



Native Plants for Homeowner Associations

Homeowner associations often have a list of approved plants for the association's property. Unfortunately, these plant lists often do not include native choices. Homeowner associations prefer neatness and uniformity in their landscapes. They also want plants that are relatively easy to maintain.

It can be difficult for homeowners who live in a neighborhood that has an association to get permission to incorporate native plants in their home landscape. Common landscapes within condominium and townhome complexes rarely contain native plants. This is often due to a lack of education and misunderstanding about native plants.

The best way to encourage a homeowner association to allow and incorporate native plants in their landscapes is to ask them to incorporate a few native plants on their "approved" list. These plants must be hardy, easy to maintain, attractive, well structured, and not prone to take over an area.

Recommended plants for homeowners associations are as follows:

- Beak grass (*diarrhena obovate*)
- Butterfly weed (*asclepias tuberosa*)
- Fox sedge (*carex vulpinoidea*)
- Gray's sedge (*carex grayi*)
- Lead plant (*amorpha canescens*)
- New Jersey Tea (*ceanothus americanus*)
- Prairie dropseed (*sporobolus heterolpis*)
- Black chokeberry (*aronia melanocarpa*) alternative to burning bush
- Maple-leaved viburnum (*viburnum acerifolium*) alternative to burning bush
- Downy serviceberry (*amelanchier arborea*)
- Eastern redbud (*cercis canadensis*)
- Winterberry (*ilex verticillate*) native holly

To see photos of the listed plants please refer to the native plant selector at www.sagmoraine.org