

## Six Steps to Start Your Native Plant Gardening

1. **Embrace the native plant aesthetic.** Exuberant, abundant - and not always neat.
2. **Identify the “givens.”** What is not going to change in your yard? Structures, play areas, favorite plants?
3. **Identify opportunities for new planting beds.**  
It doesn't have to be a large area and you don't have to do it all at once. Where could you replace grass with gardens?
4. **What functions do you want to fulfill?**  
Stormwater reduction, support pollinators, biodiversity?  
Bird habitat?
5. **What are the site conditions?**  
Light, moisture, soil pH and texture, microclimates...
6. **Consider trees first, shrubs second, perennials third.**  
Increase biomass as much as possible and use larger plants to give your garden structure.

The goal is to increase the percentage of natives in your yard.



*ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE*

1. **Shrink the lawn** and leave the leaves.
2. **Remove invasive species**
3. **Generously plant the plants that do the most good** –  
Keystone plants
4. **Reduce your nighttime light pollution** – replace  
white bulbs with amber LED's
5. **Network with neighbors to get them on the HNP  
map**
6. **Build a conservation hardscape** – set mowers 3” or  
higher, install a bubbler
7. **Create a caterpillar pupation sites under your trees** –  
leaf litter or gardens, not grass
8. **Do no spray or fertilize.**