

Native Plant Instructions: Tips for Success

Congratulations and thank you for choosing one of our native plants to improve wildlife habitat in your garden! Learn how to care for your new plant with these tips.

1 Select the Ideal Site
Double check that you are planting your native plant in a location that best meets its sunlight, soil type, drainage, and moisture requirements.

2 Allow Room to Thrive
Although it may look sparse for the first season, allow adequate space between plants. Some grasses look outstanding when given ample spacing (such as a 3-foot circle). Native plants may take a couple seasons to reach full size as they grow their roots deep into the ground.

3 Put Down Roots
Dig a hole slightly larger than the root ball. If the roots are dense, gently pull them apart a little bit before placing in the hole. Set the plant in the hole level with the ground or just slightly below.

**Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area
Woodlands Nature Station**

3146 Silver Trail Road | Cadiz, KY 42211

(800) 525-7077 www.landbetweenthelakes.us



4 Settle the Soil
Sprinkle in loose soil all the way around the plant. Don't pack any of the soil. Water thoroughly to allow the soil to settle around the roots and eliminate air pockets, which can kill the plant. Add extra soil as it settles.

5 Water Regularly
Keep the plants watered for the first season as it takes time for the roots to expand into the surrounding soil. There is no need to fertilize, as doing so can cause native plants to grow tall and leggy. Most native plants can tolerate harsher conditions.

6 The Months Ahead
In the fall, consider leaving the dead plant material to provide cover for wildlife and overwintering butterfly larvae/chrysalises. In February or the first sign of major sprouting, clip off & remove dead stalks. Don't pull, as you might damage the roots.

7 Return Your Pots
When you're all done planting your new plants, please keep your pots and return them to the Woodlands Nature Station. We reuse them for future events. Thank you- we appreciate it!