgone Checkerspot Butterflies. It is a key nectar source for Monarch, Common Buckeye, and other butterflies, a preferred nectar plant for late season butterflies and moths, and is a Monarch Way Station plant. It also has special value to native bees, including small carpenter, leafcutter, longhorned, cuckoo, and green sweat bees, as well as to bumble and honey bees. Certain mining bees have evolved as specialists of this plant. New England Aster also attracts beneficial insects to the garden, such as bee flies, syrphid flies, and soldier beetles. Birds also enjoy the seedheads.	Deep lavender purple	1'-2'	Late Summer to Fall	Full sun to part sun	Drought resistant once established	YES
Aster/ Symphyotrichum oolentangiense	Sky Blue Aster	Like most Asters, it attracts butterflies and other beneficial insects such as small bees, flies, small to medium-sized butterflies, skippers, and wasps.	Bright Blue	2'-3'	Sept-October	Full sun to part sun	Many different types of soil as long as well drained	NO
Baptisia alba macrophylla	White Wild Indigo	The foliage of white false indigo often hosts a large number of caterpillars, including the wild indigo duskywing and orange sulfur caterpillars. Even the seed pods of white false indigo play host to an insect, the wild indigo weevil.	White	2'-4'	June	Full sun to part shade	Deep-rooted; drought tolerant once established; will perform well in even poor soils.	NO
Baptisia australis	Blue Wild Indigo	Its flowers are attractive to butterflies, bees, and other insects. This plant is also a larval host plant for a variety of butterflies including: Orange sulphur, Clouded Sulphur, Frosted Elfin, Eastern Tailed Blue, Hoary Edge, and Wild Indigo Duskywing.	Indigo Blue	3'-4'	May-June	Full sun to part shade	Dry to medium; rich woods, thickets, along stream banks	NO
Baptisia bracteata var. leucophaea	Cream Wild Indigo	The flowers of Cream Indigo are essential for queen bumblebees as they are one of the first to come out of hibernation in the spring.	Cream	2'-4'	June	Full sun to part shade	Well-drained, rocky, acid soils	NO
Ceanothus americanus	New Jersey Tea	Pollinators flock to the blooms. Bees, wasps, flies, beetles, hairstreak butterflies and other pollinators seek nectar and pollen from the flowers. Caterpillars of several moths, azure butterflies and skippers feed on the foliage.	White	1.5'-3'	June	full sun to light shade	well drained average to dry soi	NO
Coreopsis palmata	Prairie Coreopsis	Medium pollinator value; moths; bees in the family Halictidae; bee flies in the family Bombyliidae	Yellow	1'-3'	June-July	Sun	Dry to medium soil moisture need	NO
Dalea candida	White Prairie Clover	Very high pollinator value; yes host for larvae/caterpillars; caterpillar food source for Southern Dogface Butterfly	White	1'-3'	July-August	Sun	Moderate soil moisture need	NO
Dalea purpurea	Purple Prairie Clover	Very high pollinator value; yes host for larvae/caterpillars; caterpillar food source for Southern Dogface Butterfly	Purple	1'-3'	July-August	Sun	Moderate soil moisture need	NO

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Desmodium canadense	Showy Tick-Trefoil	Low pollinator; host for larvae/caterpillars; caterpillar food source for Northern and Southern Cloudywing Skipper Butterflies	Pinkish-Purple	2'-5'	July-August	Sun	Moderates soil moisture needs	NO
Dodecatheon meadia	Shooting Star	Bees, the chief pollinators, must extract pollen from the narrow tube formed by the united stamens and ensconcing the pistil. They do this by vibrating their bodies against the tube, shaking the pollen out.	White	1.5'	May-June	Part Shade	Evenly moist, humusy well-draining soils. Avoid poorly-drained, wet soils, particularly in winter.	NO
Echinacea pallida	Pale Purple Coneflower	High pollinator value; host for larvae/caterpillars; caterpillar food source for Silvery Checkerspot Butterfly; stems are used for nesting habitat	Pale Purple	2'-3'	July	Sun	Moderates soil moisture needs	NO
Echinacea paradoxa	Yellow Coneflower	Butterflies, bees and other insects frequent the flowers when in bloom and small seed-eating birds, such as goldfinches, feed on the seeds in the fall.	Yellow	1.5'-5'	July-August	Sun	A variety of soil mediums. Highly tolerant of drought, heat, humidity, and poor soil conditions.	NO
Echinacea purpurea	Purple Coneflower	High pollinator value; host for larvae/caterpillars; caterpillar food source for Silvery Checkerspot Butterfly; stems are used for nesting habitat	Pinkish-Purple	2'-4'	July-September	Sun	Moderates soil moisture needs	YES 'Magnus'
Eryngium yuccifolium	Rattlesnake Master	High pollinator value; yes host for larvae/caterpillars; caterpillar food source for Rare Rattlesnake Master Borer Moth; stems are used for nesting habitat	White	3'-4'	July-August	Sun	Low soil moisture needs	NO
Eutrochium purpureum	Joe Pye Weed	Many species of butterflies, moths, bees, and flies visit the flowers. It is larval host to the eupatorium borer moth (Carmenta bassiformis), the red groundling moth (Perigea xanthioides), the ruby tiger moth (Phragmatobia fuliginosa), and the three-lined flower moth (Schinia trifascia).	Purple	2'-6'	July-September	Light shade to partial sun	Moist to mesic conditions; rich loamy soil	NO
Geum triflorum	Prairie Smoke	As early-bloomers, they are especially valuable to bumble bee queens that have overwintered and are in need of resources in the spring. In fact, these are the primary pollinators of the flower. The bud-like florets remain mostly closed and are pollinated by bumblebees which are strong enough to force their way in to sip the nectar.	Pink	1'	April-May	Sun to light shade	Well-drained; tolerant of drought, thin soils over limestone, barren rocky, sandy or gravelly soil, loamy or clay soil and alkaline pH; declines if sited in soils that are soggy in winter or if shaded by taller more aggressive plants.	YES

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<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Ox Eye Sunflower	Low pollinator value; yes host for larvae/caterpillars for moths; generalist bees and flies	Yellow-Orange	2'-5'	July	Sun	Low soil moisture needs	NO
<i>Heuchera americana</i>	Alumroot	Attracts native pollinators: bees, butterflies, other insects	Greenish-White	2'-3'	May-June	Shade to part sun	Medium moisture, well-drained	NO
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag Iris	Entirely dependent on insects for the transference of their pollen; flowers are cross-pollinated by bumblebees and long-horned bees; butterflies and skippers also visit; also caterpillars of moths; more.	Violet	2'-3'	May-July	Partial to full sun	Moist conditions; rich organic soil.	NO
<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	Roundheaded Bushclover	Low pollinator value; yes host for larvae/caterpillars for moths; caterpillar food source for Several Skippers and Blues	White	2'-4'	Sept-October	Sun	Low soil moisture needs	NO
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Rough Blazing Star	High pollinator value; yes host for larvae/caterpillars; caterpillar food source for Rare Glorious Flower Moth	Rosy lilac	1.5'-3'	July-September	Sun	Low soil moisture needs	NO
<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Prairie Blazing Star	High pollinator value; yes host for larvae/caterpillars; caterpillar food source for Rare Glorious Flower Moth; stems are used for nesting habitat	Rosy lilac	3.5'	Mid-summer	Sun	Moderate soil moisture need	NO
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Dense Blazing Star	Liatris species are host plants for the flower moths <i>Schinia gloriosa</i> and <i>Schinia sanguinea</i> , both of which feed exclusively on the genus. The plants are of course visited by all manner of bees, hover flies, and other insects as well. Best for: Providing nectar sources for monarchs and other butterflies	Rosy lilac	2'-4'	July-September	Sun	Well-drained	NO
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	The nectar of the flowers attracts the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird and various Swallowtail butterflies, including such species as <i>Papilio polyxenes asterias</i> (Black Swallowtail), <i>Papilio troilus</i> (Spicebush Swallowtail), and <i>Battus philenor</i> (Pipevine Swallowtail).	Red	2'-4'	July-September	Full Sun to Partial Shade	Moist to wet soil with plenty of organic matter	NO
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia	The nectar and pollen of the flowers attract primarily bumblebees and other long-tongued bees (<i>Anthophora</i> spp., <i>Melissodes</i> spp., <i>Svastra</i> spp.). Less common visitors include the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, large butterflies, and Halictid bees.	Blue	1'-3'	July-August	Full sun is tolerated if the soil is consistently moist, and it will also grow in bright shade	The soil should be fertile and loamy,	NO
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamont	High pollinator value; yes host for larvae/caterpillars; primarily visited by bumble bees, host to sphynx moth	Lilac	2'-3'	July-August	Partial sun; Sun	High soil moisture need	NO
<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	Wild Quinine	The flowers attract Halictine bees, wasps, flies, beetles, and plant bugs. The beetles usually feed on pollen, while the other insects seek nectar primarily. The fly visitors include Syrphid flies, Tachinid flies, Flesh flies, Muscid flies, Anthomyiid flies, and others.	White	2'-3'	July-August	Sun to light shade	Fertile loamy or average well drained soil. Plants also adapt to lightly shaded sites, sandy, rocky or clay soils and drought.	NO

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Penstemon grandiflorus	Large Penstemon	The purple streaks in the throat of the flowers of large beardtongue are nectar guides for pollinating insects. The flowers are cross-pollinated by bumblebees and other long-tongued bees, including <i>Osmia distincta</i> and <i>Synhalonia dubitata</i> . Other floral visitors include pollen-seeking Halictid bees, masked bees (<i>Hylaeus</i> spp.), and Syrphid flies.	Lilac-Blue	2'-4'	July-August	Full sun to partial shade	Medium-dry to Dry	NO
Physostegia virginiana	False Dragonhead	Bumblebees are the most important pollinators of the flowers. Occasionally, other long-tongued bees and the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird may visit the flowers. These visitors seek nectar from the flowers.	Pink	2'-3'	August-September	Sun	Medium to moist soil: the growth of this plant will be best in loamy black soil; too, however, it can thrive in what is basically a layer of decomposed mulch, or can also grow in clay soil.	NO
Pycnanthemum virginianum	Common Mountainmint	The flowers are visited by many insects, including honeybees, cuckoo bees, sweat bees, thread-waisted wasps, potter wasps, tachinid flies, wedge-shaped beetles, and pearl crescent butterflies.	White	2'-3'	July-September	Sun to part sun	Average to moist soil	NO
Rudbeckia laciniata	Cutleaf Coneflower	Attracts many pollinating insects including: long-tongued and short-tongued bees (including honey bees), predatory wasps, butterflies, skippers, moths, some beetles and flies. Cutleaf Coneflower is a host plant for caterpillars of the Silvery Checkerspot butterfly and several moths. Leave the stems and dried flower heads standing through winter to provide seeds for Goldfinches.	Yellow-Orange	3 to 6 feet high x 3 to 4 feet wide	July-September	Sun to part sun	Moist, slightly acidic, fertile soil. In full sun it will require more moisture.	NO
Rudbeckia subtomentosa	Sweet Black-Eyed Susan	Many kinds of insects visit the flowerheads for either nectar or pollen.	Yellow	3' 5'	July-August	Sun to part sun	Moist to mesic conditions, and soil consisting of loam or sandy loam. Relatively easy to cultivate, although it may topple over if it is spoiled by too much water or fertilizer.	NO
Silphium laciniatum	Compass Plant	Long-tongued bees are the primary pollinators of the flowers, including bumblebees, Miner bees, large Leaf-Cutting bees, and others. Short-tongued Halictine bees and Syrphid flies also visit the flowers, but they are less effective at pollination.	Yellow	5'-7'	August	Sun	Moist to slightly dry conditions. A deep loamy soil is preferred for the central taproot.	NO

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Silphium terebinthinaceum	Prairie Dock	The composite flowers attract long-tongued bees primarily, including honeybees, bumblebees, and Miner bees. Other flower visitors include Halictine bees, bee flies, and the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. Both the larvae and adults of the Silphium Beetle (Rynchites sp.)	Yellow	4'-8'	July-September	Sun	Deep loamy soil, and moist to slightly dry conditions. Rocky or gravelly soil is tolerated. Drought tolerance is very good.	NO
Solidago/Oligoneuron riddelli	Riddell's Goldenrod	Many insects visit the flowers of goldenrods (Solidago spp., Oligoneuron spp., Euthamia spp.) for nectar and pollen, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, and beetles.	Yellow	1.5'-3'	September-October	Sun	Wet to moist conditions, and calcareous soil containing some sand or gravel. A steady supply of moisture is required, especially during hot dry weather.	NO, however volunteer Goldenrod of some sort
Solidago/Oligoneuron rigidum	Rigid Goldenrod	The flowers attract many kinds of insects, including long-tongued bees, short-tongued bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, and beetles. Monarch butterflies are especially attracted to the flowers. The larvae of several species of moths feed on various parts of this and other goldenrods	Yellow	2'-3'	August-September	Sun	Moist to slightly dry conditions. This plant is not particular about soil, which can consist of loam, clay-loam, or gravelly material. There is a tendency to flop over during bloom if it is spoiled by fertile soil or too much water.	
Solidago/Oligoneuron speciosa	Showy Goldenrod	Provides valuable late season nectar and pollen for native bees, honeybees, butterflies, moths and beetles. Plants host caterpillars of several moth species.	Yellow	2'-6'	August-September	Sun to light shade	Well drained, sandy or loamy soils.	
Thalictrum dasycarpum	Purple Meadow-Rue	Even though honeybees and other bees are sometimes attracted to the abundant pollen of male flowers, the flowers of Purple Meadow Rue are not cross-pollinated by insects as its female flowers are devoid of nectar.	Purple	3'-7'	June-July	Sun to light shade	Wet to mesic conditions, and soil that is loamy, slightly sandy, or slightly rocky. Generally, plants growing in sunlight require more moisture than plants growing in shade.	NO

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Tradescantia virginiana	Spiderwort	Flowers are pollinated by bumblebees. Other bees, flies and butterflies also visit the flowers.	Blue	1'-3'	May-July	Sun, part shade, full shade	Very adaptable plant prefers humus-rich soil but will grow in a wide range of soils: moist/dry, clay/sand, acid/alkaline.	Maybe
Vernonia fasciculata	Ironweed	The flowers attract long-tongued bees, butterflies, and skippers primarily. Other visitors include bee flies and Halictid bees. These insects seek nectar, although bees also collect pollen.	Purple	2'-4'	July-August	Sun	Moist, fertile soil; partial sun and slightly moister or drier conditions are also tolerated.	YES!
Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's Root	The most common visitors to the flowers are long and short tongued bees, which collect pollen and nectar. Other pollinators include honeybees, bumblebees, mason bees, green metallic bees and masked bees. Other insect visitors include sphecid wasps, butterflies, moths and syrphid flies.	White	3'-5'	June-September	Sun	Moist to wet	NO
Zizia aurea	Golden Alexander	Serves as the primary larval host for the black swallowtail butterfly (Papilio polyxenes).	Yellow	1'-2'	May-June	Sun to part shade	Moist to mesic	NO

