

Why Plant Natives?

Birds, bees and other pollinators depend on it



Monarch caterpillar on Milkweed



Black Swallowtail Butterfly
on Cardinal Flower



Bumblebee on Redbud tree



Goldfinch on Anise Hyssop

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Who From the smallest bee and butterfly to the hawks and foxes at the top of the food chain, animals in New York depend on native plants for our local ecosystem to thrive.

Native plants are host plants for insect species that either become pollinators in adulthood or provide crucial food for birds that are raising their young. Without host plants, many species disappear.

What Native plants in New York are annuals, ferns, grasses, perennials, shrubs and trees that have evolved in the eastern U.S. to play a vital role in New York natural ecosystems.

Where Native plants in New York can have a range that reaches from eastern Canada down to middle-Atlantic states.

How Native plants provide food, shelter and encourage diversity by sustaining local ecosystems, letting birds, mammals and insect species thrive. With birds and pollinator species in decline, the only way to reverse this troubling trend is to plant native plants in your garden, backyard, balcony or anywhere else in your outdoor home environment.