

## GROW EASY

Native plants are better suited to our climate and soil conditions. They are also low maintenance and long-lasting, which means they use less water and fertilizers.

The hardiness of native plants is due to their massive root systems, which reach deep into the soil (in some cases, as far down as fifteen feet) accessing water even during dry times. This makes them drought tolerant, so you will water less. Native plants are also disease resistant and rarely require added fertilizers, which saves you money. In short, they are a perfect garden guest!

## ENDLESS COLOR

Use native plants to create a stunning garden that blooms all season long. Native plants offer a unique pallet of color, texture, and shape, plus a wide variety of heights and sizes. They provide a unique aesthetic and visual appeal that will enhance your garden and property. Here is a small sampling of some easy to care for native plants:

### Trees

Red Maple  
*Acer rubrum*  
White Oak  
*Quercus alba*  
Redbud  
*Cercis canadensis*  
Black Gum  
*Nyssa sylvatica*

### Shrubs

Juneberry  
*Amelanchier arborea*  
Maple Leaf Viburnum  
*Viburnum acerifolium*  
Silky Dogwood  
*Cornus amomum*  
Witchhazel  
*Hamamelis virginiana*

### Perennials

Black-eyed Susan  
*Rudbeckia hirta*  
Butterfly Milkweed  
*Asclepias tuberosa*  
Wild Columbine  
*Aquilegia canadensis*  
Coneflower  
*Ratibida pinnata*

### Ferns

Bracken Fern  
*Pteridium aquilinum*  
Cinnamon Fern  
*Osmunda cinnamomea*  
Maidenhair Fern  
*Adiantum pedatum*  
Royal Fern  
*Osmunda regalis*

### Grasses & Sedges

Big Bluestem Grass  
*Andropogon gerardii*  
Bottlebrush Grass  
*Elymus hystrix*  
Pennsylvania Sedge  
*Caryx pennsylvanica*  
Tussock Sedge  
*Caryx stricta*

Before planting, learn what native plants are best suited for your garden. In Northwest Ohio we have the diversity of rare, sandy Oak Openings soils in western Lucas County and the challenge of heavier, clay soils in eastern Lucas and Wood Counties. For information on what plants are best for your garden, contact the Toledo Botanical Garden.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NATIVE PLANTS:

Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District	419-893-1966
Wood Soil and Water Conservation District	419-354-5517
OSU Extension – Lucas County Office	419-578-6783
OSU Extension – Wood County Office	419-354-9050
Toledo Botanical Garden	419-936-2986
Naturally Native Nursery	419-878-7273

**Add up all the land that drains into the same waterway, and you have a watershed. Understanding how we impact our watershed is the first step toward protecting water quality.**

**HOW DO POLLUTANTS GET INTO THE RIVER SYSTEM? UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS TOO EASY!**

Water from rainfall, snowmelt, and sprinklers moves over land to the nearest storm drain, ditch or creek. Pollutants “hitch a ride” on this water that is running off. From there, the polluted water enters area waterways like Swan Creek, Ottawa River, and the Maumee River, unfiltered and untreated. This runoff can cause a decline in water quality, harming the creatures living in and around the waterway. Contamination of surface and ground water also places our drinking water supplies at risk.

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**TAKE ACTION! YOU CAN PROTECT WATER QUALITY. IT'S EASY. . .**

- Pick a few of the simple steps recommended in this brochure. Try them for a few months. Remember, a few simple changes can make a big difference.
- Share this tip card with a friend or neighbor.
- Get involved in local environmental activities as a member or a volunteer. The Maumee RAP has been working to improve and protect our area waterways for over 20 years. To learn how you can support their efforts or get involved, visit [PartnersForCleanStreams.org](http://PartnersForCleanStreams.org)

Give Water a Hand is a cooperative education effort among Partners for Clean Streams (now supporting the Maumee RAP) and the following: Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (419-241-9155)

Lucas County (419-213-4500)  
City of Oregon (419-698-7047)  
Village of Holland (419-865-7104)  
Village of Ottawa Hills (419-536-1111)  
Village of Whitehouse (419-877-5383)  
Township of Monclova (419-865-7862)  
Township of Springfield (419-865-0239)  
Township of Washington (419-726-6621)  
Ohio Environmental Education Fund  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

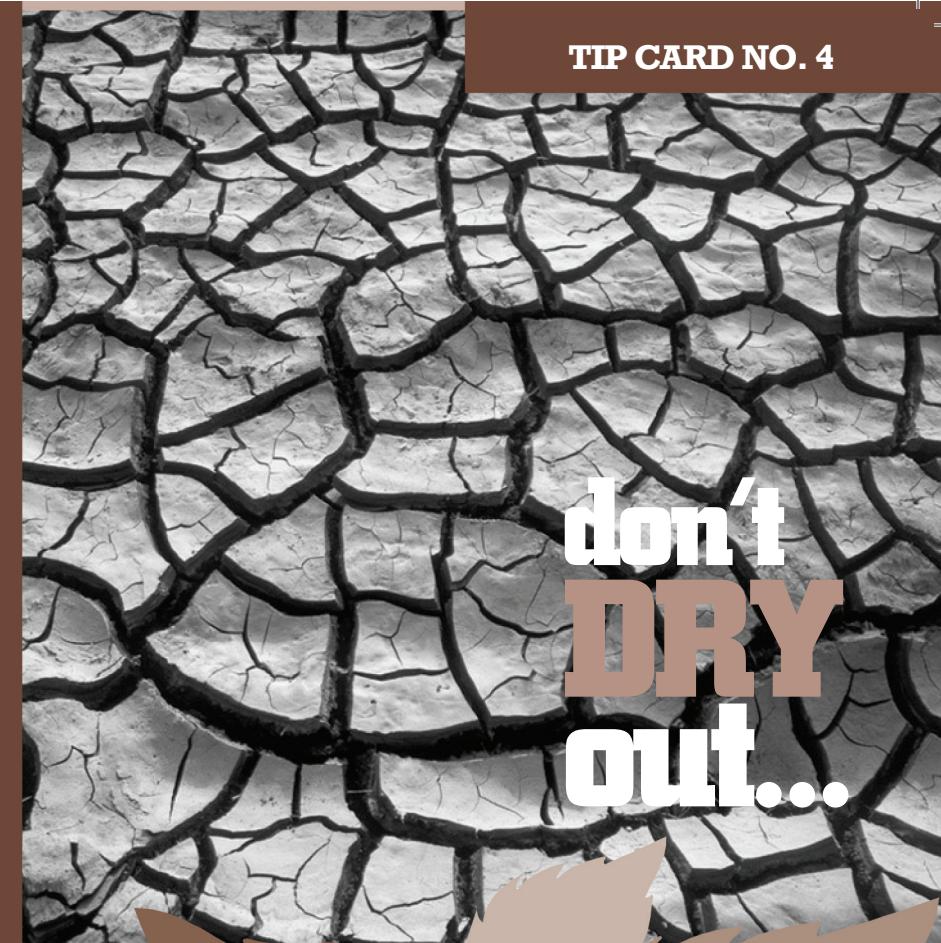


City of Northwood (419-693-9327)  
Village of Haskins (419-823-1911)  
Village of Millbury (419-836-9671)  
Village of Waterville (419-878-8100)  
Township of Jerusalem (419-836-8921)  
Township of Spencer (419-865-2883)  
Township of Sylvania (419-882-0031)  
Township of Waterville (419-878-5176)  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
United States Fish & Wildlife Service

Keep for future reference or recycle.

Partners for Clean Streams | P.O. Box 203 | Perrysburg, Ohio 43552 | Phone: 419-874-0727 | [PartnersForCleanStreams.org](http://PartnersForCleanStreams.org)

## TIP CARD NO. 4



**what's in your garden. . .**

**give WATER A HAND**

Find out how native plants can enhance your garden space, save you money, and protect our waterways!

## IS YOUR GARDEN NATIVE, NATURALIZED OR INVASIVE?

A FEW SIMPLE CHANGES IN HOW YOU  
SELECT YOUR PLANTS AND WHERE YOU  
PLACE THEM WILL SAVE YOU TIME AND  
MONEY, AND HELP PROTECT  
OUR WATERWAYS. . .

Native plants are easier to grow because they are suited to our climate and soil conditions; which means they use less water and other resources. With proper plant selection and placement, you can have a beautiful low maintenance garden, while protecting our waterways.

A garden of native plants is not only beautiful, but it can also help protect water quality. Protecting water quality means local lakes, rivers, and streams remain safe and accessible for recreational activities, while also protecting our drinking water resources. Discover how easy a beautiful garden and cleaner waterways can be.

## PROTECT WATER QUALITY

- Use native plants to create attractive, low-maintenance garden borders around lawns. They have deep thirsty roots that help retain water in your yard and absorb fertilizer before it can run off. Deep-rooted native plants also help stabilize soils and prevent erosion, making them a great choice for steep slopes, berms or streambanks.
- Reduce the amount of water leaving your yard and garden. The water that runs off may contain fertilizers, soil, and debris. When polluted runoff enters storm drains and ditches, it is discharged into local rivers, creeks, and ditches unfiltered and untreated, encouraging an over-abundant growth of algae and aquatic plants.
- If your home is on a lake, river or stream, it is especially important to prevent excessive and unnatural water runoff and soil erosion. Maintain a native plant buffer along the water's edge. Keep the buffer at least 15 feet wide, with narrow access paths winding down to the water. Never apply fertilizers, pesticides or fungicides to this area; they may harm the waterway.
- If you have shoreline property, try incorporating existing rocks, trees, and wetlands areas into your landscape design. These natural elements can enhance your design and reduce erosion of the shoreline.
- If the banks of your pond or stream are eroded, vegetated with only a few types of plants or artificially straightened, they can be enhanced. Planting a variety of native plants can reduce erosion and enhance the visual appeal of your pond or stream. Contact the Toledo Botanical Garden, your local OSU Extension Office or your local Soil and Water Conservation District for help.

## BEAUTY OF BIODIVERSITY

- Protect the splendid biodiversity of our area by placing native plants in your garden. Biodiversity (a variety of different species) is important to the health of the ecosystem. Diverse plant populations are less susceptible to devastation by disease and can support a wider range of wildlife.
- Native plants are best adapted to our local climate and soil types. Are the plants in your yard Native, Naturalized or Invasive?
  - Native:** Plants that were here before Europeans settled in the 1700s are considered "native."
  - Naturalized:** Plants that arrived after that time period are considered "naturalized."
  - Invasive:** If a naturalized, or non-native, plant grows aggressively, it is considered "invasive" and can have devastating effects on other plant populations. (Familiar examples of invasive species in this area include purple loosestrife, buckthorn, and honeysuckle.)
- When buying native plants, ask the store where the plants were grown or originated. Plants vary from region to region, so it is best to use plants purchased from your local area or the next closest geographic region. Contact the Toledo Botanical Garden, your local OSU Extension Office or Soil and Water Conservation District for native plant sources; or ask your local nursery about obtaining native stock.
- Native plants create an inviting habitat for butterflies, birds, and other small wildlife. As the seasons change, you will enjoy watching a host of wildlife in your garden.

Some facts and information from the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and the Huron River Watershed Council.