



True or False?

Native plants are weeds.

False

A native plant is one that is a part of the balance of nature that has developed over hundreds or thousands of years in a particular region. A weed is a plant (native or non-native) that is not valued in the place where it is growing. Most common weeds are non-native plants.

Wildflowers are the same thing as native plants.

False

A wildflower is a flower growing freely without human intervention. Many plants come up on their own in natural lands. Some of them are native. However, many are non-native and were at some time introduced from another part of the country or world. Over time they became "naturalized" in our landscapes. Sometimes, these naturalized plants become invasive and problematic.

Native plants will attract many bees and are dangerous to have in my yard.

False

Native plants will attract bees. Bees are a vital part of our ecosystem and critical to our very existence. We must learn to co-exist with bees. Fortunately, bees in your garden mean you no harm. Native bees are peaceful and rarely sting. Most native bees don't even have a stinger. Most "bee" stings come from the yellow jacket wasp. Yellow jackets are more attracted to your can of soda or hamburger than they are your flowers. Bees are not aggressive where they forage. If they are a bee species that has a colony (European honeybees, bumblebees) they will protect their nest. Their nest is usually built away from the presence of many other foraging insects. You are more likely to find a bee's nest behind your garage or in a quiet corner of your yard than in your flower garden. Most actual bee stings come from stepping on a bee that is foraging in the lawn. The best way to prevent a bee sting is to always wear closed toe shoes when walking through the lawn.

Native plants are too aggressive and will take over my entire yard.

False

Some native plants can be very tall or can spread vigorously through rhizomes or self-seeding. These native species may not be appropriate for smaller urban and suburban landscapes. However, many species of native plants are not aggressive and look lovely in smaller home and business landscapes. For a list of these plants please visit the native plant selector at sagmoraine.org.

I need to remove my entire lawn and replace it with native plants to make a difference.

False

Every native plant you restore to the environment can have a positive impact on the local ecosystem. Whether you plant a native shrub in the corner of your yard, a native tree in your parkway, a small pollinator garden, or a container with native plants, you are making a difference!