

Top 10 Lists for Your Eco-Friendly Garden

- Exotic plants support little native wildlife.
- Avoid cultivars and big-box garden centers.
- Opt for true native species from a local business!
- Plants that support butterfly and moth species help the most other species, too.

Top 10 Best Woody Plants in Ecosystem Gardening

Choose species from these families that are native.

1. Oaks (*Quercus*), support 543 species.
2. Prunus (*Prunus*), includes: almond; cherry varieties; peach; plum varieties, support 456 species.
3. Willow (*Salix*), support 455 species.
4. Birch (*Betula*), support 411 species.
5. Aspen, Cottonwood, Poplar (*Populus*), support 367 species.
6. Crabapple, apple (*Malus*), support 308 species.
7. Maple, Boxelder (*Acer*), support 297 species. (Norway Maples are highly invasive)
8. Cranberry, Blueberry (*Vaccinium*), support 294 species.
9. Alder (*Alnus*), support 255 species.
10. Bitternut, Hickory, Pecan, Pignut (*Carya*), support 235 species.

Top 10 Herbaceous Plants to Attract Butterflies and Moths to Your Ecosystem Garden:

1. Goldenrod (*Solidago*), support 115 species. Autumn.
2. Aster (*Aster*), support 112 species. Spring, Summer and Autumn.
3. Sunflower (*Helianthus*), support 73 species. Summer and Autumn.
4. Joe Pye (*Eupatorium*), support 42 species. Summer.
5. Morning Glory (*Ipomoea*), support 39 species. Summer and Autumn. (many are invasive)
6. Sedges (*Carex*), support 36 species. Spring. (Many natives are endangered, so planting will help)
7. Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*), support 36 species. Spring and Summer. (**not** Japanese Honeysuckle!)
8. Lupine (*Lupinus*), support 33 species. Spring and Summer. (rare butterflies rely on them)
9. Violets (*Viola*), support 29 species. Spring.
10. Geraniums (*Geranium*), support 23 species. Spring and Summer.

The Current “Most Hated” Plants List:

1. Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) and Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*).
2. Bamboo (*Phyllostachys* spp)
3. Bishopweed, Goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*)
4. Brazilian Pepper Tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) (It. Will. Not. Die. Burned it, buried it, pulled roots)
5. Bush Honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)
6. Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)
7. Chinese Bushclover (*Lespedeza cuneate*)
8. Chinese Wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*)
9. English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)
10. Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)

Other Plants:

Garlic Mustard, Japanese Buckthorn, Nandina, Oriental Bittersweet, Porcelain Berry, Sweet Autumn Clematis.

Link: <http://www.ecosystemgardening.com>