

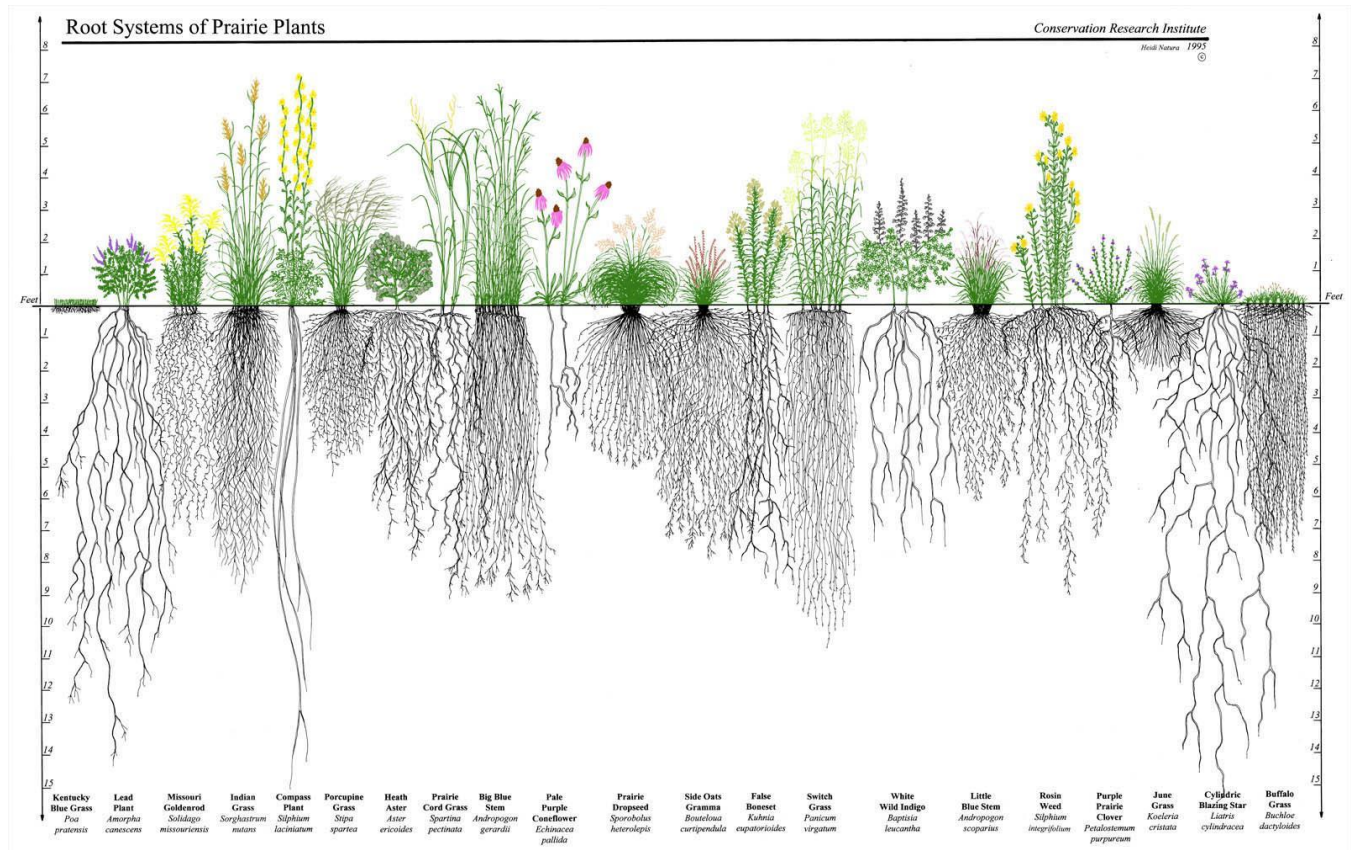
**Key information on native plants**

1. Why is the use of native plants in your yard important?
2. What are the steps to consider in transitioning yards to native plants?
3. Where to get native plants?

**Why Plant Natives?** (from Prairie Restoration)

With population shifts, native plant communities have been altered, fragmented and lost. They have been displaced by asphalt, turf grass, non-native plantings, agricultural crops and invasive species. The United States once had approximately 167 million acres of prairie. Now, due to human development, less than 1% of that remains.

Among the many reasons to plant natives, a major one is ecological stability through their extensive root systems. Native plants improve degraded soils, increase filtration of water, and protect against erosion. Prairie roots are much better situated for trapping carbon and preventing erosion than turf/Kentucky blue grass.



## Steps to consider.

- ✚ Considering increasing the biodiversity of your yard? Start with some of the books and websites on the resource sheet.
- ✚ Talk to friends and neighbors who transitioned their yard to more native plants. Look for Rain Garden, pollinator or other native plant signs and talk to the homeowner. Contact the Environmental and Land Use committee of WCC as noted on the resource sheet.
- ✚ Educate yourself on your yard's soil conditions and moisture, light levels, etc,
- ✚ There is a detailed sample garden design created for the Minneapolis area by Wild Ones ([www.nativegardendesigns.wildones.org/](http://www.nativegardendesigns.wildones.org/)). Blue Thumb has a variety of design templates ([www.bluethumb.org/public-resources/](http://www.bluethumb.org/public-resources/)). Create your plan using the list of Minnesota native plants (<https://ncipmhort.cfans.umn.edu/sites/ncipmhort.cfans.umn.edu/files/2022-03/Native-Plant-List.pdf>).
- ✚ Prairie Restoration provides a how-to list on starting a native garden. (<https://www.prairieresto.com/native-planting-guide/>).
- ✚ Keep in mind that native plants develop at a different pace from other plants. The saying is that year one they sleep, year two they creep, and year three they leap!!

## Links

Resource Sheet	<a href="http://www.windommpls.org/windomnativeplantgrowingday">www.windommpls.org/windomnativeplantgrowingday</a>
Prairie Restoration Guide	<a href="https://www.prairieresto.com/native-planting-guide">https://www.prairieresto.com/native-planting-guide</a>
Prairie Restoration Root Systems Graphic	<a href="http://www.windommpls.org/windomnativeplantgrowingday">www.windommpls.org/windomnativeplantgrowingday</a>
Wild One Gardens Design Samples (6 pages)	<a href="http://www.windommpls.org/windomnativeplantgrowingday">www.windommpls.org/windomnativeplantgrowingday</a>
Blue Thumb Various Designs	<a href="http://www.bluethumb.org/public-resources">www.bluethumb.org/public-resources</a>
List of MN Native Plants	<a href="http://www.windommpls.org/windomnativeplantgrowingday">www.windommpls.org/windomnativeplantgrowingday</a>
Prairie Restoration 'How to start a native garden'	<a href="https://www.prairieresto.com/native-planting-guide">https://www.prairieresto.com/native-planting-guide</a>

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