



Spring 2023 Grantee Kick-off Event

Lawns to Legumes Individual Support

How to successfully plant for pollinators,
complete a grant, and be reimbursed



m BOARD OF WATER
AND SOIL RESOURCES

**Blue
Thumb**
PLANTING FOR CLEAN WATER®


**Metro
Blooms**
GROW. BLOOM. INSPIRE!



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 promoting gardening, beautifying our communities, and healing our environment since 1983. Metro Blooms coordinates the Blue Thumb partnership.

Meet today's presenters and project team:

Alayna Merchlewitz

Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms
Environmental Education Project Manager

Paul Erdmann

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
Ecological Science Conservationist

Rebecca Rice

Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms
Director

Alexandra Zerzan

Metro Blooms/MN Pollution Control Agency
MN Greencorps Member

John Bly

Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms
Director of Operations & Special Projects

Lawns to Legumes



Minnesotans want to help pollinators
(Program Started June 2019)



Funding Source:

Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources,
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

Program Focus:

Establish pollinator habitat projects on residential landscapes across Minnesota to support the Rusty patched bumblebee and other pollinators.



Photos: Heather Holm, Laurie Schneider, Rich Harrison

Why Native Plants?



Why Native Plants?



NATIVES VS CULTIVARS



IMPORTANT: Cultivars/Nativars and hybrids are **not reimbursed by Lawns to Legumes**. These are **genetically modified for aesthetics or other traits**.

While they are beautiful and add nice pops of color to your garden, they often produce less pollen and nectar, or none at all. This defeats the purpose of creating pollinator habitat, therefore, they are not reimbursed.

Cultivars usually have single quotes around the last part of their name. Hybrids have an "X" in their name.

Examples

- Agastache 'Blue Fortune', Blue Fortune anise hyssop
- Aquilegia X caerulea 'Origami Red & White', Origami Red & White columbine



Tips

- Shop at a native plant nursery instead of a chain store
- Check the plant tag! Look for quotations and whimsical names

 =native

 =cultivar

Why Native Plants?

MN Native



Echinacea angustifolia
Narrow-leaved Purple
Coneflower



Aquilegia canadensis
Columbine



Physocarpus opulifolius
Ninebark

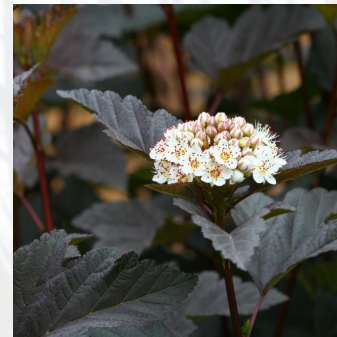
Not Native or Cultivar



Echinacea purpurea
Eastern Purple Coneflower



Aquilegia 'Swan Blue
and White'



Physocarpus opulifolius 'Donna May'
Little Devil™ Ninebark

The Lawns to Legumes Program: Three Components



- Public Education and Outreach Campaign

- Individual Resident Support:

→ 2,000 Spring 2023 grantees were notified of their selection on February 3rd

- Demonstration Neighborhoods

Two types
of grants



Lawns to Legumes

Individual Support

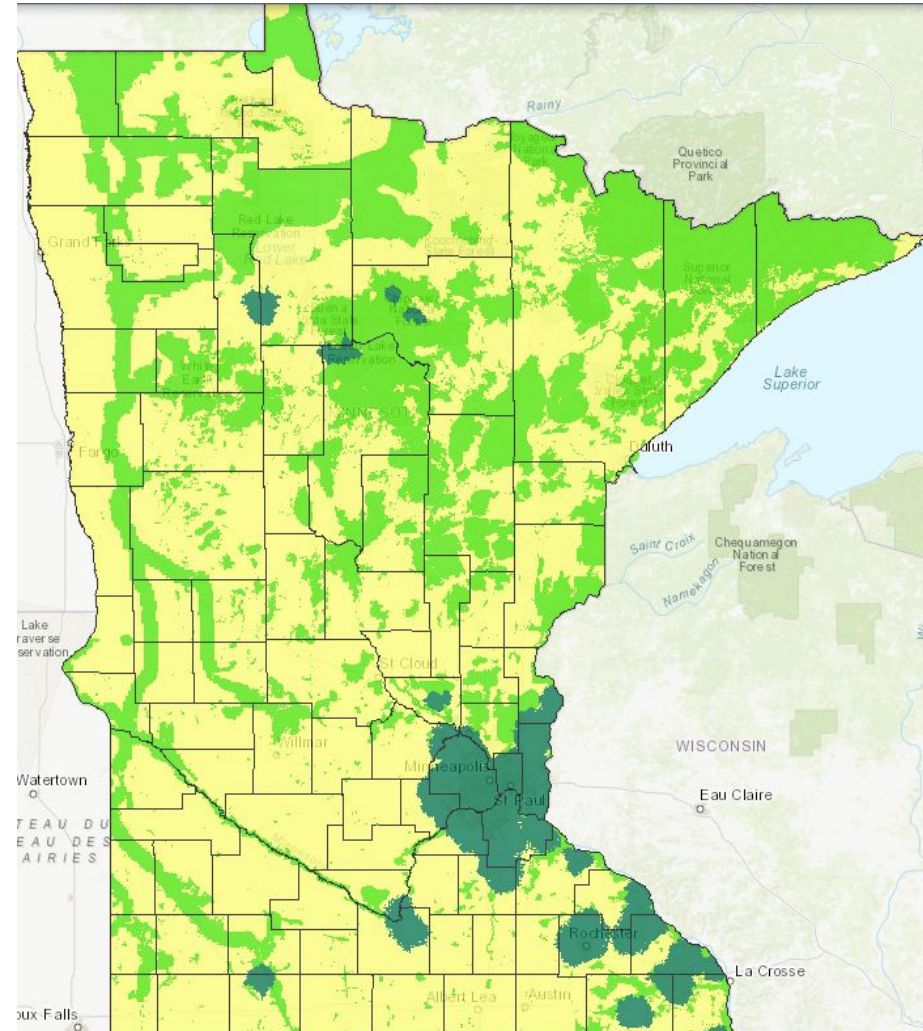


Residential Cost-Share: \$350
cost share reimbursement for
Spring 2023 cohort

Requirements for funding:

- Maintaining projects at least 3 years
- Using locally adapted/ local origin native vegetation
- Protecting projects from pesticides
- Submit before/after images, mapping project, receipts, 25% match for reimbursement

Priority Areas



Lawns to Legumes:

Grant Basics



Basic steps to a successful grant project:

- ☒ Confirm participation in program
- ☐ Plan your project

Plan your project:

Choosing project type

Four Project Types:

← 1) Native Pocket Plantings

Variations:

A. Raingardens

B. Boulevard Plantings

C. Lakeshore Buffer

2) Pollinator Beneficial Trees and Shrubs →

← 3) Pollinator Lawns

4) Pollinator Meadows →



Plan your project:

Project types

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.



Plan your project:

Project types

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



Plan your project:

Project types

3) Pollinator Lawns

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



Plan your project:

Project types

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

Plan your project: Design Elements



- You may want to incorporate more elements into your project; stones, and other edging materials look nice and can help frame your garden.
- Mulch and edging are eligible project expenses.

Plan your project: Choosing Plant Species

- How much sunlight is there?
- What is the soil moisture of the site?
- Do you have blooming flowers throughout the growing season (3 species in spring, summer, and fall)?



Plants for the Rusty Patched Bumblebee

Pollinator Superfoods

Herbaceous Species

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Light	Soil	Height'
Spring	Red Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	sun to shade	dry	3
	Wild Geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	full to part sun	dry to mesic	1 to 2
	Virginia Waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i>	full to part shade	mesic	1 to 2
	Wild Lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	full sun	dry	2
	Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	full to part shade	mesic	2
	Wood Betony	<i>Pedicularis canadensis</i>	full to part sun	dry to mesic	1
	Shooting Star species	<i>Primula spp</i>	full to part sun	mesic	1
Summer	Giant Hyssop species	<i>Agastache spp</i>	full to part sun	dry	4
	Milkweed species	<i>Asclepias spp</i>	full to part sun	dry to mesic	2 to 4
	Wild White Indigo	<i>Baptisia alba</i>	full sun	dry	4 to 5
	Cream Indigo	<i>Baptisia bracteata</i>	full sun	dry	2
	White Prairie Clover	<i>Dalea candida</i>	full sun	dry	1 to 3
	Purple Prairie Clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	full sun	dry	1 to 3
	Coneflower species	<i>Echinacea spp</i>	full to part sun	dry	3 to 4
	Joe Pye	<i>Eutrochium spp</i>	full to part sun	mesic	4 to 6
	Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	sun to shade	mesic to wet	2 to 5
	Blazingstar species	<i>Liatris spp</i>	full sun	dry to mesic	2 to 4
	Bee Balm	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	full to part sun	dry to mesic	3 to 4
	Beardtongue species	<i>Penstemon spp</i>	full to part sun	dry	1 to 3
	Mountain Mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	full to part sun	dry to mesic	3
	Culver's Root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	full to part sun	mesic	6
Fall	Native Field Thistle	<i>Cirsium discolor</i>	full sun	dry to mesic	3 to 7
	Native Swamp Thistle	<i>Cirsium muticum</i>	full to part sun	mesic to wet	3 to 8
	Gentian species	<i>Gentiana spp</i>	full to part sun	dry to mesic	2 to 3
	Goldenrod species	<i>Solidago spp</i>	full to part sun	dry	2 to 5
	New England Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum novae-anglia</i>	full to part sun	mesic	3 to 6

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”



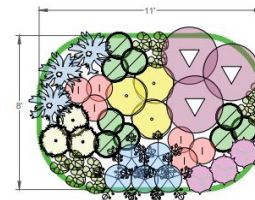


NATIVE GARDEN TEMPLATE

SHADE + 75 SF

Metro Blooms
651.699.2426
P.O. Box 17099
Minneapolis, MN 55417
www.metroblooms.org

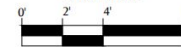
PLANTING PLAN



PLANT LIST

ICON	QTY	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	HT	SPACING	BLOOM
11	11	Wild Ginger	Asarum canadense	6"	1'	Apr-May
5	5	Jacob's Ladder	Polemonium reptans	1'	1'	Apr-June
3	3	Wild Geranium	Geranium maculatum	1'-2'	1'	May-June
3	3	Big-Leaved Aster	Aster macrophyllus	1'-2'	18"	Aug-Sept
3	3	Tall Thimbleweed	Anemone virginiana	1'-2'	18"	June-Aug
3	3	Zig Zag Goldenrod	Solidago flexicaulis	1'-3'	18"	Aug-Oct
9	9	Bottlebrush Grass	Elymus hystrix	2'-3'	1'	July-Sept
6	6	Columbine	Aquilegia canadensis	2'-3'	1'	May-July
3	3	Rose Turtlehead	Chelone lyonii 'Hot Lips'	2'-4'	2'	July-Sept

GRAPHIC SCALE



PLANTING NOTES

- If your native garden is a different shape than shown on this plan, that's ok. These notes will help you place the plants in the right spots.
- Consider where you will view the garden from when placing plants.
- Plant in clusters or groups of 3 or more.
- Put shorter plants near the outer edge.
- Put taller plants near the back or center.
- Use the plant list as a guide for heights. It is organized from shortest to tallest plants.
- Have fun. Don't stress. Enjoy your new garden and pollinator guests!

PLANT PHOTOS



Lawns to Legumes

Grant Basics



Basic steps to a successful grant project:

- ☒ Confirm participation in program
- ☒ Plan your project
- ☐ Install your project

Install your project: Prepare your project site

- Remove sod
- Turn, loosen and rake soil
- Use mulch and/or other weed suppression practice (no chemicals)
- We recommend mulching your new garden



Install your project:

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
- Learn about these site preparation methods and more with the Xerces Society guide to Organic Site Preparation



Install your project: Native Pocket Plantings



- 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 and 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 Lawns*

Basic Example and Instructions

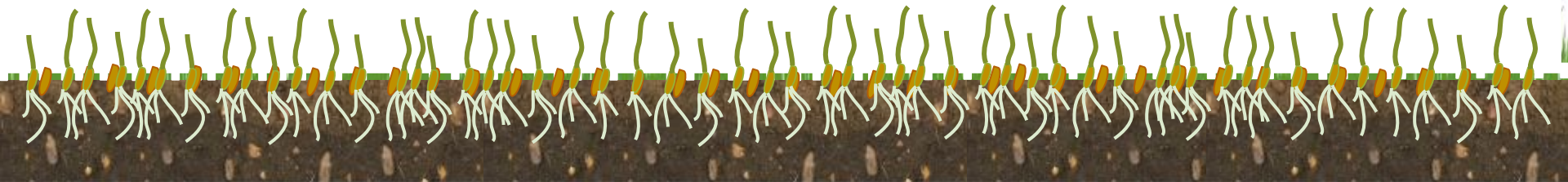
*If the lawn doesn't have a bunch of creeping charlie or other aggressive invasives that will spread, this method may be right for you:

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

Install your project:

Pollinator Lawns

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

Bit-by-bit: 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
- Protect against erosion
- Get some friends to help out

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?



Lawns to Legumes

Grant Basics

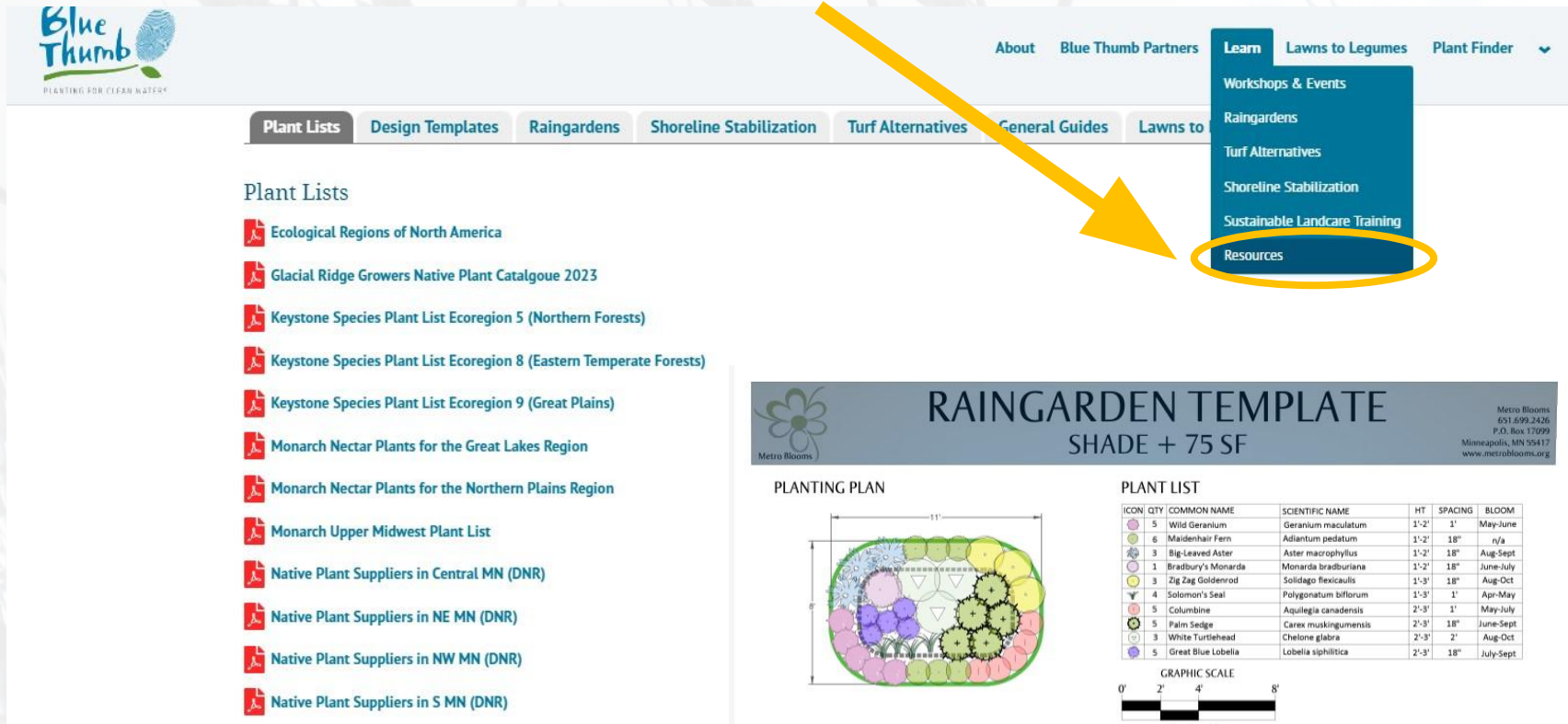


Basic steps to a successful grant project:

- ☒ Confirm participation in program
- ☒ Plan your project
- ☒ Install your project
- ☐ Resources to help
- ☐ Submit your reimbursement request

Online Resources: Planting Guides + Plant Lists

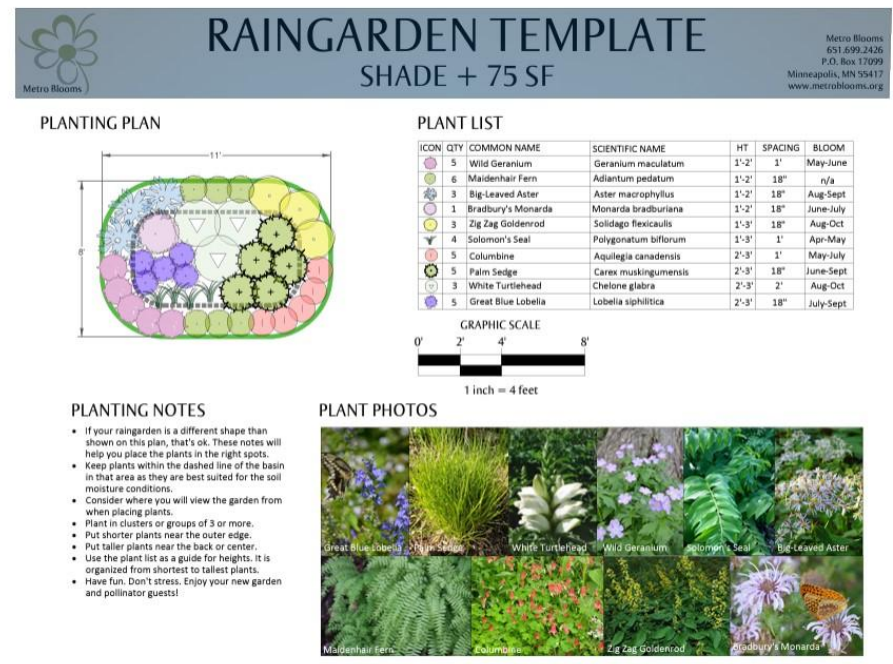
Visit Blue Thumb's Resources webpage at
<https://bluethumb.org/public-resources/>



The screenshot shows the Blue Thumb website interface. The 'Learn' dropdown menu is open, and the 'Resources' link is circled in orange. A yellow arrow points from the URL above to the 'Resources' link. The website header includes 'About', 'Blue Thumb Partners', 'Learn', 'Lawns to Legumes', and 'Plant Finder'. The main navigation bar includes 'Plant Lists', 'Design Templates', 'Raingardens', 'Shoreline Stabilization', 'Turf Alternatives', 'General Guides', and 'Lawns to'. The 'Plant Lists' section is active, showing a list of resources including 'Ecological Regions of North America', 'Glacial Ridge Growers Native Plant Catalogue 2023', 'Keystone Species Plant List Ecoregion 5 (Northern Forests)', 'Keystone Species Plant List Ecoregion 8 (Eastern Temperate Forests)', 'Keystone Species Plant List Ecoregion 9 (Great Plains)', 'Monarch Nectar Plants for the Great Lakes Region', 'Monarch Nectar Plants for the Northern Plains Region', 'Monarch Upper Midwest Plant List', 'Native Plant Suppliers in Central MN (DNR)', 'Native Plant Suppliers in NE MN (DNR)', 'Native Plant Suppliers in NW MN (DNR)', and 'Native Plant Suppliers in S MN (DNR)'.

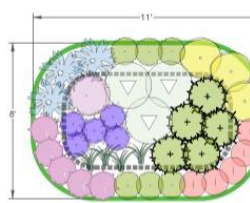
Your go-to page for:

- plant lists
- design templates
- project guides



RAINGARDEN TEMPLATE
 SHADE + 75 SF


PLANTING PLAN



PLANT LIST

ICON	QTY	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	HT	SPACING	BLOOM
5	5	Wild Geranium	Geranium maculatum	1'-2'	1'	May-June
6	6	Maidenhair Fern	Adiantum pedatum	1'-2'	18"	n/a
3	3	Big-Leaved Aster	Aster macrophyllus	1'-2'	18"	Aug-Sept
1	1	Bradbury's Monarda	Monarda bradburiana	1'-2'	18"	June-July
3	3	Zig Zag Goldenrod	Solidago flexicaulis	1'-3'	18"	Aug-Oct
4	4	Solomon's Seal	Polygonatum biflorum	1'-3'	1'	Apr-May
5	5	Columbine	Aquilegia canadensis	2'-3'	1'	May-July
5	5	Palm Sedge	Carex muskingumensis	2'-3'	18"	June-Sept
3	3	White Turtlehead	Chelone glabra	2'-3'	2'	Aug-Oct
5	5	Great Blue Lobelia	Lobelia siphilitica	2'-3'	18"	July-Sept

GRAPHIC SCALE




1 inch = 4 feet

PLANTING NOTES

- If your raingarden is a different shape than shown on this plan, that's ok. These notes will help you place the plants in the right spots.
- Keep plants within the dashed line of the basin in that area as they are best suited for the soil moisture conditions.
- Consider where you will view the garden from when placing plants.
- Plant in clusters or groups of 3 or more.
- Put shorter plants near the outer edge.
- Put taller plants near the back or center.
- Use the plant list as a guide for heights. It is organized from shortest to tallest plants.
- Have fun. Don't stress. Enjoy your new garden and pollinator guests!

PLANT PHOTOS



Online Resources: Planting Guides + Plant Lists

Visit Blue Thumb's Resources webpage at
<https://bluethumb.org/public-resources/>

Make sure to download the **Planting for Pollinators Design Guide!!**

- VERY thorough project guide made for L2L grantees!


Blue Thumb
PLANTING FOR CLEAN WATER

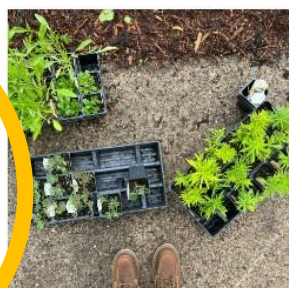
About Blue Thumb Partners Learn Lawns to Legumes Plant Finder


Workshops & Events
Raingardens
Turf Alternatives
Shoreline Stabilization
Sustainable Landcare Training
Resources


Explore the tabs below for free downloads on a variety of topics related to planting for clean water and pollinators. For guides on specific planting projects, you can also visit our [Raingardens](#), [Shoreline Stabilization](#), [Turf Alternatives](#), and [DIY Planting Guide](#) pages.

Featured Resources

 **Planting for Pollinators**
Guiding Principles and Design Concepts for Residential Pollinator Habitat
Planting for Pollinators Design Guide






 Native Plants Nurseries/Retailers List

 Monarch Upper Midwest Plant List

 Rusty Patched Bumblebee List

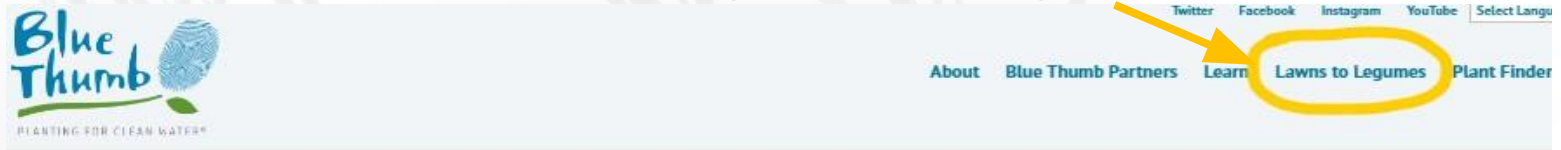
Plant Lists Design Templates Raingardens Shoreline Stabilization Turf Alternatives General Guides Lawns to Legumes Guides

Lawns to Legumes Guides

-  [Creating Pollinator Habitat Presentation 4.20.22](#)
-  [Eligible Expenses and Acceptable Vegetation](#)
-  [Garden Maintenance Guide](#)
-  [Individual Example Reimbursement Boulevard](#)
-  [Individual Example Reimbursement Pocket Garden](#)

Online Resources: Planting Guides

<https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/>



Lawns to Legumes

Click on a button below to get started.



About



DIY Planting Guide



Apply for a Grant



Map Your Project



Grantee Guide



Coaching Information

Check out the **DIY Planting Guide** and **Grantee Guide** on Blue Thumb's L2L webpage for project guidance!

Online Resources: Native Nurseries

Download the **Native Plants Nurseries & Retailers List** on the DIY Planting Guide webpage!



About Blue Thumb Partners Learn

Lawns to Legumes Plant Finder

About Lawns to Legumes

Apply for Lawns to Legumes Assistance

DIY Planting Guide

Grantee Guide

Coaching Information

Request Reimbursement

Map Your Pollinator Project

Step 2: Plan

Choose a project type and location. What project type best suits your goals and space?

- › Pocket Planting
- › Pollinator Lawns
- › Pollinator Meadows
- › Trees and Shrubs
- › Shoreline Stabilization

Next, choose your plants and other materials.

To choose your plants, check out our [Resources](#) page for plant lists and design guides. Try out our [Plant Finder](#) tool to search for plants based on color, bloom months, light and soil moisture requirements, and more.

Then, find a source to purchase plants and materials. If you need help, this [Native Plants Nurseries & Retailers List](#) may be helpful.

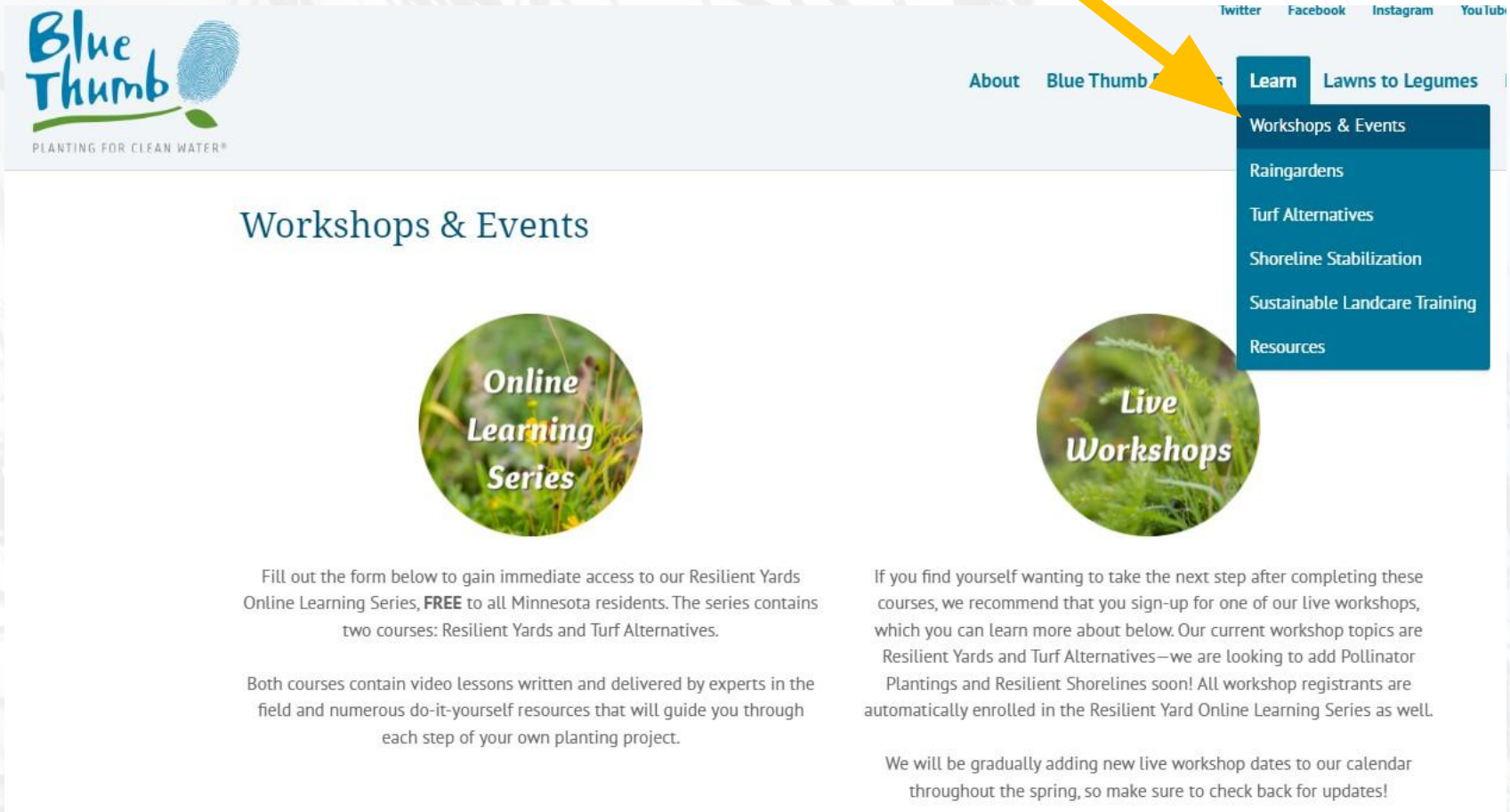
KEY: has online ordering offers plant kits or mixes sells trees or shrubs

PRAIRIE RESTORATIONS	
31646 128th St. Princeton, MN 55371 763-631-9458 www.prairieresto.com	 offers delivery
TWIN CITY SEED COMPANY	
Sold in-store at retail partner locations, see website 952-944-7105 www.twincityseed.com	 offers delivery
MORNING SKY GREENERY	
44804 East Highway 28 Morris, MN 56267 320-795-6234 www.morningskygreenery.com	 offers delivery

<https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/plant-for-pollinators/>

Online Resources: Workshops

Go to <https://bluethumb.org/events/> to access the **FREE Resilient Yards Online Learning Series** or to sign up for a live workshop!



Blue Thumb
PLANTING FOR CLEAN WATER®

Twitter Facebook Instagram YouTube

About Blue Thumb **Learn** Lawns to Legumes

Workshops & Events

Raingardens


Turf Alternatives

Shoreline Stabilization

Sustainable Landcare Training

Resources


Workshops & Events



Online Learning Series

Fill out the form below to gain immediate access to our Resilient Yards Online Learning Series, **FREE** to all Minnesota residents. The series contains two courses: Resilient Yards and Turf Alternatives.

Both courses contain video lessons written and delivered by experts in the field and numerous do-it-yourself resources that will guide you through each step of your own planting project.



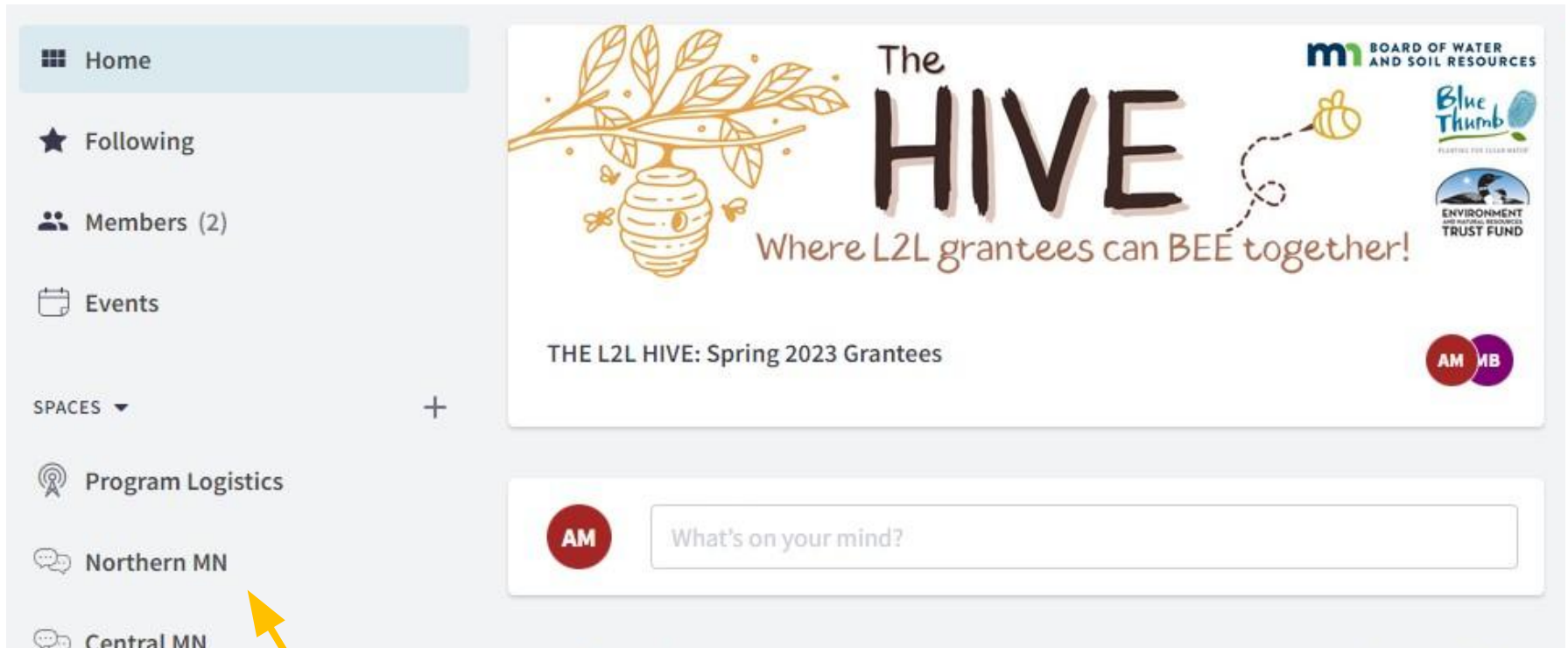
Live Workshops

If you find yourself wanting to take the next step after completing these courses, we recommend that you sign-up for one of our live workshops, which you can learn more about below. Our current workshop topics are Resilient Yards and Turf Alternatives—we are looking to add Pollinator Plantings and Resilient Shorelines soon! All workshop registrants are automatically enrolled in the Resilient Yard Online Learning Series as well.

We will be gradually adding new live workshop dates to our calendar throughout the spring, so make sure to check back for updates!

New Resource: The Hive!

All grantees will have access to "The Hive"! A new community platform for grantees to connect.



- Connect with each other in your region's "space"!
- Share resources, get answers from coaches, and get program updates from L2L staff

Lawns to Legumes

Grant Basics



Basic steps to a successful grant project:

- ☒ Confirm participation in program
- ☒ Plan your project
- ☒ Install your project
- ☒ Resources to help
- ☐ Submit your reimbursement request

Reimbursements

When you have completed your planting project, make sure to map your project and submit a reimbursement request!



You can access the reimbursement page from the Lawns to Legumes drop-down menu on the Blue Thumb site

<https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/grantee-guide/request-reimbursement/>

Eligible Expenses



- Native plants, trees and shrubs or bee lawn seed (at least 70% project costs)
- Wood mulch, compost, edging
- Delivery fees
- Contractor installation or DIY equipment rental
- Renters Only: Planters or raised bed materials (up to \$100).

Receipts *must* be legible and show that you've purchased items that are eligible for reimbursement *after* February 3rd, 2023

Document Your Match



- Grantees must provide a 25% match to whatever amount of funding they request reimbursed.
- For a full \$350 reimbursement, they must provide at least \$87.50 in match in eligible expenses.
- Grantees can provide that match through:
 - the documentation of extra eligible expenses
 - the documentation of time spent planning, planting, and maintaining your project, with each hour valued at \$25.
 - Or some mix of the two options
- On the reimbursement form, you can submit additional receipts and/or note the dates and approximate hours you spent working on the project.

Take before and after pictures



Before Pictures

- 2-4 simple shots from far enough away to establish some context
- Make a note of where you took the pictures from, you can even mark it on your site plan
- After snow melts



After Pictures

- Try to take them from the same general location and vantage point as your “before” pictures so they are easy to compare
- Your project might not be “beautiful” yet, we just need to see the components of your project you are asking to be reimbursed (plants, seeded area or sprouting seeds, other eligible materials).



Timeline

Lawns to Legumes Grant Program 2023



- **February 3rd:** 2,000 Spring Cohort grantees selected and notified
- Grantees attend workshops/webinars
 - **March 7th, 6-8pm:** *Resilient Shorelines*
 - **March 14th, 12-1pm:** *Resilient Yards*
 - **March 21st, 6-7:30pm:** *Turf Alternatives*
- Coach matching by **March 3**
- **Visit native nurseries** online and in person.
 - **Site Prep**
 - **Planting Season**
- **July 15th, 2023:** Project deadline, all reimbursements and supporting documents due
- Following reimbursement submission, we'll send you an L2L yard sign

The background of the slide is a close-up, low-angle shot of tall, thin blades of grass, possibly reeds or papyrus, reaching upwards. The grass is a light green color and is slightly out of focus, creating a soft, textured background. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Time for questions!

Lawns to Legumes: You Can Bee the Change

