

L2L: Resilient Yards Workshop

Your Yard can Bee the Change

Creating Pollinator Habitat

Presented by

Board of Water and Soil Resources & Blue Thumb



Meet today's presenters and project team:

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Board of Water and Soil Resources
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Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms
MN GreenCorps Member





Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

BWSR focuses on helping private landowners enhance conservation practices on their land to achieve state goals for clean water, clean air, and abundant fish and wildlife.



Blue Thumb — Planting for Clean Water

A public/private partnership helping property owners reduce runoff and improve water quality. Blue Thumb partners include cities, watershed districts, landscape designers, contractors and native plant nurseries.



Metro Blooms - A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

Partners with communities to create resilient landscapes and fosters clean watersheds, embracing the values of equity and inclusion to solve environmental challenges since 1983. Metro Blooms coordinates the Blue Thumb partnership.

Planning and Installing Successful Pollinator Habitat

ASSESS

1. Assess your yard

PLAN

2. Choose project location and type
3. Choose plant species & other materials
4. Find a source for plants & materials
5. Plan your installation.

INSTALL

6. Purchase your plants and materials
7. Prepare your project site
8. Install your project

MAINTAIN

9. Weed and water

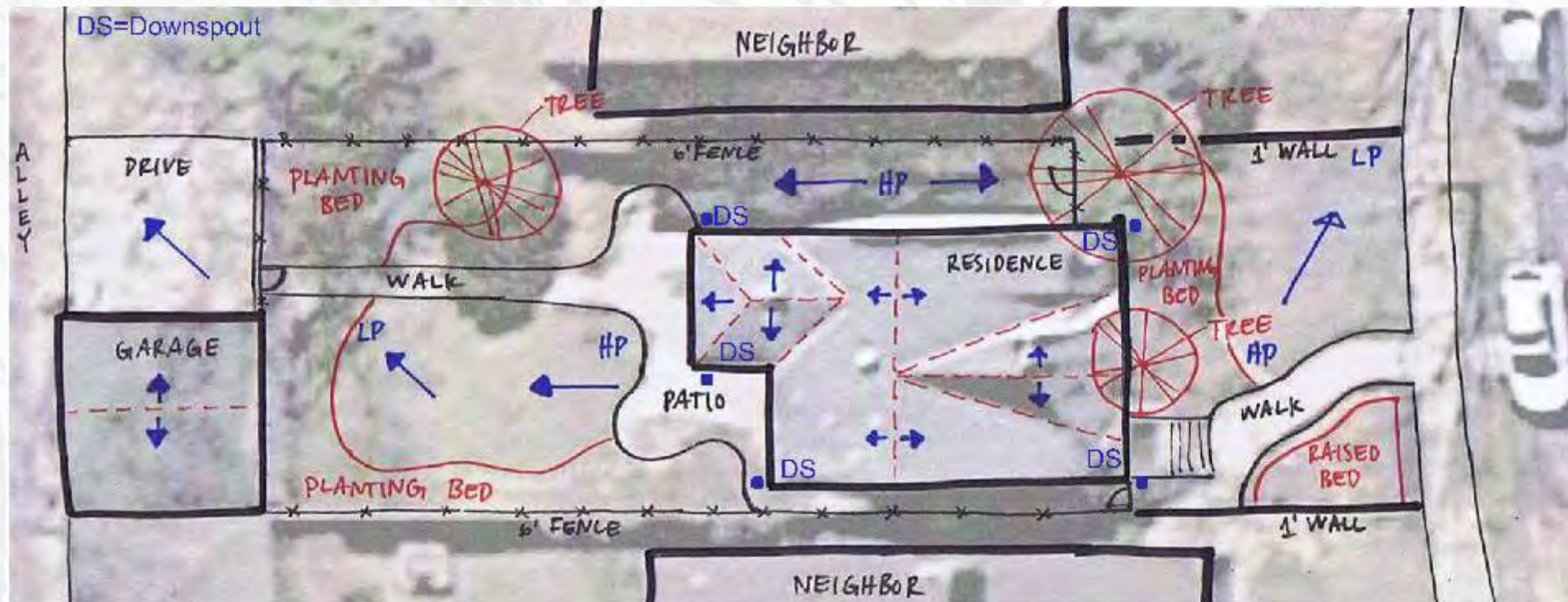
REPORT

10. Submit your reimbursement



Assess your yard

What should you consider when assessing your yard?



- How is your yard used?
- What trees, plants, and other objects or areas already exist or should be planned around?
- Drainage - where does the water go?
- Sun/Shade

Assess your yard



Find an aerial or satellite images from google or bing maps, or your county GIS mapping service.

If you can't print out an image, you can always draw the basics on a piece of paper.

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Lawns to Legumes project types

- 1) Native Pocket Plantings
- 2) Pollinator Beneficial Trees and Shrubs
- 3) Pollinator Lawns
- 4) Pollinator Meadows



bwsr.state.mn.us/L2L

1) Native Plant Pocket Planting

There's room in almost every yard for a small native plant garden

A 10x10 garden can be enough to offer pollinator habitat throughout the year.

Starting small is often the smartest approach.



2) Pollinator Beneficial Trees and Shrubs

Trees and shrubs add another dimension to your yard and garden. They can also provide:

- Early-season forage for pollinators
- Edible fruit
- Shade
- Autumn color
- Winter structure



3) Pollinator Lawns

Fine Fescues, along with low growing flowers can work together to provide a low-maintenance turf alternative that supports native bees.



4) Pollinator Meadow

A large planting of diverse and native plants can be created all at once, or you can start with a small garden and expand it every year. Especially in a larger garden, it is good to have a strong mix of grasses and flowers. Native grasses provide many benefits, not least being the number of pollinator species that nest in them or feed on them in their larval states.

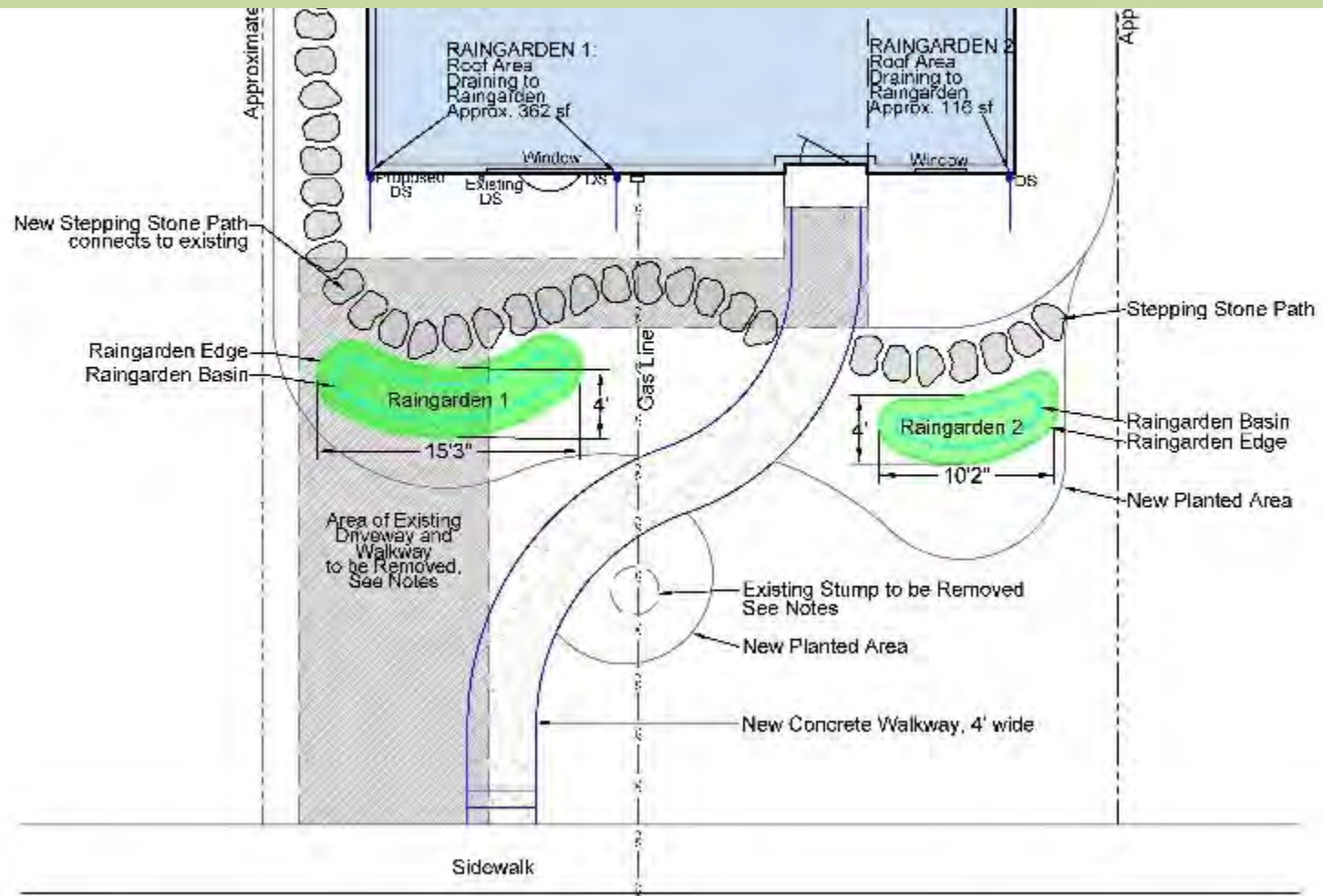


Why Native Plants?



Choose project location & type

Take before photos of your project site, you will need them to request reimbursement.



Choose Plant Species

First, consider the site you'll be planting:

- How much sunlight is there?
- What is the soil moisture of the site?
- Are these characteristics consistent throughout the site?
- Plant Density: recommend plant spacing of 1 plant every 12-18"

Use the available project templates and plant lists to find suitable plants. Find many at [bluethumb.org/grantee](https://www.bluethumb.org/grantee)

When you know which plants will thrive where, narrow them down:

- How tall do you want your planting to grow?
- Do you have blooming flowers throughout the growing season (3 species in spring, summer, and fall)?

Rain Garden for Pollinators

Your pollinator planting can do double duty and improve water quality if it is also a rain garden! These plants will also work well in moist garden conditions. The selected species in this garden and bloom times make it a great butterfly garden.

Fox Sedge

Adds texture and beautiful seed heads to a rain garden. It is a tough plant that can easily handle the saturated conditions of a rain garden basin.

FS 5 plants



Pussy Toes

These low-growing fuzzy plants slowly form carpets of foliage. In the spring their flowers rise up gracefully 6"-8" above their leaves.

PT 12 plants



Blue Eyed Grass

is a bunch forming early summer bloomer. Not a true grass, its dainty sky blue flowers brighten the early summer garden, and is a great edging plant.

BE 10 plants



Hoary Vervain

Bright spikes of color to the summer garden that look great against the bright green of Fox Sedge. It is a host to Common Buckeye butterfly larva.

HV 4 plants



Swamp Milkweed

The bright flowers of Swamp Milkweed are unforgettable, and much loved by pollinators. It tends to spread, plan to divide this plant when it outgrows your garden space.

SM 4 plants



Prairie Onion

Lavender colored starry blooms in mid-summer rise from bright green clump forming flat-leaved foliage. Will slowly create colonies as the plants become more established.

PO 5 plants



Joe Pye Weed

Covered with mid to late summer blooms, Joe Pye is a butterfly magnet. It will spread, be prepared to divide this plant by the third year to share with others!

JP 2 plants



Blue Lobelia

howy spikes attract bees and butterflies and blooms well into the fall. Can take part shade conditions, but needs moist soil.

BL 5 plants



Flat-Topped Aster

Enjoyed by diverse pollinators as well as rabbits and deer. If you have trouble with browsing wildlife, consider substituting with Rattlesnake Master.

FT 3 plants



Bloom Time

May

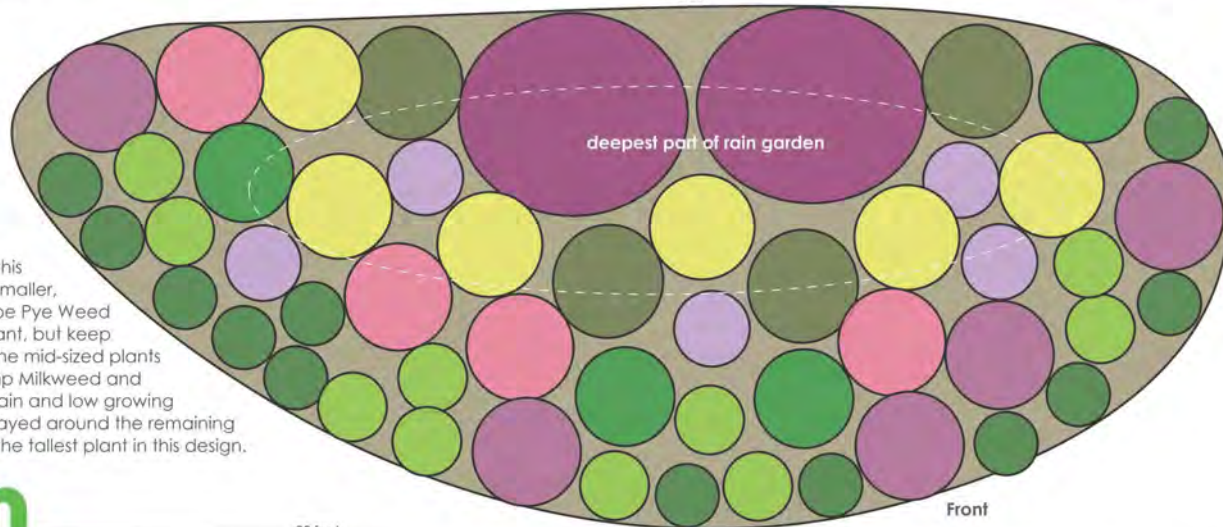
June

Back

July

August

September-Oct.



Note:
To make this planting smaller, reduce Joe Pye Weed to one plant, but keep some of the mid-sized plants like Swamp Milkweed and Blue Vervain and low growing plants arrayed around the remaining Joe Pye, the tallest plant in this design.



Featured Pollinator:
American Lady
Vanessa virginianensis

Caterpillar hosts include
Pussy Toes

Nectar plants include
Swamp Milkweed, Joe Pye Weed, Blue Lobelia, and Flat-Topped Aster



BWSR

bwsr.state.mn.us/creating-residential-pollinator-habitat

Choose other project materials



- We recommend mulching your new garden
- You may want to incorporate more elements into your project; stones, edging, and other materials look nice, but cannot be reimbursed.
- Refer to the Reimbursable Items list at [bluethumb.org/121grantee](https://www.bluethumb.org/121grantee)

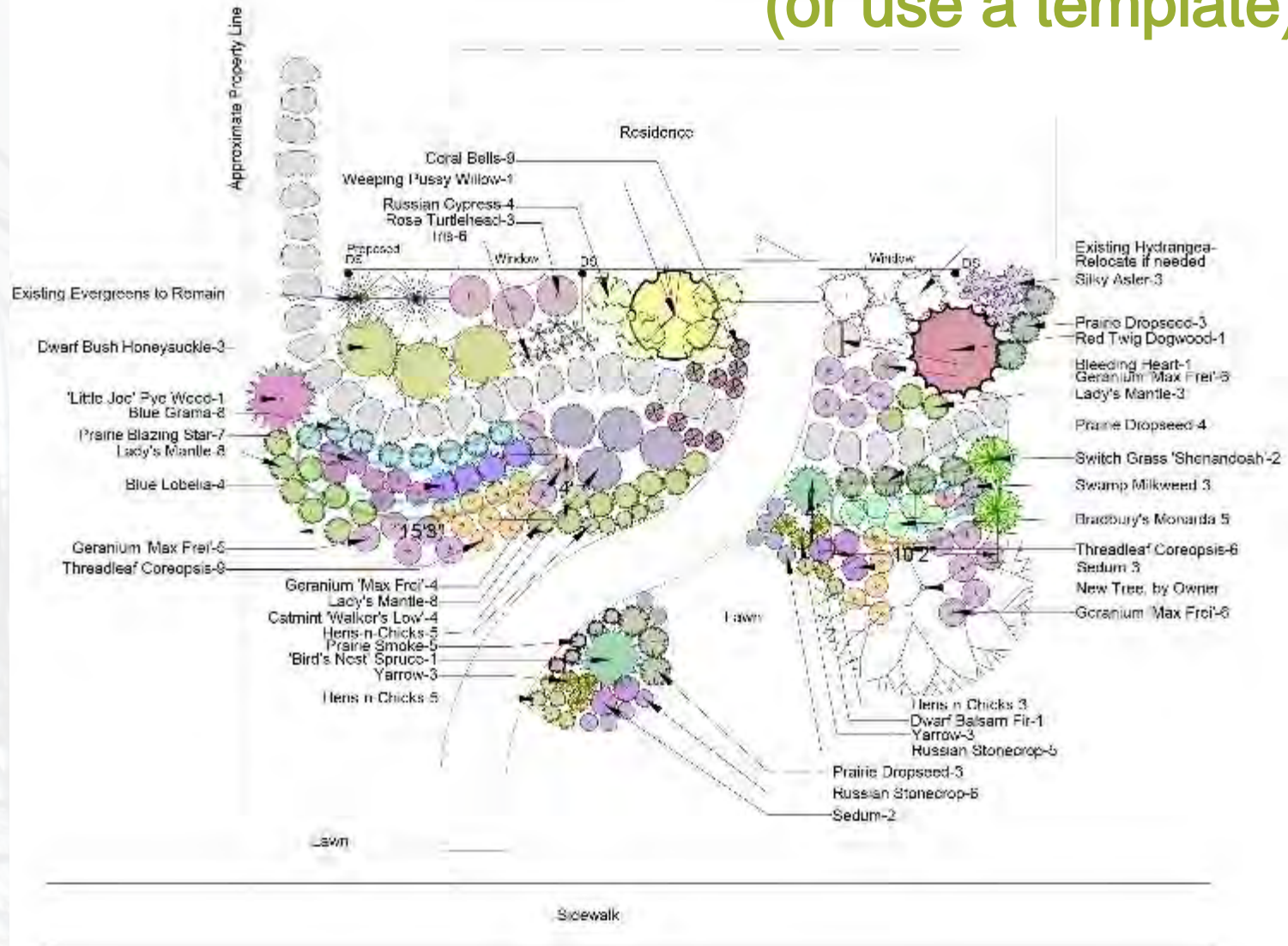
Plan your project: garden layout

- Mixture of grasses, flowers, and shrubs
- Keep species together in groups: easier for you to identify and maintain, and for bees to find!
- Put shorter plants in “front”



Put it all together into a plan

(or use a template)



Find sources for your plants and materials

MINNESOTA & WESTERN WISCONSIN NATIVE PLANT NURSERIES

SYMBOLS d: Design Services i: Installation Services m: Maintenance Services



1 Blazing Star Gardens
Phone: 507-402-8337
Email: blazingstargardens@gmail.com
Web: www.blazingstargardens.com
d, l, m

2 Boreal Native
3943 Munger Shaw Road, Cloquet, MN 55720
Phone: 218-729-7001
Email: borealnatives@prairieresto.com
Web: prairieresto.com/boreal_natives.shtml
d, l, m

3 Sogn Valley Farm
Phone: 763-614-8853
Email: dana@sognvalleyfarm.com
Web: www.sognvalleyfarm.com
Purchase at events & St. Paul Farmers' Market
d, l, m

4 Ecoscapes Sustainable Landscaping
Phone: 612-965-0848
Email: info@ecoscapes1.com
Web: www.ecoscapes1.com
d, l, m

5 Glacial Ridge Growers
Phone: 320-634-0136
Email: glacialridgegrowers@aol.com
Web: www.glacialridgegrowers.com
St. Paul Farmers' Market on Saturdays

6 Shoreview Natives
1185 Shoreview Rd, Two Harbors, MN 55616
Phone: 218-341-5286
Email: shoreviewnatives@gmail.com
Web: www.shoreviewnatives.com
d, i

7 Landscape Alternatives
25316 St. Croix Trail, Shafer, MN 55074
Phone: 651-257-4460
Email: landscapealt@frontiernet.net
Web: www.landscapealternatives.com

8 MN Native Landscapes
8740 77th St NE, Otsego, MN 55362
14088 MN 95, Foley, MN 56329
Phone: 763-295-0010
Email: bre@mnlcorp.com
Web: www.mnnativelandscapes.com
Purchase at events, by appt., or online
d, l, m

9 Morning Sky Greenery
44804 East Highway 28, Morris, MN 56267
Phone: 320-795-6234
Email: info@morningskygreenery.com
Web: www.morningskygreenery.com

10 Natural Shore Technologies
1480 Cty Rd 90, Maple Plain, MN (new location)
Phone: 612-703-7581
Email: Rob.L@naturalshore.com
Web: www.naturalshore.com
d, l, m

11 Naturally Wild
Phone: 612-922-9279
Email: info@naturallywildflowers.com
Web: www.naturallywildflowers.com
Purchase at website-listed events.

12 Out Back Nursery
15280 110th St S, Hastings, MN 55033
Phone: 651-438-2771
Email: sales@outbacknursery.com
Web: www.outbacknursery.com
d, l, m

13 Bluprairie Native Plant Nursery
12975 32nd St, Watertown, MN 55388
Phone: 612-720-7941
Email: jdanie@bluprairie.com
Web: www.bluprairie.com

14 Prairie Moon Nursery
32115 Prairie Lane, Winona, MN 55987
Phone: 866-417-8156
Email: info@prairiemoon.com
Web: www.prairiemoon.com
Purchase online

15 Prairie Restorations Inc
31646 128th St NW, Princeton, MN 55371
Phone: 800-837-5986
Email: info@prairieresto.com
Web: www.prairieresto.com
d, l, m

16 Native Sun Seeds and Plants
St. Croix Valley, MN
Phone: 651-318-8667
Email: nativesunseedsandplants@gmail.com
Web: www.nativesunseedsandplants.com
Purchase online or at website-listed events.

17 Shooting Star Native Seeds
20740 Cty Rd 33, Spring Grove, MN 55974
Phone: 888-983-3670
Email: info@ssns.co
Web: www.shootingstarnativeseed.com

18 Sunshine Gardens Nursery and Landscaping
1286 Shadywood Shores Dr NW
Pine River, MN 56474
Phone: 218-947-3154
Email: sgardens@uslink.net
Web: sunshinegardens.tripod.com
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19 Dragonfly Gardens
491 State Highway 46 Amery, WI
Phone: 715-268-7660
Email: info@dragonflygardens.net
Web: www.dragonflygardens.net

20 Lupine Gardens
880 155th St, Amery, WI 54001
Phone: 715-222-6669
Email: lupinegardens@yahoo.com
Web: www.lupinegardens.com
d, i

21 Kinnickinnic Natives
235 State Road 65, River Falls, WI 54022
Phone: 715-425-7605 or 715-222-6910
Email: whuhnke@dishup.us
Web: www.kinninnatives.com

22 Natural Resource Service
Cambridge, MN 55008
Phone: 763-656-8587
Email: mikeevo@naturalresourceservice.com
Web: www.naturalresourceservice.com
No nursery ecological landscape restoration only

How to Find Native Plant Nurseries:

- Wild Ones puts together a list every year (pictured above)
- Blue Thumb partners
- DNR list of suppliers and landscapers
- All of these resources are linked at bluethumb.org/I2Igrantee

Plan your installation

- How will you prepare your project site?
- Where will you buy your plants and other materials?
- When will you plant?

Things to keep in mind:

Small plants need to be watered often, up to once a day, while they're in pots and for the first few days after planting.

You can install a project in stages, though it's best to not let bare soil stay uncovered for too long (if you remove the sod, cover the exposed soil with mulch).

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Purchase your plants and materials

- Have a plan to keep live plants healthy until they are planted in the ground. Small pots and plugs might need daily watering. It is best to keep them out of full sun.
- Some native plant nurseries deliver. And in addition to buying direct from a nursery, there are a number of native plant sales in the spring.
- Save your receipts! If they aren't itemized, take a picture of them next to the plants/material you purchased. Except for a few specific exceptions, we cannot reimburse you for non-native plants.

Prepare your project site

- Remove sod
- Turn, loosen and rake soil
- Mulch



Have you taken those before photos of your project site yet?

Prepare your project site

Other options:

- “Sheet mulch” with a layer of cardboard covered with mulch to suffocate the grass beneath.
 - “Solarize” the area by covering it in a clear plastic sheet for a couple of months (only works in the sun).
 - Move around plants in an existing garden to make space for new ones.
-
- Learn about these site preparation methods and more with the Xerces Society guide to Organic Site Preparation, linked to on bluethumb.org/l2lgrantee

Install your project: Native pocket planting



- Lay out the plants before you put them in the ground so that you're happy with their spacing.
- Protect soil from erosion

Install your project: Trees & Shrubs



- Dig a hole as deep and at least twice as wide as the root ball
- Straighten, cut, or remove circling roots
- Place tree in hole at appropriate height (root flare or top root should be at or slightly above ground level) and straighten the tree
- Gently but firmly backfill hole, watering periodically to reduce air pockets

Install your project: Pollinator lawn

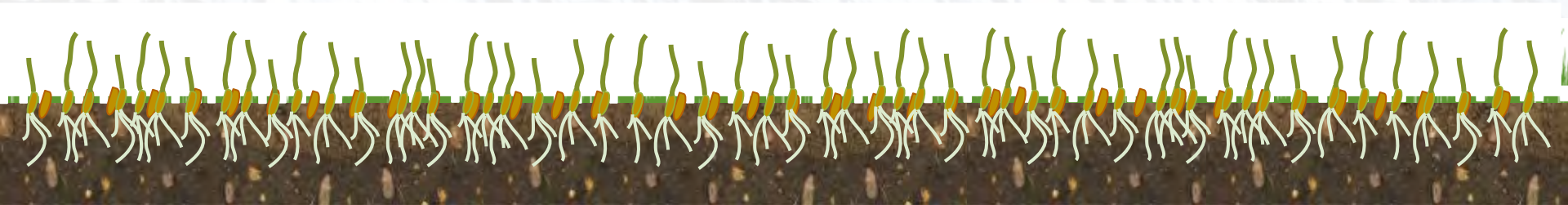
Basic Example and Instructions

*If the lawn doesn't have a bunch of creeping charlie or other aggressive invasives that will spread, this method may be right for you:

- 1. Mow lawn as short as possible.**
- 2. Rake clippings to expose as much soil as possible.**

Install your project: Pollinator lawn

3. **Spread seed.** Compost or sand make good bulking agents.
4. Keep moist until sprouting, and then cut back on watering and stop fertilizing.
5. Maintenance: **Never again mow below 3 inches.** Trim in the fall. Herbicides will kill your flowers, so hand weed.



For seeding rates and more options and information see www.bluethumb.org/turf-alternatives

Install your project: Pollinator meadow

Bite-by-bite: Multiple pocket plantings side by side and over time.

All at once:

- Use smaller plants (plugs) and/or seed, to cover more area for the same cost.
- Check with the supplier of your native seeds or seed mixes for specific planting instructions.
 - Some seeds are best sown in the fall
 - Most plantings grown from seed will take at least 3 years before they are even close to establishment
- If you spread seed or space your plants further apart to take up more room, it is especially important to keep the soil covered with mulch, straw, or other material to protect against erosion and weed incursions.
- Get some friends to help out.

Install Your project

Take pictures when you're done. You'll need to submit them to be reimbursed. Try to take them from the same vantage points you took the before pictures from.



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Maintain your project: Plant Establishment

- Water during dry periods – **at least 1”** per week for the first year.
- Pull weeds! Get them while they are small
- Keep plantings clear of debris
- Replace mulch and plants as needed

Which one of these would you rather pull?



Maintain your project: Ongoing care

At the very least, pull weeds and check in on your garden 3 times a year:

- Memorial Day
- July 4th
- Labor Day

Main Points

- Pull weeds before they spread more
- Inspect for erosion/trouble spots
- Spring: cut back plants to 18-inch height after avg temp is 50° F, (when dandelions start to bloom)
- Fall: leave some hollow/pithy stems for pollinators to nest in.



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Submit your reimbursement

On the Map Your Pollinator Project page:

bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/map-your-completed-project/

- Make sure you have digital copies, photos, or scans of:
 - Receipts
 - Before and after pictures
- Know the size of your new garden(s) or plantings, and the number of trees and shrubs you planted.
- Estimate the total cost of your project (excluding ineligible expenses).
- It should take about two weeks from submitting your request for it to be reviewed, approved, and for your reimbursement check and L2L sign to be mailed to you.

Thank you!

- If you are looking for a resource, the grantee information page at **bluethumb.org/l2lgrantee** is your friend. We've just added a contact form for your L2L questions.
- If you're feeling overwhelmed, start small! Even small gardens can make a big difference!



Thank you!



your yard
CAN BEE
the **CHANGE**

#Lawns2Legumes