



## What Is Go Native U?

Whether you are a home gardener or a landscape professional, Go Native U will teach you how to plan and grow a beautiful and sustainable landscape in which plants native to the Northeast work for you. All classes are taught by leading experts and are held at Westchester Community College in Valhalla, New York, and some remotely. This unique education program is a joint project of the College's Workforce Development & Community Education Division and The Native Plant Center.



## Go Native U

**"The instructors were excellent and the classes were meaty—lots of information."**

—Jeanne Waful, Go Native U graduate

**Find out more.**

**Register for classes!**

**Call (914) 606-6830 or visit  
[www.sunywcc.edu/ce](http://www.sunywcc.edu/ce)**



# Go Native U

**Make your garden healthier and more beautiful**

**Improve your landscape practices**





# Sustainable gardening with native plants

## Why go native?

Native plants are those that occur naturally in a region. They are essential to a healthy, sustainable landscape.

Native plants add beauty to a garden, but they also do much more.

### Provide wildlife habitat

Native birds, butterflies, and other animals depend on native plants for valuable sources of food and shelter. This web of life sustains the balance of nature and allows for diversity of wildlife.



**Protect the environment** Native plants keep water clean by filtering polluted runoff and preventing soil erosion. The use of natives reduces the introduction of invasive species that cause billions of dollars of economic and ecological damage every year.



**Require less maintenance** Native plants are suited to the weather conditions of the region. Once established, they can thrive without watering, fertilizers, or pesticides, saving time and money. The use of fewer chemicals means a safer environment for you, your family, and your pets.

**Define sense of place** When you select native plants, you help preserve the natural character of the region.

## Who should sign up?

This program is for you if you ...

- are a landscape professional
- are a home gardener
- care about protecting the environment
- wish to help wildlife by increasing habitat
- want a healthy, beautiful landscape with reduced maintenance needs

Native plants pictured: Clockwise from upper left, white pine (*Pinus strobus*); great spangled fritillary on butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*); hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis*). Front panel, painted trillium (*Trillium undulatum*).

## What classes are offered?

Go Native U courses give you a solid understanding of the ecology of the Northeast and sustainable practices that will guide gardening, landscape design, grounds management, and plant selection.



You will learn from experienced instructors how to holistically design your landscape with native plants. You can register for individual classes or enroll in the certificate program, which comprises 18 hours of core courses, 17 hours of electives, 15 hours of community service at The Native Plant Center, and a take-home final exam. Topics include:

- Native plants of the Northeast
- How to use native plants in garden design
- Best native trees and shrubs for various conditions
- Native perennials for spring, summer, fall
- Native plants for pollinators and other wildlife
- Alternatives to high-maintenance turf
- Deer-resistant choices

## Are there advanced classes for professionals?

Classes are designed to benefit industry professionals as well as home gardeners. Classes teach timely subjects and practices such as:

- Best practices for maintenance
- Identifying plants in the field
- Meadow creation
- Native alternatives to invasive plants