



# HOW TO SELECT YOUR PLANTS



**Native plant gardening is about selecting plants that work in your garden so you do not have to amend the soil, water or use fertilizers**

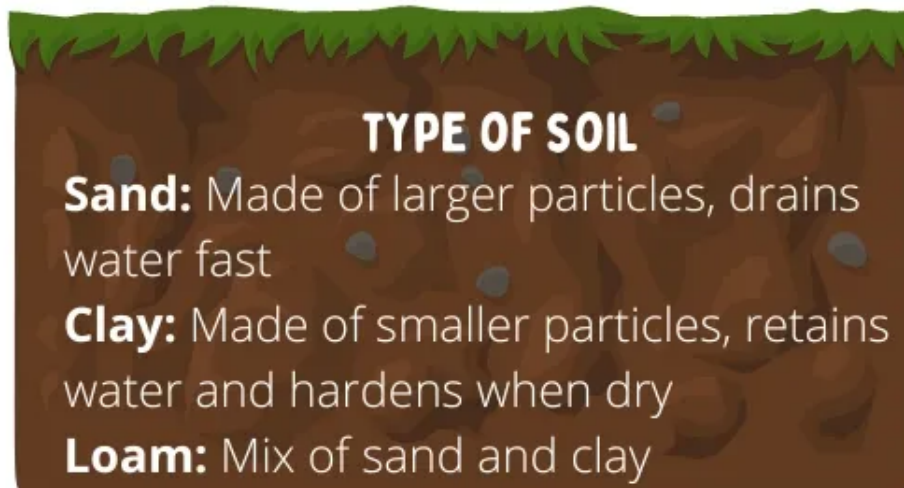


## SUNLIGHT EXPOSURE

**Full sun** = 6+ hrs

**Part shade** = 3 / 4 to 6 hrs

**Full shade** = Less than 3 / 4 hrs



## TYPE OF SOIL

**Sand:** Made of larger particles, drains water fast

**Clay:** Made of smaller particles, retains water and hardens when dry

**Loam:** Mix of sand and clay

## MOISTURE LEVEL

**Dry:** Water runs through after rain

**Medium:** Sometimes holds water for short periods of time

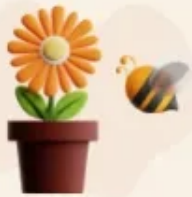
**Moist:** Holds water for some time, mostly in spring, then dries

**Wet:** Stays damp all year

# BEST PRACTICES FOR NATIVE PLANT GARDENING



**Plant a minimum of 3-5 plants of the same species together**



**Ensure continuous blooms (spring to fall) and a diversity of colour and shapes**



**Leave bare soil, twigs and logs for cavity nesting bees**



**Do not cut plants , "clean up" or use pesticides**



**Select plants suited to your conditions so you don't have to fertilize, amend the soil or water (seedlings need to be watered for the first few years only)**



# **I HAVE LIMITED TIME AND ENERGY WHAT SHOULD I PRIORITIZE?**

**1 - IDENTIFY ALL THE PLANTS IN YOUR YARD**

**2 - PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES BY CUTTING BLOOMS**

**3 - REMOVE INVASIVE SPECIES AS PER THE GUIDANCE OF THE ONTARIO  
INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL ([WWW.ONTARIOINVASIVEPLANTS.CA](http://WWW.ONTARIOINVASIVEPLANTS.CA))**

**4 - GRADUALLY ADD NATIVE PLANTS WHERE SPACE IS AVAILABLE**

**5 - GRADUALLY REPLACE NON-NATIVE PLANTS WITH NATIVE PLANTS**

**6 - REMOVE ALL UNUSED LAWN USING CARDBOARD OR NEWSPAPER  
(LASAGNA GARDENING METHOD) AND REPLACE WITH NATIVE PLANTS**



# Design tips



Include at least 3 species that bloom each season (spring, summer and fall)

Select tall features first (Trees, shrubs, then plants)

Select plants of different colours and shapes

Put at least 3-5 plants of the same species together

See your plant options  
(under combination search)  
[www.wildflower.org/plants/](http://www.wildflower.org/plants/)

