

Native Plant Gardening

Prepared by:
Etobicoke Master Gardeners



Etobicoke Master Gardeners
www.etobickemastergardeners.ca

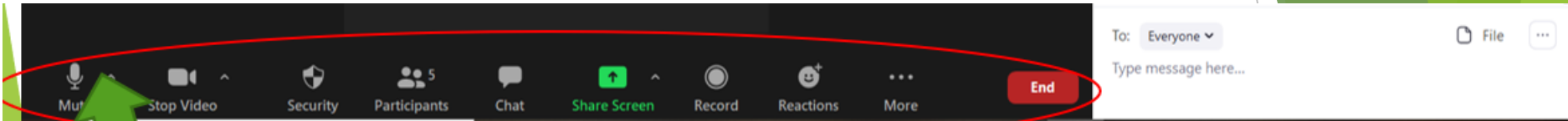
Presented with:
Humber Arboretum



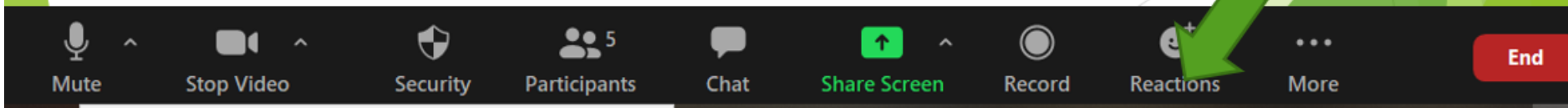
Humber Arboretum
Humber.ca/arboretum

Welcome to the virtual world

Zoom Tips & Tricks

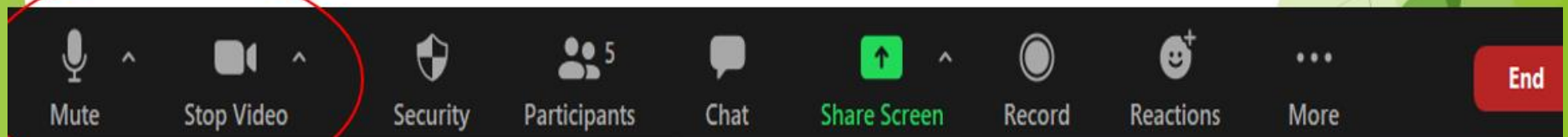


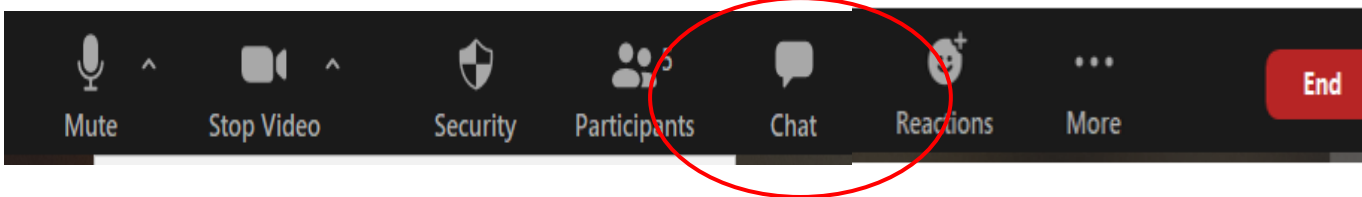
“Mouse over” the screen area to wake up the functions.



KR Your Name

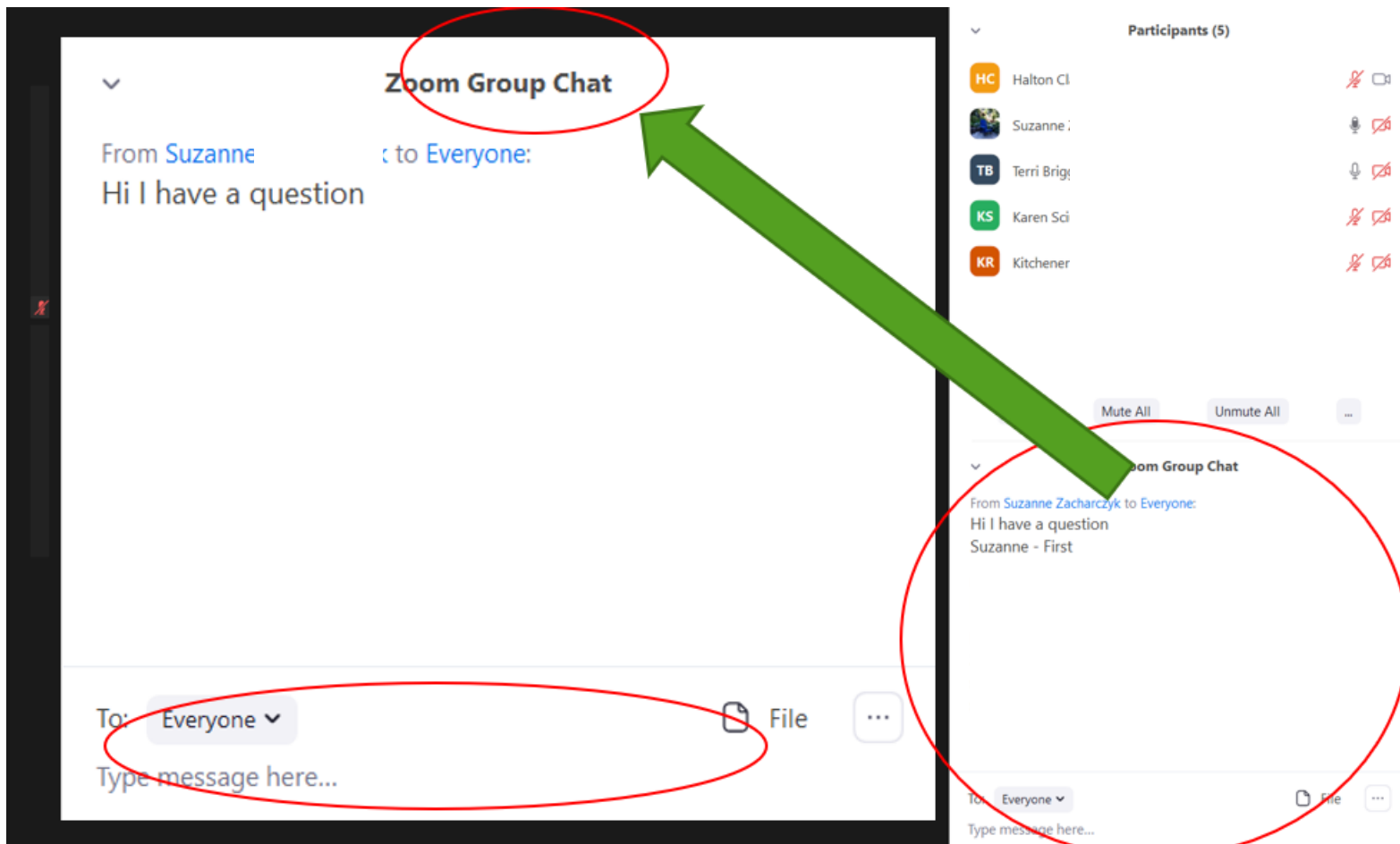
Mute yourself and turn off video unless you are the presenter.





How to ask a question:

- ✓ Click on “Chat” in the functions
- ✓ Type in your question. A moderator will read it.



Master Gardeners of Ontario



Etobicoke Master Gardeners

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Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Etobicoke Master Gardeners (EMG) was formed in January 2005 and is meant to cover the west side of Toronto and take in those people who want to study for the Master Gardener (MG) designation.

Meetings are held at the [Montgomery Inn](#) on the fourth Wednesday of most months from 7 to 10 p.m.

EMG comprises 36 active members: 26 Master Gardeners (MG) and 10 Master Gardeners in Training (MGIT) who are in the process of studying for Master Gardener Certification. We welcome inquiries from enthusiastic and interested individuals wishing to learn more about joining our





The Humber Arboretum consists of nearly 250 acres of public gardens and natural areas located in the Humber River watershed in North Etobicoke. Connected to Humber College North Campus, it exists as a unique tri-partnership between Humber College, the City of Toronto, and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). The Humber Arboretum is free to visit and offers a variety of programming to both Humber College students and the public.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Humber Arboretum and Humber College are located within the traditional and treaty lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Known as Adoobiigok [A-doe-bee-goke], the “Place of the Alders” in Michi Saagiig [Mi-Chee Saw-Geeg] language, the region is uniquely situated along the Humber River Watershed, which historically provided an integral connection for Anishinaabe [Ah-nish-nah-bay], Haudenosaunee [Hoeden-no-shownee], and Wendat [Wine-Dot] peoples between the Ontario Lakeshore and the Lake Simcoe/Georgian Bay regions.

Now home to people of numerous nations, Adoobiigok continues to provide a vital source of interconnection for all.

Session Topics

- ✓ Native Plants
- ✓ Invasive Plants
- ✓ How to buy and select natives
- ✓ Maintenance
- ✓ Meet the Natives!
- ✓ Wrap Up

Poll Question

Do you garden with native plants?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Always wanted to but didn't know where to start



Native Plants



Photo by EMG Suzanne

What are Natives?

- ✓ Usually taken to mean plants that were present prior to European settlement.
- ✓ This diverse group of plants evolved together with indigenous wildlife, adapting to local climate and soil conditions to create stable natural ecosystems.

Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)



Native vs “Naturalized”

- ✓ Native species
 - ✓ present prior to European contact
- ✓ Naturalized species
 - ✓ plants from a different region or country that reproduce without human assistance
 - ✓ Benign
 - ✓ Invasive



Why Not Natives?

- ✓ The image of the 'ideal' garden - neat and tidy
- ✓ Desire to control nature
- ✓ Plant snobbery – wildflowers are viewed as weeds
- ✓ A belief that native plants cannot provide colour all season



Why Garden with Native Species?

- ✓ Habitat loss is a major part of the reduction in insect populations
- ✓ Crucial to restoring the natural ecosystem
- ✓ Easy to grow once established

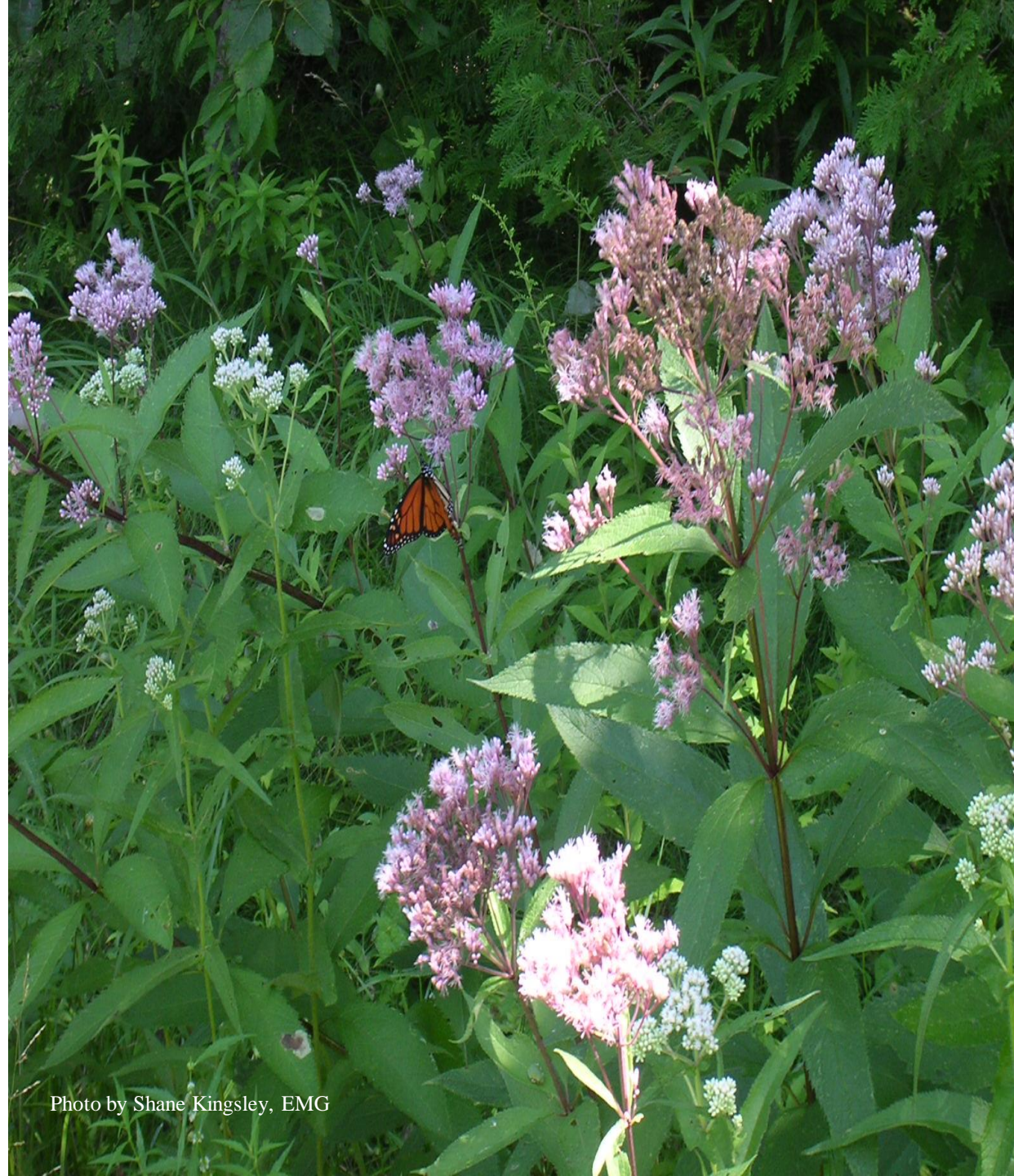


Photo by Shane Kingsley, EMG

Why are Native plants important?

- ✓ Insect numbers are plummeting
- ✓ This has a ripple effect through the ecosystem
- ✓ It takes about 6200 caterpillars to raise a nest of baby chickadees
- ✓ Plants provide seeds to birds



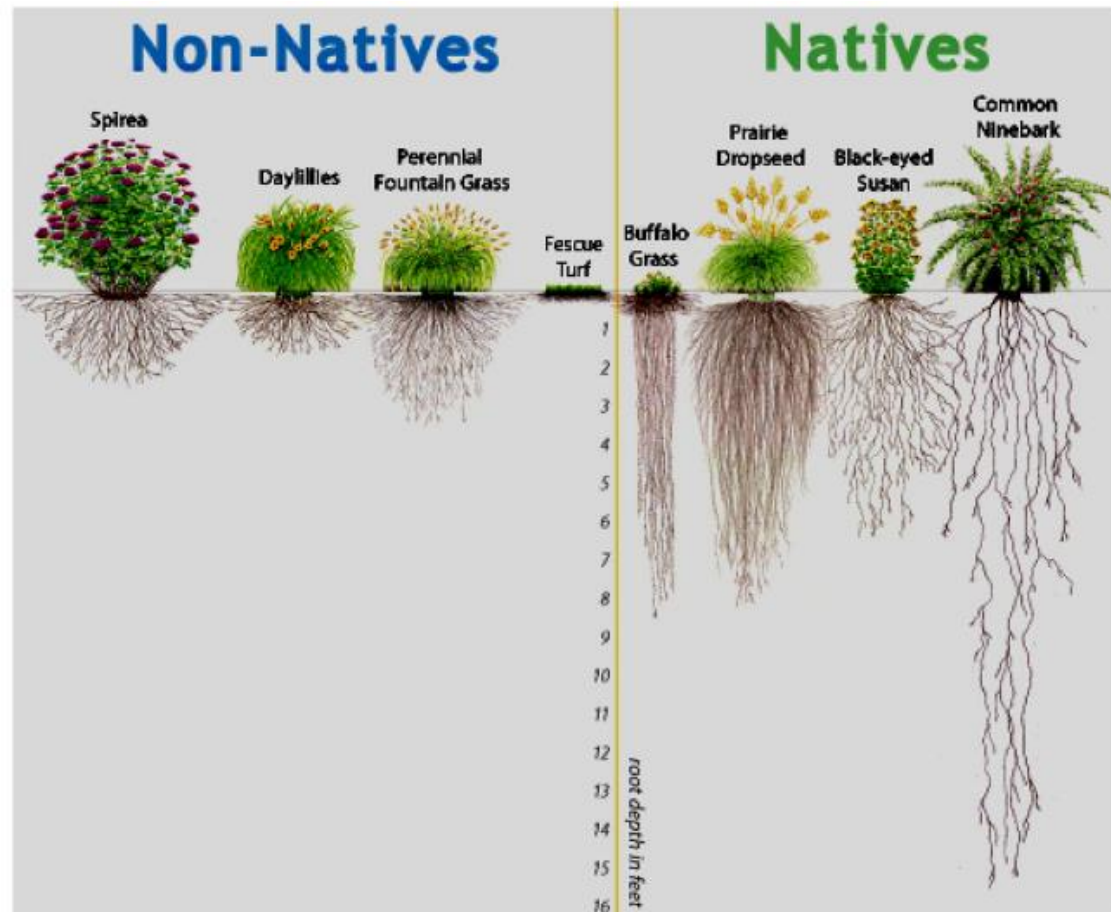
Native Plants and importance to native habitats?

- ✓ Gardeners cannot engage in large-scale habitat restoration
- ✓ Leafcutter bees use legume leaf segments to line their nests
- ✓ Ground-nesting bees and wasps nest in the leaf litter
- ✓ Butterflies and moths use them as larval hosts



Native Plants

- ✓ Many improve soil health
- ✓ Deeper root systems retain soil and water
- ✓ Deep roots break up hard patches of soil
- ✓ cooperate with more micro-organisms



<https://www.cohpoa.org/2016/04/08/whats-wrong-with-grass/>

Beware of cultivars

- ✓ “Nativars”
 - ✓ native plants that are engineered to be more appealing... to us
- ✓ They may have
 - ✓ less accessible flowers, or no nectar – and so no value in the garden



Invasive Plants



What is an invasive?

- ✓ An aggressively growing non-native plant
- ✓ Is particularly harmful when it moves into the natural environment
- ✓ Invasive species have 'displacement capacity'



Dog-strangling vine (Vincetoxicum rossicum)



Photo: Friends of Sam Smith Park

Common characteristics of invasive plants

- ✓ High annual seed production and quick establishment of dense colonies
- ✓ Tolerance to a wide range of growing conditions
- ✓ Ability to spread by underground roots and re-grow quickly when disturbed by pulling, cutting, or fire
- ✓ A lack of natural predators to keep their population under control in their new environment



Invasive vs Prolific?

Invasive

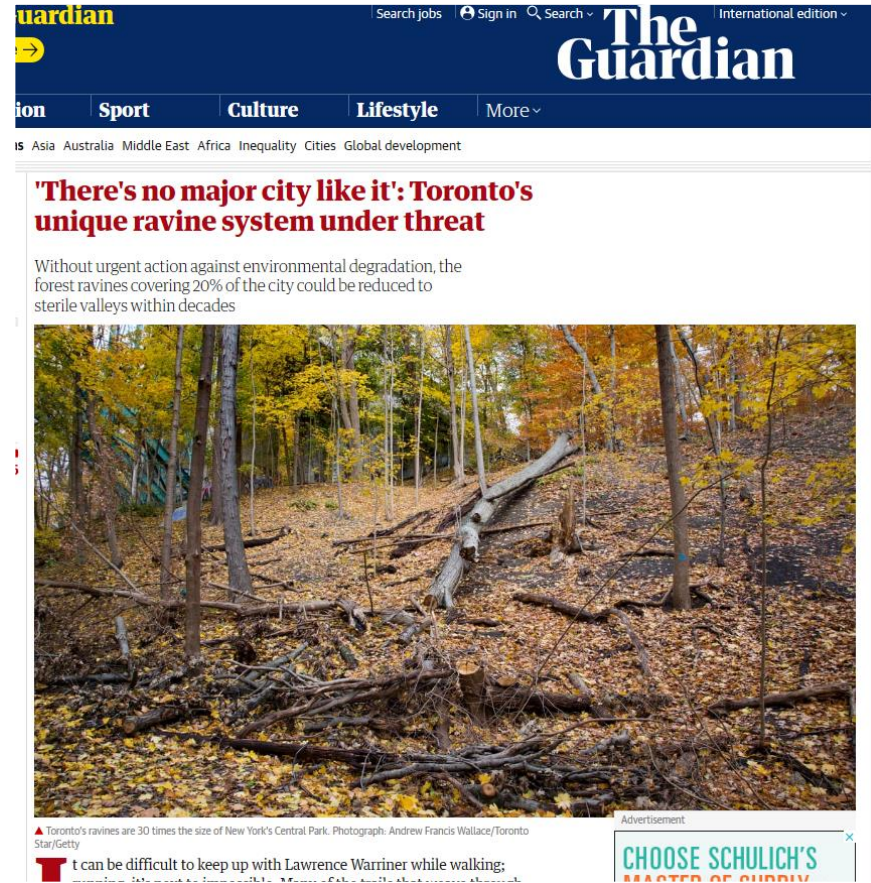
vs.

Prolific



Did you know?

- ✓ There are about 500 invasive plants in Canada
- ✓ Over 440 of them are in Southern Ontario
- ✓ Invasive plants cost us all...
 - ✓ huge impact on the economy
 - ✓ biodiversity loss, and impact on climate change
- ✓ Social & Health Impacts



Common Invasives



Source of photos Ontario Invasive Plant Council

What can I do about Invasive Plants?



**Beautiful Non-Invasive
Plants for your Garden**

What can I do about Invasive plants?

- ✓ Early detection
 - ✓ Learn to identify and manage invasive plants on your property
- ✓ Rapid Response
 - ✓ Best Management Practice varies by species
 - ✓ Biological control
- ✓ Prevention
 - ✓ of initial entry into Canada or Ontario
 - ✓ of the spread of a species

Grow me instead!



- ✓ The Grow Me Instead guide
 - ✓ identifies potentially invasive garden plants
 - ✓ promote suitable alternatives
- ✓ <http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/index.php/gardenersandhorticulturalists>

Invasive Plants	Non-Invasive Plant alternatives
Groundcovers English Ivy, Periwinkle, Goutweed	Wild Strawberry, Wild Ginger, Bunchberry, Wild Geranium
Miscanthus	Switchgrass, Indian Grass
Norway Maple	Native Maples, Serviceberry
Non-native Honeysuckle Shrubs	Nannyberry, Ninebark, Fragrant Sumac

How to select and buy natives



Photo by EMG Suzanne

How to select and buy natives

- ✓ Obtain plants from specialized nurseries / nurseries, environmental organizations, and volunteer group plant sales
- ✓ Obtain plant materials produced from seed collected closest to the planting site
- ✓ Consider impacts on local parks or ravines and exchange of genetic materials
- ✓ Check out the Native Plant Resource Guide for Ontario, and other resources
 - ✓ North American Native Plant Society
www.nanps.org



**Etobicoke Master
Gardeners
Annual
SPRING PLANT SALE**
Saturday, May 27
8:30 am-12:30 pm
6 Kingsway Crescent

Advice Clinic, Perennials, Shrubs, Herbs & Tomatoes & more!



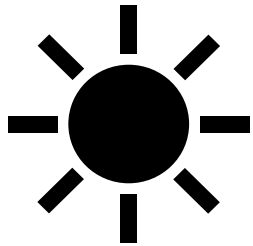
Native plants for native pollinators

Tips for Landscaping

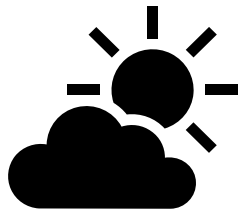
- ✓ Right plant, Right location

- ✓ Plant Needs

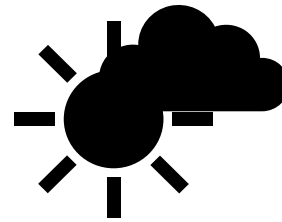
- ✓ Light



Sun (6+ hrs)



Part-Sun (4-5 hrs)



Part Shade (2-4 hr)



Shade (<1hr)

- ✓ Moisture

- ✓ Dry, moist, wet

- ✓ Soil - texture and pH

Tips for Landscaping

- ✓ Landscaping Questions
 - ✓ What habitats do I have?
 - ✓ Space – consider height and width
 - ✓ Prolific or not?
 - ✓ Time to establish

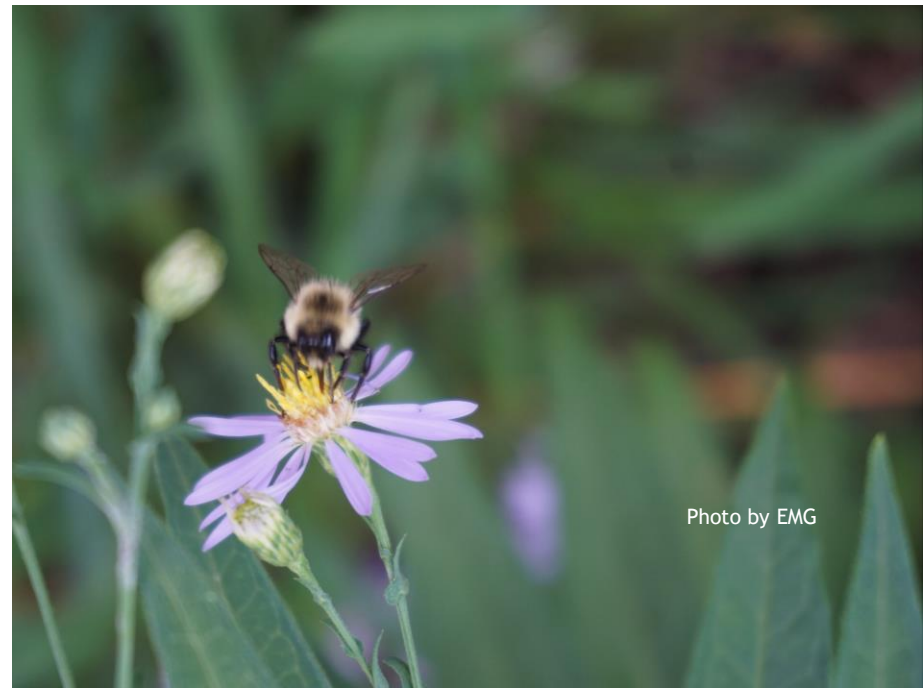


Photo by EMG

Tips for Landscaping

- ✓ Plan
 - ✓ Seasonal colour, nectar, pollen, fruits and seeds
 - ✓ Variety of textures and heights
 - ✓ “Native Only” beds or Mixed Beds?
 - ✓ Define native plant areas
- ✓ Always ... Try things out



Photo by EMG



Photo by EMG

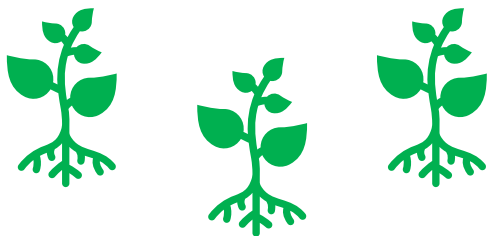
Maintenance





Water, a precious commodity!

- ✓ Less frequent but deep watering encourages root growth
- ✓ During critical crop development periods
- ✓ Different considerations for containers



Water, a precious commodity!

- ✓ Conserve water and harvest your rain
- ✓ Install rain barrels, or a rainwater harvesting system
- ✓ Use a rain gauge
- ✓ Use mulch



Integrated Pest Management

- ✓ Understand the problem
- ✓ Recognize common diseases & insects
- ✓ Choose the most effective control measure *OR* combination of measures
- ✓ Healthy plants resist disease and insect pests
- ✓ Pest management
 - ✓ *Cultural*
 - ✓ *Physical*
 - ✓ *Biological*



What does good soil provide to plants?

- ✓ Temperature control during very hot/cold periods
- ✓ Oxygen that roots need to breathe
- ✓ Anchoring support to stay upright
- ✓ Water that roots need to drink



SOIL



Feeding your soil

- ✓ Plants have the ability to tell you what is wrong
- ✓ If you add organic matter, you should not need additional nutrients

Composting – what are the benefits?

- ✓ Reusing and recycling
- ✓ It's natural
- ✓ Helps grow strong healthy plants
- ✓ Good for soil health & structure
- ✓ Adds micro-organisms to root zone
- ✓ Helps improve water retention & drainage



Meet the
Natives!



Herbaceous perennials

Legend:



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds



Attracts flies

Aster (*Aster*)



Photo by EMG Janet



Photo by EMG Janet



Photo by EMG Janet



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds

Black eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds



Blazing Star (*Liatris*)

(*Liatris spicata*)



Photos by: Shane Kingsley, EMG

(*Liatris cylindricea*)



<http://www.squidoo.com/blazing-star-liatris>



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds

Gray-headed Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds

Photos by: Shane Kingsley, EMG

Milkweed (*Asclepiadaceae*)



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds



Attracts flies

Tall Sunflower (*Helianthus giganteus*)



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds



Sweet Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*)



Photo provided by: Humber Arboretum



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds

Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)



Attracts bees



Attracts birds

White Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)



eastwillimburytown.blogspot.com

npsnj.org

Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds



Attracts flies



Photo provided by: Humber Arboretum

Red columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

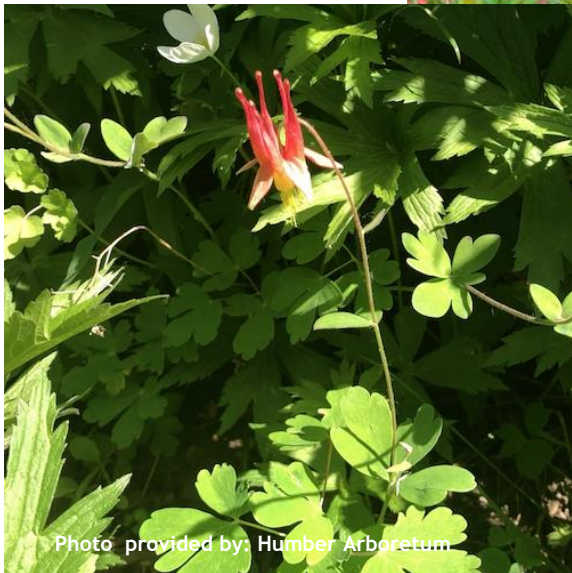


Photo provided by: Humber Arboretum



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds

trees4nc.com/treepics/RedColumbine.jpg

Wild Mint (*Mentha arvensis*)



Ground Covers

Legend:



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds



Attracts flies

Canadian Anemone (*Anemonastrum canadense*)



Canadian Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*)



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds



Attracts flies

Big Blue Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds



Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)



Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*)



Edibles

Legend:



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds



Attracts flies

Wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*)



Wild Black currant (*Ribes americanum*)



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds

Nanny Berry (*Viburnum lentago*)



Photo: St Williams Nursery



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds



Attracts flies

Trees & Shrubs

Legend:



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds



Attracts flies

Dogwood (*Cornus*)



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds



Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*)



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds



Attracts flies

Sumac *Rhus* (Anacardiaceae)



Photo by EMG



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds



Attracts flies



Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)



Attracts bees



Attracts butterflies



Attracts birds



Attracts flies



And many others they will love...



Top 10 Native Host Plants for butterflies/moths

Genus	Common Plant Name	# of Caterpillar Species that use this as a Host Plant
<i>Quercus</i>	oak	436
<i>Prunus</i>	almond, apricot, cherry, peach, plum	340
<i>Salix</i>	willow	289
<i>Betula</i>	birch	284
<i>Populus</i>	aspen, cottonwood, poplar	249
<i>Acer</i>	maple	238
<i>Malus</i>	apple	237
<i>Vaccinium</i>	blueberry, cranberry, deerberry	217
<i>Carya</i>	hickory	213
<i>Pinus</i>	pine	200

Top 10 Native Host Plants for Pollen-specialist Bees

Genus	Common Plant Name	# of Pollen Specialist Bee Species Relying on this Plant
<i>Helianthus</i>	sunflower	50
<i>Solidago</i>	goldenrod	42
<i>Symphyotrichum</i>	aster	33
<i>Grindelia</i>	gumweed	31
<i>Rudbeckia</i>	black eyed susan	29
<i>Heterotheca</i>	goldenaster	29
<i>Coreopsis</i>	tickseed	22
<i>Chrysopsis</i>	goldenaster	20
<i>Verbesina</i>	wingstem	17
<i>Bidens</i>	beggartick	15

Wrap Up



Photo by EMG Suzanne

Resources

- ✓ Etobicoke Master Gardeners www.etobicokemastergardeners.ca
 - ✓ A copy of this presentation is available under Community Activities, Humber Arboretum Workshop Materials
- ✓ Master Gardeners www.mgoi.ca
- ✓ Humber Arboretum [Pollinator Garden \(humber.ca\)](http://humber.ca)
- ✓ City of Toronto “Best Native Plants” lists
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/pe/bgrd/backgroundfile-113557.pdf>
- ✓ Douglas Tallamy, [Bringing Nature Home](#), Timber Press 2009.
- ✓ Evergreen Native Plant Database www.nativeplants.evergreen.ca
- ✓ Heather Holm, [Pollinators of Native Plants](#), Pollination Press, 2014.
- ✓ Halton Master Gardeners - list of Ontario native plant nurseries.
<https://haltonmastergardeners.com/2020/03/28/native-plants-nurseries-in-ontario/>
- ✓ In The Zone www.inthegzonegardens.ca
- ✓ Lorraine Johnson, [100 Easy-to-Grow Native Plants for Canadian Gardens](#), 3rd edition, Whitecap Books.
- ✓ Mississauga Blooming Boulevards <http://www.bloomingboulevards.org/our-plants>
- ✓ Ontario Trees & Shrubs www.ontariotrees.com
- ✓ Ontario Wildflowers <http://www.ontariowildflowers.com/>
- ✓ The David Suzuki Foundation www.davidsuzuki.org
- ✓ North American Native Plant Society www.nanps.org
- ✓ National Wildlife Federation - Keystone Plants by Eco-Region: <https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/keystone-plants-by-ecoregion>

You can find a copy of the presentation



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Workshop Materials

Native Plant Gardening (April 23, 2022)



native_plant_gardening_april_23_2022.pdf
Download File

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

www.etobicokemastergardeners.ca



Etobicoke Master Gardeners



**HUMBER
ARBORETUM**

2023 Eco-Garden Community Workshop Series

Saturdays 10:00 AM to Noon

Virtual Sessions via Zoom

February 25: Plant Identification

March 4: Growing Your Own Food

April 15: Native Plants

April 29: Invasive Plants, Control, and Alternatives

June 10: Pollinator Friendly Gardening

October 14: Pruning

November 18: Indoor Plants

In-Person at the Humber Arboretum

February 4: Winterwood:
Winter Tree Identification Tour

May 6: First-hand Look at
Invasive Plants, Control, and
Alternatives Tour

October 21: Pruning Workshop

Free, but space is limited & registration is required:
[Humber.ca/arboretum/emg](https://humber.ca/arboretum/emg)



Poll Question

How did you hear about the event?

1. Humber Arboretum
2. Etobicoke Master Gardeners
3. Facebook
4. Twitter
5. Etobicoke Guardian
6. Toronto Gardeners
7. Lakeshore Environmental Gardening Society
8. Etobicoke Horticultural Society
9. Other

Etobicoke Master Gardeners

Thank you!

Questions

