



City of Burnsville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BURNSVILLE PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON NATIVE PLANTS

Public Invited to Create 'Local Landscapes' at First-Ever Native Plant Market May 30

Some plants are more than just pretty – and pretty doesn't always mean productive.

Just ask Burnsville Natural Resources Technician Caleb Ashling. He and his colleagues in Burnsville's Natural Resources Department agree that far too many local landscapes rely too heavily on cultivated garden plants (those that have been tinkered with and genetically modified to promote long bloom times or oversized flowers).

This year, they've decided to take the spotlight off of the cultivated curiosities, and shift it to those plants and flowers with a little more local flare during Burnsville's first-ever **Native Plant Market** on May 30.

2015 Burnsville Native Plant Market

Who: Residents & Non-Residents
When: Saturday, May 30 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Where: Parking Lot Across the Street from Burnsville City Hall
100 Civic Center Parkway

Native wildflowers, ferns, and grasses will be available for sale from multiple vendors. The event will be held rain or shine, and only cash and checks will be accepted for payment.

"Unlike cultivated garden plants that need constant babying, plants native to Minnesota have adapted to local conditions," said Ashling. "They do not need watering or fertilizers once established, and they produce generous amounts of nectar – providing an essential food source for our declining bee and butterfly populations."

These benefits, Ashling says, have essentially been modified out of many cultivated garden blooms – making native plants not only beautiful to view, but also environmentally important. For example, some local animals will only eat from one certain type of local plant. The Monarch Butterfly, whose population has been steadily declining in recent years, will only feed on native milkweed plants. Without milkweeds, we'd have no Monarchs. Many types of native milkweeds will grow in any conditions – whether shade, sun or wet soils.

Purchasing Native Plants

For those who have made the decision to purchase native plants – it can often be hard to find them for sale. While they may be in stock in some specialized nurseries, many garden stores do not carry them. Burnsville's new **Native Plant Market** will provide an opportunity to browse multiple Minnesota varieties in a single location.

"We had been doing a small native plant sale alongside the City's annual tree sale for many years, but it didn't seem like we were able to fully meet the demand with our small event," said Ashling. "I'd heard of other

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organizations hosting specific native plant markets, and it seemed like a great way to make it easier for people in the south metro to purchase these local gems.”

One vendor attending the Burnsville **Native Plant Market** is *Landscape Alternatives*, which has been specializing in the native plant business since 1986. Vice President Roy Robison thinks that the growing interest in native plants is due to more than just people’s interest in helping out pollinators.

“People have busy lives and do not always have as much time as they would like for traditional gardening,” said Robison. “I’ve found that they like the idea of using natives because they do not have to fertilize, stake the plants or cover and uncover them every spring and fall. Plus, you only have to water them for the first year.”

Native Plants in the Garden

While some gardeners choose to mix and match native with cultivated plants, others take it a little further. Pat Stevesand, a Burnsville resident and native plant enthusiast, decided to turn some troubled spots in her lawn into native gardens.

“The turf had struggled due to dry soil and intense sun in certain areas but the native prairie plants - adapted to the hot Minnesota summers - thrived,” said Stevesand. “I love planting natives because if you plant what works in your environment, you can pretty much plant them and forget about them.”

Stevesand has attended native plant markets offered in other parts of the metro, and notes that she truly enjoys the experience.

“The nursery owners have the same passion as the buyer, and they are very interested in helping you learn and choose the right plant for your yard. It’s like a farmer’s market without the food, just plants.”

(See List of Possible Plants Below)

Cutline: A Monarch Butterfly on a native Blazingstar flower. The Monarch Butterfly, whose population has been steadily declining in recent years, will only feed on native milkweed plants. Without milkweeds, we’d have no Monarchs.

(High-Resolution Photo Available Upon Request)



NATIVE PLANT MARKET

Possible Plant List

PRAIRIE / SUNNY WILDFLOWERS

Butterfly Milkweed
Meadow Blazingstar
Pale Coneflower
Prairie Smoke
Prairie Tickseed
Purple Prairie Clover
Rough Blazingstar
Showy Goldenrod
Sky Blue Aster
Smooth Blue Aster
Whorled Milkweed
Yellow Coneflower



Butterfly Milkweed

Monarch Butterfly caterpillars feed only on native milkweeds. No matter your garden conditions, there is a milkweed species you can grow.

Bloom: Orange

Soil: Medium to dry

Height: 2 feet

Rough Blazingstar

Favorite food source for Monarch Butterflies and other pollinators

Bloom: Purple

Soil: Medium to dry

Height: 3 feet



Plant Profile



The native plants listed here will likely be available at the Native Plant Market. A much wider selection of plants is expected to be available. Because of variable spring growing conditions, vendors won't be able to provide a complete list before the event.

Vendors will make final plant selections, so no guarantee can be made by the City that any plant listed here will be available. It's best to be flexible in your plant choices and shop around when you arrive at the Native Plant



WOODLAND / SHADE WILDFLOWERS

Big-Leaf Aster
Bishop's Cap
Celandine Poppy
Culver's Root
Heart-leaved Aster
Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Jacob's Ladder
Poke Milkweed
Wild Blue Phlox
Wild Columbine
Wild Geranium
Wild Strawberry
Zig Zag Goldenrod

Wild Columbine

Beautiful spring wildflower and important food source for the caterpillars of the tiny Columbine Duskywing Butterfly.

Bloom: Red, yellow

Soil: Medium to dry

Height: 2 feet



Wild Strawberry

Fruits are tiny but have twice the flavor of grocery store strawberries. Popular with wildlife.

Bloom: White

Soil: Medium to dry

Height: 5 inches



Plant Profile

RAIN GARDEN PLANTS

Blue Flag Iris
Boneset
Cardinal Flower
Great Blue Lobelia
Ironweed
Monkey Flower
Mountain Mint
Prairie Blazingstar
Stiff Tickseed
Swamp Milkweed
White Turtlehead



Cardinal Flower

Important nectar source for Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds.

Bloom: Red

Soil: Moist

Height: 4 feet

White Turtlehead

Important food source for caterpillars of Baltimore Checkerspot Butterflies

Bloom: Cream

Soil: Moist

Height: 5 feet



Plant Profile

GRASSES, SEDGES, & FERNS

Junegrass
Little Bluestem
Prairie Dropseed
Brown Fox Sedge
Pennsylvania Sedge
Plains Oval Sedge
Lady Fern
Maidenhair Fern
Sensitive Fern

Little Bluestem

Excellent garden grass. Deep roots tolerate drought. In fall, leaves turn coppery-pink. Caterpillars of skipper butterflies feed on leaves of this and other grasses.

Soil: Medium to dry

Height: 3 feet



Maidenhair Fern

Great alternative to hostas. Interesting leaves and spreads slowly by roots.

Soil: Damp to medium

Height: 2 feet



Plant Profile