



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WHAT'S IN YOUR GARDEN?
Using native plants won't make you restless

NORTHWEST OHIO, October 1, 2004 – They were here long before we arrived – and will be here long after we're gone. So it makes perfect sense to make native plants a part of your landscape! A few simple changes in how you select your plants and where you place them will save you time and money, help protect our waterways and give you a grand garden.

Through a collaborative partnership, the *Give Water a Hand* program is educating residents of Northwest Ohio about easy, money saving ways – including lawn and garden care – to conserve water and protect our streams, rivers and lakes. “Clean water benefits plants, wildlife and all who live, work and play in this area,” says Kurt Erichsen, *Give Water a Hand* Project Manager.

Here are some simple ways you can use native plants to protect water quality:

- Create attractive, low-maintenance garden borders around lawns. The deep thirsty roots help retain water and absorb fertilizer. Deep-rooted native plants are a great choice for steep slopes, berms or streambanks because they help stabilize soil and prevent erosion.
- If your home is on a lake, river or stream, maintain a native plant buffer (at least 15 feet wide) along the water's edge, to prevent excessive and unnatural water runoff and soil erosion.
- If you have shoreline property, incorporate existing rocks, trees and wetlands areas into your landscape design, to enhance the appearance and reduce shoreline erosion.
- Add a variety of them to a pond or stream to enhance the visual appeal and reduce erosion.

- more -

Give Water a Hand is a cooperative education effort among the following:

Maumee RAP (419-241-9155)
Toledo Metropolitan Area Council
of Governments (419-241-9155)
Lucas County (419-213-4500)
City of Northwood (419-693-9327)
City of Oregon (419-698-7047)

Village of Haskins (419-823-1911)
Village of Holland (419-865-7104)
Village of Millbury (419-836-9671)
Village of Ottawa Hills (419-536-1111)
Village of Waterville (419-878-8100)
Village of Whitehouse (419-877-5383)

Township of Jerusalem (419-836-8921)
Township of Monclova (419-865-7862)
Township of Spencer (419-865-2883)
Township of Springfield (419-865-0239)
Township of Sylvania (419-882-0031)
Township of Washington (419-726-6621)

Township of Waterville (419-878-5176)
Ohio Environmental Education Fund
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Native plants are more common than you might think. You might already have some in your yard and not even realize it. Take a look:

- Trees – Red Maple, White Oak, Redbud, Black Gum
- Ferns – Bracken, Cinnamon, Maidenhair, Royal
- Shrubs – Juneberry, Maple Leaf Viburnum, Silky Dogwood, Witchhazel
- Grasses & Sedges – Big Bluestem Grass, Bottlebrush Grass, Pennsylvania Sage, Tussock Sage
- Perennials – Black-Eyed Susan, Butterfly Milkweed, Wild Columbine, Coneflower

Native plants are better suited to our climate and conditions, are low maintenance and create an inviting habitat for butterflies and birds. They're the perfect garden guest!

The *Give Water a Hand: You Can Make a Difference* campaign is a cooperative effort focused on educating residents of Northwest Ohio about storm water and other water quality issues. The average citizen does affect water quality and can make a positive difference. The Maumee RAP (Remedial Action Plan) and Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) are partnering with local cities, villages and townships to educate the region about improving water quality and managing water quantity.

For more information about the *Give Water a Hand* program, please call 419-241-9155 or visit us at www.MaumeeRAP.org.

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