

In the U.S. there are lots of different types of flowers, shrubs, and trees. Some are **natives** and some are **exotics** or **non-natives** or **introduced** plants.

Natives are plants which, over thousands of years, have evolved to interact healthily with local insects and animals. **Natives** are hardier and need less maintenance and water, and no pesticides and fertilizers.





Exotics/non-natives/introduced plants are from Asia, Europe, South America, and other places. Many were brought here intentionally, and some snuck into the U.S. A major issue with some of these **exotics/non-natives/introduced** plants is that, even though they are pretty, they are harmful. For example, that sweet-smelling **non-native** honeysuckle with the cheerful red berries in your backyard poisons the soil so that other plants cannot grow. Also, those berries have hardly any nutrition; they are basically a sugary snack. So, if the honeysuckle has replaced healthy native berries, birds are forced to eat what is basically junk food.

Another example is from research by the insect expert Doug Tallamy. He has shown that native oak trees support over 500 species of caterpillars, whereas ginkgos, a commonly planted landscape tree from Asia, host only 5 species of caterpillars. When it takes over 6,000 caterpillars to raise one brood of chickadees, that is a significant difference.

So, you might be asking, what can I do? You don't need to pull out all your **exotics/non-natives/introduced** plants and grasses but start adding **natives** to your yard. The following list will help you!

Video [Honeysuckle Invasive Species \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Plant This, NOT That!

Instead of....	Plant This...
<p>Bamboo (Asian or Mexican)</p>	<p>Giant Cane Grass (<i>Arundinaria gigantea</i>)</p>
	
<p>Bradford (Callery) Pear</p>	<p>American Plum</p>
	

Bradford
(Callery)
Pear



Blackhaw
Viburnum
(*Viburnum
prunifolium*)



Bradford
(Callery)
Pear



Serviceberry
(*Amelachier
laevis*)



Burning Bush



Chokeberry
(*Aronia prunifolia*)



Burning Bush



Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)



Barberry



Beautyberry
(Callicarpa
americana)



Butterfly
Bush



New Jersey Tea
(Ceanothus
americanus)



Butterfly Bush



Virginia Sweetspire (*itea virginica*)



Butterfly Bush



Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)



Butterfly
Bush



Whorled
Milkweed
(*Asclepias
verticillata*)



Wisteria



American
Wisteria
(*Wisteria
frutescens*)



English Ivy



Virginia Creeper
(Parthenocissus
quinquefolia)



Miscanthus
Grasses



Little Bluestem
(Schizachyrium
scoparium)



Miscanthus
Grasses



Prairie Dropseed
(Sporobolus
heterolepis)



Honeysuckle
es



Passion flower
(Passiflora
incarnata)



Vinca



Canadian Anemone (Anemone canadensis)



Vinca



Wild Blue Phlox (Phlox divaricate)



Privet



Blackhaw
(*Virbumum
prunifolium*)



Privet



Black
Chokeberry
(*Aronia
melanocarpa*)



Orange Daylilies



Common Coreopsis (Coreopsis grandiflora)



Multiflora Rose



Prairie Rose (Rosa setigera)

