

## Using Keystone Plants to Bring Pollinators to Your Yard

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The Henry L. Ferguson Museum, Fishers Island, NY

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### Recommend sources & links

**Pollinator Pathway:** Multi-state non-profit organization – put your organization’s or your own pollinator garden on the map, see lots of planting resources, plant lists, pollinators that you are helping:

[www.pollinator-pathway.org](http://www.pollinator-pathway.org)

**Fishers Island Pollinator Pathway:** <https://fishersisland.net/gardening-july-2024/> & FI Pollinator Pathway Facebook public group

**Homegrown National Park:** Doug Tallamy’s research, advocacy and information about planting to support native ecosystems: <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/> - see how to put yourself on the HNP Map, embrace its Four Landscape Ecology Goals and search for regional lists of Keystone Trees & Shrubs and Keystone Flowering Plants (including Container-Friendly) to grow in your yard and gardens. (CT, Upstate NY and Fishers Island are **8.1 – Mixed Wood Plains**, most of Long Island & Cape Cod are **8.5 - Mississippi Alluvial & Southeast US Coastal Plains**.)

**EcoRegions:** How the US, Canada and Mexico define our ecosystems and what to grow where:

[www.epa.gov/eco-research/ecoregions-north-america](http://www.epa.gov/eco-research/ecoregions-north-america)

**Level III & IV EcoRegions – New England states**

[www.epa.gov/eco-research/level-iii-and-iv-ecoregions-continental-united-states](http://www.epa.gov/eco-research/level-iii-and-iv-ecoregions-continental-united-states)

**Keystone Native Plants:** Trees & shrubs that support Insects (caterpillars) that feed birds and Pollinator Plants that support Specialist Bees:

**National Wildlife Federation’s Garden for Wildlife** – print or download this 2-pg PDF online:

<https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Keystone-Plants/NWF-GFW-keystone-plant-list-ecoregion-8-eastern-temperate-forests.pdf>

### Resources about Plant Families, Genera, Species

**Oaks, the #1 Tree to support caterpillars that feed birds:** *The Nature of Oaks* book by Douglas Tallamy

**Free USDA Field Guide to Native Oaks:** <https://www.fs.usda.gov/foresthealth/technology/pdfs/fieldguide.pdf>

**Vaccinium, the #1 shrub to support specialist pollinators:**

**Love Blueberries? Thank a Native Bee** – The Natural Web’s blog post

<https://the-natural-web.org/2019/07/19/love-blueberries-thank-a-native-bee/>

**Willows, the #2 Superfood** (call them trees or call them shrubs, just grow them!):

**Native Willows: Don’t Overlook this Beautiful Pollinator “Superfood”**

[www.pollinator-pathway.org/post/native-willows-don-t-overlook-this-beautiful-pollinator-superfood-1](http://www.pollinator-pathway.org/post/native-willows-don-t-overlook-this-beautiful-pollinator-superfood-1)

**The Wild and Diverse World of Willows** by Dr. Julia Kuzovkina

[www.conngardener.com/the-wild-diverse-world-of-willows/](http://www.conngardener.com/the-wild-diverse-world-of-willows/)

**ABCs of Pollinator Plants program, Pollinate Old Lyme You Tube Channel** – A-to-Z of top plants for native birds & pollinators for your yard, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sl9V42rH\\_z0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sl9V42rH_z0)

**Sumac** – not a Keystone species but great for disturbed areas, berries for birds & wildlife, good fall color

**USDA NRCS Plant Fact Sheet: Smooth Sumac**

[https://plants.usda.gov/DocumentLibrary/factsheet/pdf/fs\\_rhql.pdf](https://plants.usda.gov/DocumentLibrary/factsheet/pdf/fs_rhql.pdf)

### More Plant Resources

**Native Plant Trust’s Go Botany** – PlantShare & Advanced ID tools, <https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org>

**National Audubon Society** – Find Bird-Friendly Native Plants Database, [www.audubon.org/native-plants](http://www.audubon.org/native-plants)

## Landscapes & Gardens to Visit

**Gillette Castle State Park, East Haddam, CT** – free entrance to the park and grounds, fee for inside tours of the castle, <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/state-parks/parks/gillette-castle-state-park/>

**Gardener/Writer Kathleen Connolly, Speaking of Landscapes, Old Saybrook, CT** – see her home gardens & read about her public installations with towns, land trusts & garden clubs: [www.speakingoflandscapes.com](http://www.speakingoflandscapes.com)

**Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme, CT** – tour Miss Flo's heirloom gardens and other plantings on the grounds: [https://florencegriswoldmuseum.org/visit/museum-campus/#Gardens\\_and\\_Grounds](https://florencegriswoldmuseum.org/visit/museum-campus/#Gardens_and_Grounds)

**Oak Lawn Cemetery & Arboretum, Fairfield, CT** – Pollinator Gardens  
[www.oaklawnct.com/arboretum/](http://www.oaklawnct.com/arboretum/)

**Phoebe Griffin Noyes Old Lyme Public Library** – Pollinator Garden open to the public  
<https://oldlymelibrary.org>

## Native Plants and Landscapes Ideas and Info

**Wild Ones**, <https://wildones.org> – National not-for-profit educational organization with a mission to promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities.

See **Mountain Laurel (CT) Chapter and watch for spring and fall native plants sales with Connecticut College Arboretum**, [www.facebook.com/groups/77221323530](http://www.facebook.com/groups/77221323530)

**Xerces Society**, [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org) – The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is an international nonprofit organization that protects the natural world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats.

***Native Plants for Pollinators & Beneficial Insects: Northeast*** – 2-pg list of plants  
[https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/22-026\\_01\\_NPPBI—Northeast\\_web.pdf](https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/22-026_01_NPPBI—Northeast_web.pdf)

***Nesting & Overwintering Habitat for Pollinators & Other Beneficial Insects*** – 12-pg white paper  
<https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/publications/18-014.pdf>

**CT River Coastal Conservation District**, [www.conservect.org/ctrivercoastal/resources/](http://www.conservect.org/ctrivercoastal/resources/)  
**Annual Native Plants Sale in April**, watch for online brochure & advance ordering deadline

***Invasive Plants in Your Backyard*** brochure  
[www.conservect.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Invasive\\_guide\\_2020\\_web.pdf](http://www.conservect.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Invasive_guide_2020_web.pdf)

***How to Create a Streamside Buffer Garden*** – trifold leaflet  
[www.conservect.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Create-a-Buffer-web\\_2023.pdf](http://www.conservect.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Create-a-Buffer-web_2023.pdf)

**Save the Sound's Healthy Yard, Healthy Sound** blog post

Check out multiple webinars by Save the Sound and download the HEALTHY YARDS Checklist for a Healthy Yard  
[www.savethesound.org/2022/06/15/healthy-yard-healthy-sound/](http://www.savethesound.org/2022/06/15/healthy-yard-healthy-sound/)

## Other Credible Sources on Invasive Plants

**USDA NRCS Invasive & Noxious Plants**, [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/species-type](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/species-type)

**USDA Plants Database**, <https://plants.usda.gov/home>

**USDA Forest Service Invasive Species**, [www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/invasive-species](http://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/invasive-species)

**CT Invasive Plant Working Group**, <https://cipwg.uconn.edu>

**CT Invasive Plant List**, [https://cipwg.uconn.edu/invasive\\_plant\\_list/](https://cipwg.uconn.edu/invasive_plant_list/)

## Nix the Knotweed

Like/Follow [www.facebook.com/NixtheKnotweed](http://www.facebook.com/NixtheKnotweed) for updates on chopping parties or organize your own.

See short how-to videos on **Nix the Knotweed YouTube Channel**,

<https://www.youtube.com/@nixtheknotweed9869/featured>

Text/Call Suzanne at 860-662-1531, email [suzanne.s.thompson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suzanne.s.thompson@sbcglobal.net)