

# *CLEAR CHOICES CLEAN WATER NATIVE PLANTS*

Last month we talked about using less fertilizer on your lawn... Now let's talk about what you **SHOULD** add to your lawn, native plants! There are so many benefits that come with using native plants in your landscape. That's why we are spending a whole month talking about them!

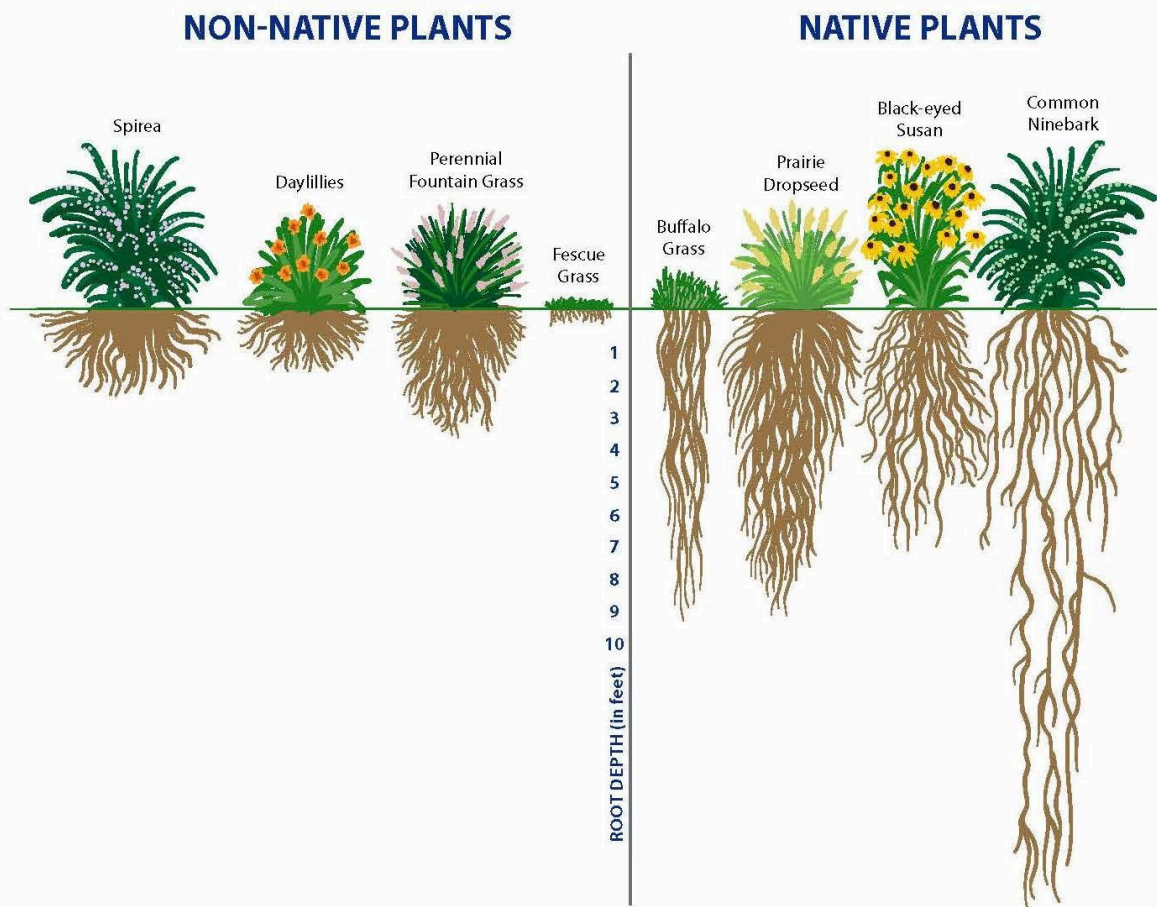
Learn more at <https://indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org/pledges/lawns/>  
#cleanwater #nativeplants #roots



As shown in the graphic, native plant root systems have much larger than non-native plants. These big root systems are one of the reasons why native plants are so resistant in tough growing conditions and our ever-changing climate. They are also great at absorbing water and often do not need extra water the way that many other non-native plants do. Native plants and their large root systems will save you water and money!

Pledge to plant natives in your lawn at

<https://indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org/pledges/native-plants-and-pollinators/>  
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Another benefit of native plants' large root systems is that they help reduce ponding and flooding. When it rains, native plants help the water soak into the ground. The water that is soaking into the ground contains pollutants found in our yards like fertilizers, bacteria in dog poo, pesticides, oils, sediment, and other pollutants that come from our yards. The native plants not only aid in the infiltration of the polluted water into the ground, but they also filter out the pollutants found in the water preventing pollution from running to our waterways.

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A rain garden is a garden of comprised of native shrubs, perennials, and flowers planted in a small depression. It is designed to temporarily hold and soak in stormwater runoff that flows from roofs, driveways, patios, lawns, or other hard (impervious) surfaces, preventing it from entering the storm sewer system. Soil and plant roots use natural processes to improve water quality by filtering pollutants out!





A native shoreline planting is an area of native grasses and perennial flowers planted adjacent to a pond, lake, reservoir, stream, or river. Some plants, called aquatic emergent plants, grow in the water, while others grow on the banks above the waterline. Some benefits include:

1. Holding soil in place and reducing shoreline erosion
2. Absorbing and filtering pollutants before they flow into the water
3. Providing habitat for beneficial wildlife
4. Reducing mowing and maintenance
5. Discouraging waterfowl

