

2026 Central New York **NATIVE PLANT** Shopping Guide



Goldenrods (*Solidago* spp.) are important for pollinators, and they support the monarch migration



*Habitat Gardening in
Central New York*



Free to download at
hgcnw.wildones.org

About Wild Ones and HGCNY

Habitat Gardening in Central New York (HGCNY) is a chapter of Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes (wildones.org), a national not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization, connecting people and native plants for a healthy planet. Our mission is to promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to encourage biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities.

Learn about our programs, resources, and native plant sales at hgcnny.wildones.org, on Instagram at [instagram.com/wildones_hgcnny/](https://www.instagram.com/wildones_hgcnny/), and on Facebook at [facebook.com/hgcnny](https://www.facebook.com/hgcnny). Subscribe to our free twice-monthly newsletter by sending a request to info@hgcnny.org or by subscribing on our website.

Thank you for using our CNY Native Plant Shopping Guide

HGCNY creates this Guide each year to help you find native plants to purchase. We invite native plant nurseries in CNY to provide a list of native plants they plan to sell during the growing season. We review their selections and compile this Guide, which may be freely downloaded, printed, and shared. The nurseries in this Guide do not pay to be included nor are they paid to participate. View this Guide online or download additional copies of this Guide from our website.

The plants are listed two ways, though we encourage you to use the **scientific** name list:

Section 1: By scientific name for trees, shrubs, wildflowers, vines, grasses/sedges/rushes, and ferns.

Section 2: By common name for each of these plant types

This Guide's definition of "native"

We are guided by the Darke/Tallamy functional definition of "native" found in *The Living Landscape*: "**A plant or animal that has evolved in a given place over a period of time sufficient to develop complex and essential relationships with the physical environment and other organisms in a given ecological community.**"

To determine which plants are native to our region we use the [NY Flora Atlas](#) and the Native Plant Trust's [Go Botany](#). We highlight in bold the [Keystone plants for the Eastern Temperate Forests - Ecoregion 8](#).

The codes we use in our Guide


BOLD type for Keystone plants: "Keystone plants are native plants critical to the food web and necessary for many wildlife species to complete their life cycle. Without keystone plants in the landscape, butterflies, native bees, and birds will not thrive. 96% of our terrestrial birds rely on insects supported by keystone plants." ~ *Garden for Wildlife* NWF. We strongly encourage you to include keystone plants in your landscape!

S for Species: This Guide lists native plant *species*, *not cultivars*. **Cultivars** of native plants (sometimes called "nativars") are generally propagated vegetatively to preserve

selected traits attractive to people. They may or may not retain the important habitat properties of the species. **Species**, on the other hand, provide genetic diversity and provide desirable habitat qualities. Genetic diversity is increasingly important as our climate changes. Read more about the [Wild Ones position “Nativars: Where do they fit in?”](#) on the Wild Ones website.

L for Local: Species grown from local genotype seeds are indicated by an “L.” Why is this important? For example, a red maple from the South and one from the Northeast are both *Acer rubrum*, BUT the local genotype plant will better match local conditions.

IMPORTANT: Local genotype is NOT the same as locally-grown, although local genotype plants are generally grown locally. We encourage you to choose local genotype plants.

 – Good for specialist bees: From Cornell’s [Creating a pollinator garden for native specialist bees](#) of NY and the Northeast, the NWF list of Keystone plants that host pollen specialist bees, Pollinator Pathway, and other sources

 – Keystone plants for butterfly and moth caterpillars

Shopping tips

- **Use the scientific name**, including the first (*Genus*) and second (*species*) names. Sometimes knowing the variety is important, too, and is noted as “var.” *Common names are not as accurate and may refer to more than one plant, so we encourage you to use list organized by scientific name.*
- **Use native plant references** to research and plan your purchases. Know the conditions of your own site and choose plants that will thrive in those conditions. *Bring references with you when you shop!*
- **Read plant labels carefully.** *Be aware that many conventional stores or nurseries may use plant labels that say “Native,” but they may merely be native to the continent, not to Central NY or even to the Northeast. Plants native to the Pacific Northwest, for example, are not necessarily native in CNY and we wouldn’t recommend them.*
- **Patronize nurseries that sell nursery-propagated native plants** from seeds or cuttings. Never buy plants dug from the wild (or dig them from the wild yourself). Ask nurseries about the source of their plants.
- **Buy pesticide-free plants.** Increasingly, plants are treated with systemic pesticides: pesticides incorporated into the plant that don’t wash off and can linger in the soil for years. These pesticides (banned in many other countries) may harm pollinators and other wildlife. *We try to ensure that nurseries included in this Guide refrain from using these pesticides but confirm with nurseries that their plants are pesticide-free.*
- **Please check your plants for worms!** Virtually any worm you find in a plant pot is NOT native, and jumping worms are particularly harmful. Learn more from this [Cornell Cooperative Extension factsheet on jumping worms](#).
- **CALL AHEAD** to confirm nursery hours and the **availability of your desired plants** before setting out on a trip to a nursery. This list is compiled in March, and popular plants may be sold out later in the season.

To learn more, we recommend:

Native plant websites:

New York Flora Atlas: newyork.plantatlas.usf.edu/ **Important:** Filter for “Native” since the Atlas lists all plants – native and non-native – found in NYS

Native Plant Trust: gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/

(Check the North American range map below the New England range for NYS nativity)

Nat'l Wildlife Fed'n: Keystone plants for the Eastern Temperate Forests - Ecoregion 8

Biota of No. America Program: bonap.org/ - Shows native range of plants (green=ative; blue=non-native)

Native Plants for Birds at audubon.org/plantsforbirds/ - Audubon list of native plants

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at wildflower.org/plants/ organized by state and plant size; also includes cultural conditions

Finger Lakes Native Plant Society -

Native plants suitable for wildflower gardens, meadows traditional gardens

Native plant books:

IMPORTANT: Most books include all plants native to the continent; check for the Northeast!

Joel Baines *Native Plants for Native Birds* (published by Ithaca's Cayuga Bird Club)

Uli Lorimer *The Northeast Native Plant Primer: 235 plants for an Earth-Friendly Garden*

Donald Leopold *Native Plants of the Northeast: A Guide for Gardening and Conservation*

William Cullina *Wildflowers: A Guide to Growing and Propagating Native Flowers of NoAm*

William Cullina *Native Trees, Shrubs, & Vines*

William Cullina *Native Ferns, Moss, & Grasses*

Habitat gardening books:

Douglas Tallamy *How Can I Help?: Saving Nature with Your Yard*

Douglas Tallamy *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*

Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity*

Douglas Tallamy *The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees*

Douglas Tallamy *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard*

Douglas Tallamy *Nature's Best Hope – Young Reader's Edition*

Sara Stein *Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Back Yards – A classic!*

Nancy Lawson *The Humane Gardener*

Nancy Lawson *Wildscape*

Xerces Society *Attracting Native Pollinators*

Holm, Heather *A variety of books on pollinators*

Habitat gardening websites:

HGCNY website at hgcnny.wildones.org/ – Our programs and projects; links to more information

Our Habitat Garden at ourhabitatgarden.org/ – An example of a local HGCNY habitat garden

Homegrown National Park at homegrownnationalpark.org/

The Humane Gardener at humanegardener.com/

Discussion course:

HGCNY has created a 6-session discussion course called “Caring for Our Piece of the Earth” for use in small groups or by individuals. FREE at hgcnny.wildones.org/projects/course/.

Native Plant Nurseries in CNY

Not all of these nurseries have storefronts, so call or check their websites first before visiting! The Guide is compiled in early spring, and some plants may sell out before the end of the year. If you're looking for a particular plant, be sure to call ahead to check on availability.

NAME and WEBSITE	ADDRESS	CONTACT
Amanda's Native Garden LLC amandasnativeplants.com/	8030 Story Rd. Dansville, NY 14437	ellen@amandasnativeplants.com (585) 750-6288
Butterfly Effect butterflyeffectplants.com/	2678 NY 14 Geneva, NY 14456	butterflyeffectplants@gmail.com (315) 719-6022
Faverolles Gardens faverollesgardens.com/	1955 Meeker Hill Rd. LaFayette, NY 13084	faverollesgardens@gmail.com (315) 677-1337
Go Native! Perennials gonativeperennials.com/	Nursery: 1686 NY 321, Elbridge NY 13060 Mail: 100 E. Lake Rd, Skaneateles, NY 13152	RewildCNY@gonativeperennials.com (240) 626-5209
Grant's Native Plants grantsnativeplants.com	5672 Main St. Oneida, NY 13421	ggrant1454@gmail.com 315-869-1454
Grow Wild! A Native Plant Nursery growwildnatives.com/	245 Speed Hill Rd. Brooktondale, NY 14817	deannagrowwild@gmail.com (314) 749-2882
Lazy Dirt Flower Farm lazydirtflowerfarm.com/	340 Dry Bridge Rd. Mexico, NY 13114	lazydirtflowerfarm@gmail.com (315) 236-8592
The Plantsmen Nursery plantsmen.com/	482 Peruville Rd. (Route 34B) Groton, NY 13073	info@plantsmen.com (607) 533-7193
Spicebush Swallowtail Nursery spicebushswallowtailnativeplants.com/	Pittsford, NY	spicebushswallowtail163@gmail.com (330) 842-9523
Three Story Farm facebook.com/ThreeStoryFarm/	67 Helen's Way Ithaca, NY 14850	lisaripperton@gmail.com (919) 967-3119
White Oak Nursery whiteoaknursery.biz/	4350 Kipp Rd. Canandaigua, NY 14424 (By appt.)	jengel53@rochester.rr.com (315) 789-3509
Wild Ginger Farm wildgingerfarmny.com/	211 County Rd. 21 W. Winfield, NY 13491	wildgingerfarmny@gmail.com (315) 734-5704