

Frequently Asked Questions



“What is a Plant Swap & Sale for Backyard Habitat?” It’s an opportunity for gardeners to divide their perennials and pot up native seedling shrubs, trees, grasses, vines, and groundcovers that they can share with other current as well as would-be sustainable landscape gardeners.

“Why do we need to create Backyard Habitats?” It is critical that we create functioning ecosystems in our yards to begin to address the dire threats to our environment caused by loss of habitat and degradation to habitat (due to alien plants, invasives, lawn-scaping, herbicides, pesticides, etc.) To learn more, I highly recommend Douglas Tallamy’s excellent book, *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*.

“Why the emphasis on native plants?”

- Native trees and shrubs are adapted to our climate and growing conditions.
- Native plants support local food webs. They provide food—nuts, seeds, berries, fruits, leaves, and nectar—that best meet the needs of butterflies and other pollinators, as well as hummingbirds and other birds.
- Native plants host native insects with which they have co-evolved for millions of years. Native insects are critical to a functioning ecosystem. Most alien plants are toxic to native insects.
- Nesting birds feed their young a diet that is almost exclusively protein-rich insects—insects that are also adapted to native trees and shrubs (insects that won’t be found in forsythia, Bradford pear, azaleas, and a host of other aliens).
- Food and insect-bearing trees are especially critical to New Jersey’s many migratory birds, who must be able to find massed and adequate supplies of food, if they are to survive their journeys.

“How can I know what is native?” If you are confused trying to tell natives from non-natives, you are not alone! Alien plants are so abundant many think of them as having always been here. You might want to begin by looking at the list below to see some common aliens that might look like natives and *are not* acceptable for swapping. Next, check out the list of acceptable native plants for swapping. NOTE: All three lists are incomplete; there are many, many more acceptable natives—and many more non-acceptable aliens, so please attempt to ID your plants prior to dividing or potting them up.

- If you can put a name to a plant, you might want to go to one of the sites mentioned below to make sure it is a native plant.
- If you are unsure of an ID, you might want to check in a field guide for plant identification. (Many field guides can be found at the library.)
- You can bring the plant(s) in question to your local County Extension office for an ID prior to potting up.
- Bring a sample of the plant(s) in question to the Plant Swap for an ID.

“How do I know what plants are invasive?” For information on invasive species, go to: www.npsnj.org/invasive_species_0103.htm or www.maipc.org

“How do I know which non-natives are ‘especially beneficial to wildlife?’” Our plant swap will also include a few non-native, non-invasive plants that are especially beneficial to birds and butterflies. See the list below.

✓ **For more information and lists & links to backyard habitat plants, go to:**

www.uucsjs.org/social_action.html

Another good source: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/>

On the reverse side—partial lists of

- 1) **acceptable native plants,**
- 2) **acceptable non-native, non-invasive plants,**
- and 3) **unacceptable non-native plants for the Swap & Sale!**

(continued on page 2)

✓ Partial list of acceptable NATIVE groundcovers, perennials, vines, shrubs, and trees:

Asters	Cinquefoil	Coral honeysuckle	Bayberry
Anise hyssop	Ferns	Dutchman's pipe	Birches
Beebalm	Foamflower	Trumpet vine	Black cherry
Blazing star (<i>liatris</i>)	Green and gold	Virginia creeper	Dogwoods
Coral bells	May apple		Elderberry
Goldenrod	Phlox		Hollies
Jewelweed	Wild geranium		Oaks
Joe-pye-weed (<i>Eupatoriums</i>)	Wild ginger		Pines
Lobelias			Red cedar
Milkweeds			Sassafras
Mountain mint			Sumac
Purple coneflower			Tulip tree
Sages (<i>salvias</i>)			

Native grasses (Little bluestem, switch grass, Indian grass, etc.)

✓ Partial list of acceptable NON-NATIVE, non-invasive plants especially beneficial to wildlife:

Brazilian verbena	Globe amaranth	Mexican sunflower	<i>Penta</i>
Catmints	Lavender	Oregano	Sedum

✓ Partial list of unacceptable NON-NATIVE* plants:

***Bold print** indicates plants that are **invasive**; you may want to consider removing these from your property.

Butterfly bush	Daylilly	Mimosa	Rose-of-Sharon
Asian azaleas	Hosta	Norway maple	Periwinkle (<i>Vinca</i> vine)
Bugleweed (<i>ajuga</i>)	Lily-of-the-valley	Oriental bittersweet	Wisteria
Burning bush	Liriope	Pachysandra	Yarrow

**The 5th Annual
U.U.C.S.J.S. Native Plant SWAP & SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2013 · 9~2 PM**

at the



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

75 S. Pomona Rd. • P.O. Box 853 • Pomona, NJ 08240 • (609) 965-9400 • www.uucsjs.org

(corner of Pomona & Liebig, near the North entrance to Richard Stockton College)