by Patricia Sutton

Patricia Sutton
Wildlife Habitat / Conservation Gardening
Educator for over 40 years
patclaysutton@comcast.net
www.patsuttonwildlifegarden.com

To help people find the top ranked plants in their county Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, is working with National Wildlife Federation's Native Plant Finder: www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/ (a work in progress).

The Jersey-Friendly Yards Website has many helpful resources. Use their searchable plant database to help you select plants for your site. The database has many filters including a "native plants only" filter showcasing @ 300 natives, as well as filters for wildlife value, region, ecoregion (including barrier island/coastal, Pinelands), deer resistant, light requirement, soil type, soil moisture, drought tolerance, salt tolerance, bloom color, bloom time, plant type, and more. Check it out: www.jerseyyards.org/jersey-friendly-plants/ The site also includes a list of nurseries that sell natives county-by-county.

The Meadow Project ("Urban and Suburban Meadows" and "Hometown Habitat" by Catherine Zimmerman) shares an excellent state-by-state "Find Native Plants" link: www.themeadowproject.com/resources/find-native-plants/

Izel Native Plants is a Marketplace for plants native to the contiguous US. They are not a nursery, but consolidate the inventories of wholesale-only growers and retail nurseries that are dedicated to the responsible collection and propagation of native species into a practical MAIL-ORDER SOLUTION. No cultivars, no neonicotinoids. Be sure to read how & why Izel Plants came to be: https://www.izelplants.com/our-story/
They begin shipping plants the week of April 4.

Hours: Mon. to Fri., 9 am - 5 pm. 410-989-3721;

https://www.izelplants.com/

NEW JERSEY

Summersweet Native Plants open by appointment ONLY; 6863 Harding Highway, Mays Landing, NJ 08330 (Atlantic Co.); 609-287-0596; https://summersweetnativeplants.com/. Summersweet began accepting orders on April 1, 2022. Scheduled visits to the nursery to browse plants can be made by appointment with 24 hours notice. "Plant Availability List" on website is updated regularly with more and more plants as spring unfolds (plants listed in BOLD are available now, others note the anticipated date they'll be available). To place an order, schedule a pickup, or set up a visit to the nursery call or text 609-287-0596 or email info@summersweetnativeplants.com.

Goshen Gardens (Nursery), 570 N Delsea Dr, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210; 609-778-4075 (Cape May Co.); goshengardensnj@gmail.com; www.goshengardensnj.com

Open Saturdays and Sundays beginning April 9, and every weekend thru October 30, 2022. April 9 - June 26: Saturdays & Sundays (9 am - 4 pm). July & August SUMMER hours: Saturdays (9 am - 4 pm), Sundays (9 am - 1 pm). September 3 - October 30: Saturdays & Sundays (9 am - 4 pm). Nice selection

NEW JERSEY (continued)

of native trees, shrubs and perennials; they only sell what they grow and all plants are pesticide free.

Flora for Fauna Nursery open by appointment ONLY, but owner Karen Williams will host 9 Open House Sales in 2022 from 9 am - 3 pm: (1) Fri. & Sat., April 22 & 23, (2) Sat., May 7, (3) Sat., June 4, (4) Fri. & Sat., June 17 & 18, (5) Fri. & Sat., Aug. 19 & 20, and (6) Sat., Sept. 17. 1209 Freidriechstadt Ave, Woodbine, NJ 08270 (Cape May Co.); 609-442-3747; flora4fauna@verizon.net. The week before each sale, check the nursery's Facebook page for list of available plants.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance's "Spring Native Plant Sale" will be held in person on April 22 (3-6 pm for Members ONLY, so join NOW) and April 23 (9 am - Noon: OPEN to the Public) at the Pinelands Visitor Center (Bishop Farmstead), 17 Pemberton Rd, Southampton, NJ 08088 (Burlington Co.). Check website for updates, sale events, & plant list (to be posted mid-April): https://pinelandsalliance.org/explore-the-pinelands/pinelan

https://pinelandsalliance.org/explore-the-pinelands/pinelands-events-and-programs/spring-native-plant-sales/

D&R Greenway Land Trust's **Native Plant Sales** at the Johnson Education Center, One Preservation Place, Princeton, NJ 08540 (Mercer Co.); 609-924-4646. **2022 Native Plant Sales: Fri., Apr. 22 (3-6 pm); Sat., Apr. 23 (9 am to Noon); Sat., Apr. 30 (9 am to Noon); Fri., May 6 (3-6 pm), and Sat., May 7 (9 am to Noon). Check website for plant lists and future sales, plant availability:**

https://drgreenway.org/shop/native-plants/

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NEW JERSEY (continued)

NJ Audubon's Spring Native Plant Sales will occur at 3 NJ Audubon Centers on Saturday, May 7th, from 10 am to 4 pm. Selections are limited and no pre-ordering, so arrive early. Check website for full details and plant lists: www.njaudubon.org/native-plant-sales/

- Nature Center of Cape May (NCCM), 1600 Delaware Ave., Cape May, NJ 08204 (Cape May Co.); 609-427-3045; nccm@njaudubon.org.
- Lorrimer Sanctuary, 790 Ewing Avenue, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417 (Bergen Co.); 908-396-6568.
- Scherman Hoffman Sanctuary, 11 Hardscrabble Rd, Bernardsville, NJ 07924 (Somerset Co.); 908-396-7409; shws@njaudubon.org.

Dustin Welch, The Wildlife Gardener, offers an assortment of native plants for retail sale and creative landscape design by appointment only, and is hosting a plant sale on May 7 (raindate: May 8). Please note NEW location and contact info: 14 Woodland Road (off Goshen Road), CMCH, NJ (Cape May Co.); TheWildlifeGardenerNJ@gmail.com; The Wildlife Gardener on Facebook (to be refreshed in May with current inventory and species offerings).

Heidi Hanlon grows native perennials, shrubs, and trees that benefit wildlife. Her **plants are available by appointment** through the growing season, but she is also having a **plant sale on May 14 (raindate: May 15)** from 8 am - 2 pm at 24 Cardinal Drive (off Rt. 47 near mm 13), Cape May Court House, NJ (Cape May Co.). Message Heidi on 'Wild About Plants at Heidi's Acre' on Facebook, hjhanlon@yahoo.com, or 609-425-9097 for a document of available plants and descriptions.

Cicconi Farms, 1005 Farmingdale Road, Jackson, NJ 08527 (Ocean Co.); 732-363-1420; www.cicconifarms.com/

Earth First Native Plant Nursery (Atlantic County); Raven A h m e d (grower/owner); 609-287-5090; Earth1stnatives@aol.com. MAIL-ORDER only: http://www.earthfirstnatives.com/Customer Service.html

Pinelands Direct Native Plants, an **online resource for native plants of the NE**: http://www.pinelandsdirect.com/; 609-379-3099. Have your order shipped or schedule a curbside pickup at Pinelands Direct (some larger plants are only available for pickup), 25346 Mount Pleasant Road, Columbus, New Jersey 08022 (Burlington Co.). Partnered with Pinelands Nursery to provide a retail outlet for native plants.

NEW JERSEY (continued)

The Pollen Nation located in Bridgetown, NJ; MAIL-ORDER only; www.thepollennation.com. Plants are grown as deeper than normal landscape plugs (root mass of each plug is @ 2" by 4.5"), providing an accessible and affordable way to garden with native plants.

Rare Find Nursery, 957 Patterson Road, Jackson, NJ 08527 (Ocean Co.); 732-833-0613; support@rarefindnursery.com. A MAIL-ORDER nursery, open by appointment ONLY (schedule a visit April - October by calling or emailing). https://www.rarefindnursery.com/

Toadshade Wildflower Farm Native Plant Nursery (Hunterdon County). **MAIL-ORDER only**: plants & seeds. Began shipping orders Apr. 4, 2022; 908-996-7500; http://www.toadshade.com/. Toadshade partners with the Frenchtown Home & Hardware Store (11 Kingwood Ave, Frenchtown, NJ 08825), where orders can be picked up 7 days a week (with 24 hour notice, M-F). When ordering choose: (1) to have your order mailed, or (2) let Toadshade know you'll pick up your order at the hardware store.

Triple Oaks Nursery, 2359 Delsea Drive, Franklinville, NJ 08322 (Gloucester, Co.); 856-694-4272; www.tripleoaks.com/ Some natives.

Wild Ridge Plants, 170 Mountain Rd, Alpha, NJ 08865 (Warren Co.); 908-319-7230; http://wildridgeplants.com/. MAIL-ORDER and pick up by appointment only. Native plants are chemical free and grown from locally collected seeds.

The Clemenson family sold their farm in 2020; <u>Clemenson</u> <u>Farms Native Nursery no longer exists</u> (though you may still find it on many native plant nursery lists).

Wetlands Institute on Stone Harbor Boulevard in Stone Harbor, NJ, will not be hosting a Native Plant Sale in 2022.

Native Plant Society of NJ (look for a chapter near you): https://www.npsnj.org/

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PENNSYLVANIA:

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve; 1635 River Road, New Hope, PA 18938 (Bucks Co.); 215-862-2924; www.bhwp.org/. See native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees in a natural setting: preserve trails are open (admission fee for non-member); reservations are preferred. The Native Plant Nursery opens April 9, 2022, and is open 10 am to 4 pm every day the Preserve is open: April 9 - June (open DAILY); July - March (closed Tuesdays). Check plant availability weekly at: www.bhwp.org/grow/native-plant-nursery/

Churchville Nature Center, 501 Churchville Lane, Churchville, PA 18966 (Bucks Co.); 215-357-4005. **Annual Native Perennial Wildflower Sale: April 30 - May 1, May 7 - 8, 2022 (10 am - 5 pm)**. Check plant availability list at: www.churchvillenaturecenter.org/

Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, 8480 Hagy's Mill Road, Philadelphia, PA 19128; 215-482-7300; www.schuylkillcenter.org . 2022 Native Plant Sale with Online Ordering is open now at:

https://shop.schuylkillcenter.org/native-plants

Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery, 2415 Route 100, Orefield, PA 18069 (west of Allentown, PA; Lehigh Co.); 610-395-2570. **Open April - October, Mon. - Sat. (9 am - 4 pm)**; remote ordering and pickup also available. Display gardens on the grounds showcase natives in a garden setting. www.edgeofthewoodsnursery.com/

Gino's Nursery, 2237 Second Street Pike, Newtown, PA 18940 (Bucks Co.); 267-750-9042; **April - Oct., Wed. - Sun., 10 am - 4 pm.**; http://www.ginosnursery.com/. Specializing in the growing and sale of native plants, along with consultation and design services.

Go Native Tree Farm, dedicated to the understanding, preservation, and recovery of the Eastern American forest. **Mail order or pre-arranged pick up** (678 South Chiques Road, Manheim, PA 17545). www.gonativetrees.com; 717-399-0195.

Good Host Plants Native Plants Nursery, 150 W Butler St, Philadelphia, PA 19140; 267-270-5036; https://www.goodhostplants.com/ Spring 2022: the physical nursery on W. Butler St. remains closed until further notice, but they are open for curbside pickup in Mt Airy. Check their "availability list" and email info@goodhostplants.com with inquiries or to place an order (or use the website's "Contact" link). Directions & pickup instructions will be provided when ordering.

PENNSYLVANIA (continued)

Heartwood Nursery & Nature Preserve, 8957 Hickory Road, Felton, PA 17322 (York Co.); 717-993-5230. **Retail Nursery open Monday - Saturday, 9 am - 4 pm.** Tour the preserve during scheduled events or schedule a visit for you or your group. https://heartwoodnurseryinc.com/

Northeast Native Perennials, 1716 East Sawmill Road, Quakertown, PA 18951 (Bucks Co.); 215-901-5552; familyrun business. **Opens April 14, 2022. OPEN Thursdays and Fridays (10 am - 5 pm), and Saturdays (9 am - 4 pm).** http://www.nenativesandperennials.com/1901.html

Redbud Native Plant Nursery, 904 N Providence Road, Media, PA 19063 (Delaware Co.); 610-892-2833. **Open mid-March** - **November, Tuesday - Friday (10 am - 5 pm), Saturday (9 am - 4 pm).** https://redbudnative.com/

Pennsylvania Native Plant Society is an excellent resource: http://www.panativeplantsociety.org/

Check out their listing of native plant sales: https://www.panativeplantsociety.org/plant-sales-and-festiv als---featuring-natives.html

MARYLAND

Kollar Native Plant Nursery, 5200 West Heaps Road, Pylesville, MD 21132; 410-836-0500. **Spring hours:** Mon., Tu., & Th. (9 am - 7 pm), Fri. & Sat. (9 am - 5 pm), Sun. (11 am - 5 pm). www.kollarnursery.com/

Maryland Native Plant Society: http://www.mdflora.org/ See their list of native plant nurseries: www.mdflora.org/nurseries.html

DELAWARE

Delaware Nature Society's **2022 Spring Native Plant Sale** will be **May 7, 2022 from 9 am - 3 pm** (also **May 6 from 1-7 pm for Members**), at their Cloverdale Farm Preserve, 543 Way Road, Greenville, DE 19807. Check their website for full details and to view their 2022 Plant Sale Catalogue: https://www.delawarenaturesociety.org/activities/events/native-plant-sale/

EXCELLENT MAIL ORDER CATALOGUES

for creating prairies and for native plants (and seeds):

- (1) Prairie Nursery; www.prairienursery.com/
- (2) Prairie Moon Nursery; www.prairiemoon.com/

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BEWARE OF Neonicotinoids

BEWARE OF NEONICS – Avoid plants treated with Neonicotinoid Insecticides. Neonicotinoids are systemic (get into every part of the plant, including pollen, nectar, even dew) pesticides that are applied to many commercially-available nursery plants and are harmful to bees, caterpillars, moths, and butterflies. **Around the world steps are being taken to protect pollinators from Neonics**. In 2018, the European Union voted to completely ban all outdoor uses of three types of neonics (citing their impacts to honey bees). Canada followed suit, planning to phase out all outdoor use of three specific neonics in 3-5 years (2021-2023) because of impacts to aquatic ecosystems. In 2016 Connecticut became the first state in the nation to restrict the use of neonicotinoids when the legislature unanimously passed An Act Concerning Pollinator Health (banning sales of neonics for use by general consumers in backyard garden settings). Soon after, Maryland passed a similar bill that restricts the sale of neonics and bans their use by consumers. In January 2022 New Jersey became the 6th state to pass a bill to save pollinators by classifying bee-killing neonicotinoids as restricted use pesticides.

Speak up when you purchase plants. Ask if the nursery uses Neonicotinoid Insecticides. If they don't know what you are talking about, it sounds like a nursery to avoid. If they proudly share that they do not use Neonicotinoid Insecticides (verbally and/or on their website), they are a nursery "in the know" and a nursery to support. The Xerces Society's publication, "Protecting Pollinators from Pesticides: Buying Bee-Safe Plants," addresses asking nurseries these important questions and is available at: https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants. There is a complimentary Xerces Society publication for nurseries, "Offering Bee-Safe Plants: A Guide for Nurseries," available at:

https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/offering-bee-safe-plants-guide-for-nurseries. Let nurseries you frequent know about it. If you find that any of the nurseries on my list are "in the dark" and still using Neonicotinoids, please alert me!!!!

Educate yourself about Neonics by reading the following:

- (1) **Xerces Society's "Protecting Bees From Neonicotinoids in Your Garden, 2nd version** (includes list of products with neonics in them)" at: https://www.xerces.org/publications/brochures/protecting-bees-from-neonicotinoids-in-your-garden
- (2) Xerces Society's "How Neonicotinoids Can Kill Bees, the Science Behind the Role These Insecticides Play in Harming Bees (in depth study, 2^{nd} Edition) at:

https://www.xerces.org/publications/scientific-reports/how-neonicotinoids-can-kill-bees

- (3) **Xerces Society's "Neonicotinoid Movement in the Environment" POSTER** Neonicotinoids are being found throughout the landscape in areas where they were not applied. This poster illustrates some of the main pathways for neonicotinoid movement in the environment and also shows how this movement has undoubtedly exposed beneficial insects: https://www.xerces.org/publications/other/neonicotinoid-movement-in-environment
- (4) American Bird Conservancy's "Neonicotinoid Insecticides Harm The Little Creatures," including how 90 percent of food samples taken from Congressional cafeterias contain neonicotinoid insecticides (highly toxic to birds and other wildlife): https://abcbirds.org/behind-the-report-neonicotinoid-insecticides-harm-the-little-creatures/

HUGE INSECT DIE-OFF / INSECT APOCALYPSE

'A car "splatometer" study finds huge insect die-off'

Nov. 13, 2019, by Damian Carrington, Environmental Editor, *The Guardian* – Measuring how many bugs fly into car windshields might sound silly. But to scientists predicting an "insect apocalypse," the numbers are deadly serious. https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/feb/12/car-splatometer-tests-reveal-huge-decline-number-insects

'Insect apocalypse' poses risk to all life on Earth, conservationists warn

Feb. 12, 2020, by Damian Carrington, Environmental Editor, *The Guardian*

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/13/insect-apocalypse-poses-risk-to-all-life-on-earth-conservationists-warn

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BIRDS ARE VANISHING

"Birds are Vanishing from North America" – The number of birds in the United States and Canada has declined by 2.9 billion, or 29 percent, over the past 50 years (1970-2019), scientists find (*Science*, 2019). https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/19/science/bird-populations-america-canada.html

A Neonicotinoid Insecticide Reduces Fueling and Delays Migration in Songbirds," by Margaret Eng, Bridget Stutchbury, Christy Morrissey. *Science*, 13 September 2019, Vol. 365, Issue 6458, pp. 1177-1180. https://science.sciencemag.org/content/365/6458/1177

WHAT WE CAN DO

Here are just a few of the things that each and every one of us can do:

- 1. Plant NATIVES, especially Keystone Species (read Doug Tallamy's books to understand what Keystone Species are).
- 2. Ask nurseries you frequent if their native plants have been treated with Neonicotinoids (see Xerces Society's document, "Protecting Pollinators from Pesticides: Buying Bee-Safe Plants," noted on previous page, for tips and how to ask these important questions). If they don't know, ask them to find out. If the answer is yes, don't purchase and explain why, that Neonics are hazardous to the wildlife you are trying to attract and benefit.
- 3. Leave fallen leaves on the ground: they are full of insect life, they protect tree and shrub and perennial roots, they break down and naturally nourish your soil, and they prevent erosion. Listen to Doug Tallamy's talk about his latest book, *The Nature of Oaks* (search youtube Doug Tallamy Nature of Oaks), and learn that **oak leaves are the BEST fallen leaves to LEAVE on the ground because it takes them so long to break down (3 years or more)**. All that time (3+ years) they are providing for an abundance of LIFE that needs fallen leaves to survive.
- 4. DO NOT USE Pesticides (including Organic they KILL too) or Herbicides or synthetic Fertilizers
- 5. Turn outdoor lights OFF at night (use motion sensor lights instead)
- 6. Remove as many invasive plants as possible on your property
- 7. Share some of your native "Chocolate Cake" perennial divisions (that are also Keystone Species: Asters and Goldenrods, for example) with others to help get them hooked
- 8. Read and give Doug Tallamy's books (*Bringing Nature Home*, *Nature's Best Hope*, and *The Nature of Oaks*) to family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors.
- 9. If you ever have a chance to hear Doug Tallamy speak, BE THERE and bring your neighbor, friend, family member, landscaper, lawn care service worker so they can learn to speak the same language. In the meantime Google "YouTube videos (or podcasts) Doug Tallamy" and you'll have dozens to choose from, many of which are keynote talks he's given about the importance of insects, native plants, fallen leaves, and much more. Watch them and they may change your life and/or the way you view life. Share them with neighbors, friends, family members, co-workers.
- 10. Read and give Heather Holm's books about beneficial pollinators (*Pollinators of Native Plants*; *Bees, An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide*; and *Wasps, Their Biology, Diversity, and Role as Beneficial Insects and Pollinators of Native Plants*) to family members, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to help you (and others) understand beneficial pollinators and provide for their nesting needs by leaving stem stubble during spring garden clean up, standing dead trees, utilizing fallen branches and tree trunks to line garden or woodland paths, leaving fallen leaves, and avoiding too much hardscaping, mulching, and turf so that ground-nesting pollinators have places to nest.

 5 —