

# Local Native Plants are Climate Ready – ALREADY

Native plants are found naturally in a given region and evolved over thousands of years to the conditions that surround them.

- Local native plants offer built-in resilience and superior ecological function, making them a prime choice for adapting to climate change:
- Drought and Water Efficiency: They are naturally acclimated to local precipitation patterns and seasonal extremes. Once established, they require significantly less supplemental irrigation than non-native species, conserving vital water resources.
- Keystone for Biodiversity: They have co-evolved with local insects, which means they are the specific food source (like host plants for caterpillars) required to support the local food web, including birds and other wildlife. They are essential for a resilient ecosystem.
- Attract Beneficial Insects: Many native plants attract beneficial predatory insects which help provide natural pest control. Plus, plant pests are bird food.
- Evolved Resistance: They have developed natural defenses against the most common local pests and diseases, increasing their overall hardiness compared to introduced species.
- Reduced Inputs and Maintenance: Because they thrive in the native soil and climate, they typically require little to no fertilizer, pesticides, or extra soil amendments, leading to lower maintenance costs and reduced chemical runoff.
- Deep Root Systems: Many native species (especially perennials, grasses, and trees) have deeper, more extensive root systems than turfgrass or shallow ornamentals.
  - This provides superior soil stability, preventing erosion during intense rainfall events.
  - It also improves stormwater absorption, mitigating localized flooding.
  - Carbon Sequestration: Deep root systems also enable more effective, long-term carbon storage in the soil (carbon sequestration), which helps combat climate change.

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**Native Plants are Ready for the Future!**

