

"Go Native" with these 6 basics

1. Protect native plant communities and minimize habitat destruction

The most important guideline is to conserve already existing areas of native vegetation as a whole, functioning unit. The easiest, least expensive, and best way to conserve Pennsylvania's plant heritage is to protect existing native plant communities from further disturbance. If disturbance is necessary, strive for minimum habitat destruction. In some cases ecological restoration may be necessary, which can include planting native species, removing invasive introduced species, controlling erosion and loosening soil compaction.

2. Landscape with native plants

Native plant communities have been destroyed in many areas and therefore landscaping is required; parks, yards, streets, and campuses, for example. Well-chosen native plants perform well in these landscapes. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)-Bureau of Forestry (BOF) recommends avoiding rare, endangered, and threatened plants and instead choosing native plant species which grow commonly throughout the state. These hardy and adaptable plants do well in a wide variety of conditions and have a much better chance of success in gardens. If you do not want all natives, plant adapted introduced plants suited for the site, colorful annuals, or flowering plants that will not escape and become environmental weeds.

3. Learn more about native plants

Learn what plants are native in your area. The Resources Page lists just a few of the resources for this region, but there are many more. Many field guides can get you started.

4. Buy nursery-propagated native plants

Most retail nurseries and mail-order catalogs now offer native plants. The more consumers request native plants, the more this supply will grow. If you want guaranteed ornamental characteristics, cultivars (named varieties) are available in some cases; for instance, New England Aster has a cultivar named 'Purple Dome', which was selected for shorter height

and showier flowers. Cultivars should be predictable in attributes like height, color, blooming period, or absence of seed pods/thorns--qualities many gardeners want. If your goal is genetic diversity, however, ask for straight species, not cultivars, grown from local seed sources. Plants grown from seed have much more variety than cloned cultivars.

5. Do not remove native plants from the wild

Taking native plants from the wild depletes native populations. Also, many wild-collected plants do not survive transplanting. Prevent wild-collecting of plants by making sure that plants you buy are propagated at a nursery, or by starting plants yourself from a local seed supply (Collect seed only with the property owner's permission). Ask the DCNR-BOF for a list of native plant and seed sources in Pennsylvania.

6. Practice responsible landscaping techniques

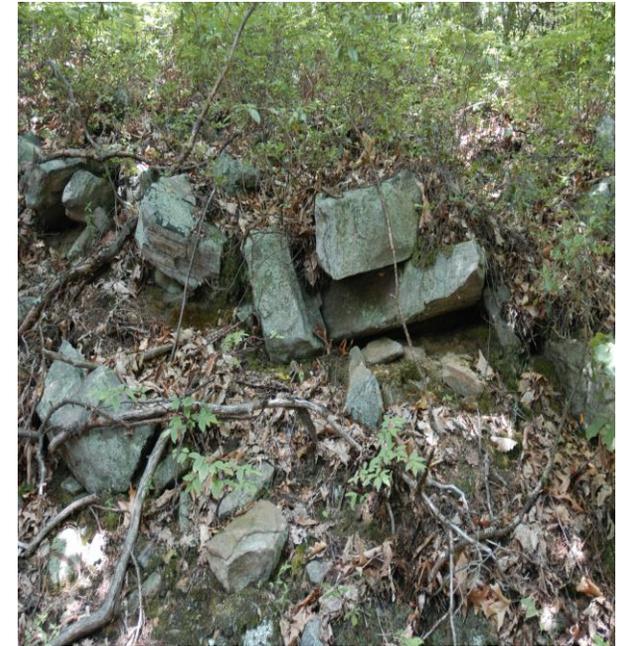
The first rule of responsible landscaping is to plant the right plants in the right environment: never introduce invasive plants to your landscape that will aggressively spread off your property and invade native plant communities. They can drastically alter ecosystems and give you and your neighbor's maintenance headaches for years to come. Ask the DCNR-BOF for the brochure "Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania."

When landscaping with native plants it is important to choose plants that will grow well at the site: wet or dry, shade or sun, acid or neutral soil. A good trick is to notice which native plants are thriving nearby, and to use those clues to guide plant selection. Other information can be found from plant nurseries, catalogs, books, or the Internet.

For soil fertility, compost and mulch of leaves or grass clippings provide slow release nutrients. Chemical fertilizers often provide too many nutrients too quickly for native plants, and this flush of nutrients gives weeds a competitive edge. Proper site preparation begins with a soil test before applying fertilizer. Try organic pest control. Keep the soil covered to prevent weeds. Remove invasive plants nearby. Take out severely diseased plants, or ones with insect infestations. Many native plants attract beneficial insects which help control pests, so try creating habitat for "good bugs."

Stone and Other Forest Products

Tiadaghton State Forest



Tiadaghton State Forest Forest District #12

10 Lower Pine Bottom Road
Waterville, PA 17776
(570) 753-5409
(570) 753-5721 fax
fd12@state.pa.us

Stone Permits

- A permit is required to pick surface stone on the Tiadaghton State Forest. A permit should be in your possession at all times while collecting stone. The cost of a permit is \$5.00 per ton. Permits are issued for a minimum of \$10.00.
- Permits are good for 30 days. No extension of time will be given and a permit may be suspended or terminated for cause at any time by a State Forest Officer.
- You must be prepared to explain the location of the stone at the time of receiving the permit. You are encouraged to check the area before you request a permit.
- Driving off-road or through the woods to access stone is not permitted.
- Stone permits are not sold for active timber sale areas.
- Stone may **NOT** be removed from creeks, streams or other water sources.
- All Natural Areas and Wild Areas are closed to removal of stone.
- Stone collected from the State Forest is for personal use only and may not be resold. Commercial activity on the Tiadaghton State Forest is prohibited without written authorization of the District Forester.
- Mechanized skidding for removal of stone is prohibited without written authorization by the District Forester.
- Help keep our forests clean. Carry your trash home with you.
- Stop and visit us at the District Office for a permit. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm.

Other Forest Products

- The Tiadaghton State Forest has a wealth of forest products. Among the most

popular is timber. Saw timber and pulpwood information can be obtained by contacting our office and speaking with a forester.

- Fuelwood is another very popular product of our forest. To obtain the fuelwood guidelines please request the “Firewood Cutting” brochure.
- Permits are also required for birch twigs, beech brush, blueberry brush and raspberry brush.
- The cost of these permits is \$5.00 for a 30 day permit per individual. Birch brush from trees 6” DBH and larger are sold by the cord.
- A variety of berries and leeks are also found in the Tiadaghton State Forest. Edible wild plants or plant parts may be gathered without authorization if they are gathered for one's own personal or family consumption.
- Mushrooms can also be found in the state forest. There are a number of deadly poisonous wild mushrooms throughout Pennsylvania. Several species closely resemble edible mushrooms. Only experts should collect wild mushrooms.
- Princess pine and ground pine as well as moss can also be found in the Tiadaghton State Forest. Several species of these plants are listed as “Rare”. The species are often very difficult to distinguish. In order to maintain the sustainability of these plants, permits are **not** being issued in the Tiadaghton State Forest.
- Ginseng is recognized for it’s special status for wild plants known as “Vulnerable Plants” and requires special licensing. Collection of ginseng in the Tiadaghton State Forest is **NOT** permitted.



Non-Timber Forest Products History

The gathering of NTFP is as old as the human species itself. Wild foods and other items from the forest provided food, shelter, medicine, and materials for ceremonies and worship. When people began to domesticate plants and animals they became less dependent on wild foods and other forest materials. With the introduction of European style agriculture to the Americas, the cultural dependence on foraging declined rapidly. Families and individuals continued to gather berries, greens and other items for wild crafting. These outings eventually became more important to most people for preserving traditions, bonding, socializing, and communing with nature than for subsistence. However, commercial collecting continues to fluctuate with the latest trends and fads.

Since 1929, State Forest Rules & Regulations have stipulated that individuals must receive written permission to remove any living or dead plant or plant part from state forests. Historical records show that the Bureau of Forestry started issuing permits for individuals to collect NTFP in the early 1950's. Collecting is regulated by the State Forest Rules and Regulations (revised in 1999), and the Wild Resource Conservation Act enacted in 1982. Activities associated with rare, threatened and endangered plant species are controlled by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources through the provisions of the Wild Resource Conservation Act, P.L. 597, No. 170.

Because they are readily accessible to the public at large, the state forest lands have become favorite outing grounds where people go to gather NTFP. State forest managers are becoming increasingly concerned with the sustainability of these non-timber resources. This concern is not without reason. In the earlier part of the twentieth century, Pennsylvania's forests were mainly sapling sized due to the recent clearing. With a great deal of light coming through, to the forest floor, conditions were ideal for wildflower growth. Trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens* L.) was sought out by those who lived in the mountains. It was common practice to gather and sell it in little bunches at urban and farmers markets. Even though the bunches were priced at only a nickel apiece the volume moved was significant. The result was that trailing arbutus was exploited nearly to the point of extinction from Penn's woods. Today, populations of trailing arbutus are maintained due to decrease in collection pressure.

Generations of state forest users have gone to state forests on seasonal outings to pick berries, mushrooms, leeks, etc. for personal use. Harvesting, consuming, and enjoying the resources of state forests is a long established tradition in Pennsylvania. Within limits and with proper management, future generations of users will be able to continue these long established and cherished traditions of gathering NTFP from state forest land.