CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN

Not sure where to start? Don't worry—we got you!

Start by thinking about where you would like to add plants around your home.
If you're planning on making a lot of landscape changes, keep in mind how conditions might change as the plants and trees mature.

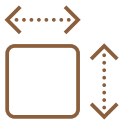
What are the lighting conditions like?
How much sun does that area get every day? Does it get early morning sun? Harsher midday sun?

Full Sun
6+ hours of sun

Part Sun / Part Shade*
3-6 hours of sun
*protect from midday sun

Full Shade
Less than 3 hours of sun

What are the soil conditions like?
This can range from wet to dry. You may see the term "mesic," which is in the middle — not too wet, not too dry.



How much room do you have for new plants?
Consider the mature size of each plant. You can find this information on the plant signs.

What kind of aesthetics are you looking for?
You can narrow your selection by flower color, what time of the season it blooms, or just the overall look of the plant. If you're fitting new plants in between existing ones, think about what will compliment what you already have. Basically, use the criteria you've set above to narrow the plants that speak to you.

You can find more pictures of the plants we have available by going to these websites:

www.sagmoraine.org/plant-selector

www.possibilityplace.com/plant-finder

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What should I plant for pollinators?

When it comes to planting for pollinators, it's best to provide flowers all through the growing season. So try to include plants that bloom in the spring, in early summer, and in late summer into early fall. Also consider plants that will provide birds with seeds or berries into the winter.

This is all really great information, but can you just tell me what to plant?

You know your own yard best, but here's some plants we often recommend to people who are just starting out with native plants:

Wild Blue Phlox (Phlox divaricata)
Small bluish-purple flowers that bloom from April to June. It makes a great ground cover that will attract a variety of pollinators.

Black-Eyed Susan (Rudbeckia hirta)
Bright yellow blooms from June through September and seed heads that feed birds into the winter.

Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa)
This sun-loving plant has orange blooms from July to August. It is a host plant for Monarch caterpillars.

Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis)
Showy red blooms from July to August. It does great in wetter soils and is a hummingbird magnet.

New England Aster (Symphyotrichum novae-angliae)
Deep purple blooms from August to October. It's a great nectar source for migrating species, including the Monarch butterfly.

What do I do once I bring them home?

Once your get your new plant babies home, you'll want to get them in the ground as soon as you're able. If you can't do that right away, make sure you keep them moist, as they'll dry out very quickly in their nursery pots.

Over their first year, keep them adequately watered as they establish their root systems. After that, you'll be able to sit back and relax and enjoy of the new pollinators and other wildlife you'll start seeing.