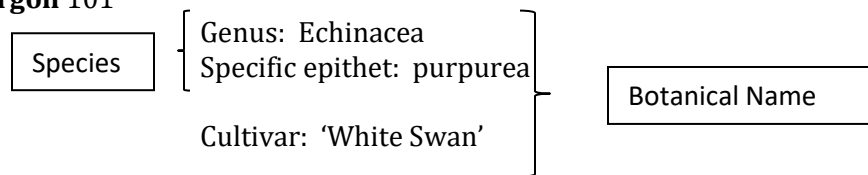# Gardening: Going Native

1. **Class Objectives**: Goal to be a more natural gardener, recognizing native vs. non-native; habitat, plants for your Garden; phenology

2. **Moving towards Natural:** Use and appreciation of native plants, Natural alternative to manicured lawns, Help preserve native species and habitat, Environmental considerations, Purist vs.Moderation

3. **Definitions**: Native vs. Non-Native, Exotics, Invasive

4. **Superior Mixed Forest:** Continental climate – cold winters, warm summers, originally mixed conifer-hardwood forest of spruce, fir, cedar, hemlock, tamarack, pine, birch, maple, poplar

5. **Gardon Jargon** 101

   Species

   Genus: Echinacea
   Specific epithet: purpurea

   Cultivar: 'White Swan'

   Botanical Name

6. **Creating Natural Habitats**: Plant to suit natural topography, Shield from winds, Plants to suit the animals you want to attract, Strive for diverse plantings, Coordinate habitat with water use, Locate food plants and feeders by shelter, Don't use inorganic pesticides, Arrange plant to lead shy wildlife closer, Supplement food plants

7. **Native Garden Tips**: Maintain at least a small area of grass, Cut back plants in fall, burn every three years or mow 1/3 each year on a rotating basis, Prune trees and shrubs so they grow more open, like nursery-grown trees, Limit your number of species; avoid excessively tall plants, Plant in clumps for a natural look, Use clump-forming plants rather than spreaders

8. **Planting Tips to Attract Wildlife**: Plant around a backbone of native, non-invasive plants, Preserve tall trees, Create vertical niches, Plant for seasonal sequences for food sources throughout the year, Create habitat niches

9. **Beneficial Bugs & Toads**: Plantings to attract beneficial bugs: daisy, sunflower, carrot, peas, legumes, spinach, oaks: Toad habitat:Like a dark damp place, Under logs, boards, Need 2 small openings, Fond of water

10. **Pollinators**: Bees, Butterflies, Moths, Beetles, Flies, Birds, Bats; Food: plant in groups to increase efficiency, Plant with bloom season in mind, Plant a variety, Herbs and annuals (even though non-native) are good pollinators, Recognize weeds as a food source, Avoid pesticides

11. **Pollinators**: Water and Shelter, Provide layers of plants, Leave dead snags for nesting sites, Build bee boxes, Leave some area of soil uncovered, Group plantings, Add water features, Water sources include shallow or sloping side

12. **Butterfly Gardens** -- Best colors: red, yellow, orange, pink and purple ; Full sun; Easy eating with short tubes or long, flat petals; Provide windbreaks

13. **Butterfly favorites** -- Perennials: Yarrow, Bee Balm, Shasta Daisy, Coreopsis, Verbena, Phlox, Coneflower, Butterfly weed; Annuals: Zinnias, Dill, Cosmos, Petunia, Goldenrod, Morning Glory, Sweet Alyssum, Cleome, Marigold; Host Plants: Borage, Dill, Snapdragon, Nasturtium, Parsley, Fennel, Butterfly Weed, Clover, Violets, Milkweed, Hollyhock

14. **Hummingbirds**: Attracted to red, but also pink, rose, orange and purple; Deep tubular flowers; Feeders – (4 parts water to 1 part sugar (5:1, 7:1 ok), boil for 2 minutes. No color needed)

15. **For the Birds**: Flower Gardens, Composting Leaves, Ground cover, Rough Grass, Small shrubs, Consistent source of food, water, shelter; Think vertically, Avoid pesticides, excess fertilizer

16. **Native Trees for Wildlife**: Paper Birch, American Beech, Pin Cherry, Best Conifers: Eastern Red Cedar, Eastern arborvitae, White spruce, Eastern hemlock, Common juniper

17. **Native Trees best for landscape use**: Acer species (maples), Betula species (birch), Carpinus caroliniana (blue beech), Celtis occidentalis (hackberry), Quercus species (oaks), Tilia americana (basswood, linden)

18. **Native Conifers**: Juniper, Balsam fir, White Spruce, White Pine, White cedar-arborvitae,

19. **Native Shrubs for Wildlife**: Bearberry, Red-osier Dogwood, Winterberry, Spicebush, Blackberry, Raspberry, Highbush Cranberry, Serviceberry

20. **Native Landscape Shrubs**: Amelanchier species (serviceberries); Ilex verticillata (winterberry); Physocarpus opulifolius cultivars (ninebark); Potentilla fruticosa cultivars (shrubby cinquefoil); Prunus nigra 'Princess Kay' (Canada plum); Viburnum species (viburnums)

21. **Native Perennials for Wildlife**: Wild Columbine, New England Aster, Bee Balm, Black-eyed Susan, Violets

22. **Full Sun Native Perennials**: Generally do not like heavy clay soils, Many will tolerate shade in morning or late afternoon, For success need sun between 9am and 3pm, Appreciate organic matter

23. **Bee Balm:** Monarda, Wild bergamot; 15-48 inches tall; Flowers bloom early to mid-summer in red, pink, purple or white; Sun to part shade in well-drained, moist soil; Powery mildew can be a problem; Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees

24. **Coneflower**: Echinacea spp; Natives and hybrids; 2-3 ft tall and wide; Bloom July to August; Full sun, well-drained soil, drought tolerant; Reseed and hybridize easily: to keep the plants you started with, deadhead spent flowers or pull seedlings.

25. **Iris**: Native & Hybrids, Full sun, well-drained, Divide mid to late summer every 3-5 years for good blooms, Iris borer – remove foliage in fall, if brown streaks on leaves – dig rhizomes and dip in solution of 1 part bleach to 4 parts water

26. **Columbine**: Aquilegia, Self-seeder, cross hybrids easily, Hybrids tend to be short-lived, Full to part sun; moist, well-drained soil, Bloom in spring

27. **Butterly Weed**: Asclepias tuberosa, Native to dry prairies, Flowers from late spring to late summer, Attracts butterflies, Moist to dry soils in full sun to light shade, Mature plants tolerate dry soil

28. **Aster**: Aster novae-angliae, Native, fall-bloomer, Moist, average soil in full sun to part shade, Likes consistent moisture, Pinch back stems in late May for bushier plants, Divide plants in spring every 3rd year , Avoid too much nitrogen which results in floppy plants and abundant foliage

29. **Turtlehead**: Chelone, White turtlehead native to moist prairies, Evenly moist to wet, rich soil in full sun to light shade, Mature plants will tolerate dry spells, Bloom late summer and early fall, Plants spread by rhizomes but do not become invasive

30. **Joe-pye weed**: Eupatorium purpureum, Native to wet slopes, low prairies and woodlands, Prefers moist, average to rich soil in full sun to light shade, Tolerates drier conditions, Easy to grow once established, Divide in spring or fall, Reseeds, Plants too close may suffer from powdery mildew

31. **Obedient Plant**: Physostegia virginiana, Full sun to part shade, Moist, well-drained soil but will tolerate drier conditions and part shade, Showy native, fall flowers, Spreads aggressively by underground rhizomes, Plant in shade for less aggressive or plant 'Miss Manners' (white), 'Variegata' (pale pink), or 'Vivid' (Rose)

32. **Blazing Star or Gayfeather**: Liatris spicata, Native to prairies, savannas, Showing pink-purple flower spikes in summer, Moist, fertile, well-drained soil in full sun, Once established, somewhat drought resistant, Plants can reseed, Wisconsin's special concern list, Attracts bees, hummingbirds, butterflies

33. **Black-eyed Susan**: Rudbeckia hirta var. pulcherrima, Native in variety of WI habitats, Biennial or short-lived perennial, Blooms attract bees and butterflies, Winter interest, Adapts well to container culture, Sow seeds two years in a row for yearly blooming, once established plants will self-seed, Rich soils tend to produce weak-stemmed plants

34. **Spiderwort**: Tradescantia, Native to dry, sandy grasslands and open woodlands, Drought and heat tolerant, Plants may go dormant after flowering, cut foliage to ground after flowering to keep plants neat and halt seed production, Reseed and in fertile soil can become aggressive, Lean, well-drained soil in full sun or light shade

35. **Native Midwest Prairie Grasses**:
    -Tallgrass species: Big Bluestem, Switchgrass, Prairie Cordgrass
    -Midgrass Species: Little Bluestem, Prairie Dropseed, Sideoats Grama
    -Shortgrass Species: Buffalograss, Blue Grama

36. **Phenology**: Study of plant and animal life cycles and how these are influenced by seasons and variations in climate, Lilac is the cornerstone for observations, Chicory is a summer-blooming indicator plant, when first flowers open prevent damage from squash vine borer, Canada thistle in bloom, apple maggot adults are abundant and fruit should be protected

37. **Phenology Planting Tips**: Plant peas when forsythia blooms, Plant potatoes when the first dandelion blooms, Plant beets, carrots, cole crops, lettuce and spinach when lilac is in first leaf,

Plant corn when oak leaves are the size of a squirrel's ear, Plant bean, cucumber, and squash seeds when lilac is in full bloom; Plant tomatoes when lily-of-the-valley plants are in full bloom; Transplant eggplant, melons, and peppers when irises bloom.

38. **Observing and Recording**: Keep a garden journal, Organize data, Photography, Take note of first appearance of plant or birds or insects, Mark beginnings and endings (1st frost, temperature)

Resources
- ***A Guide to Natural Gardening***, Jim Knopf, Sally Wasowski, John Kadel Boring, Glenn Keator, Jane Scott, Erica Glasener, Fog City Press 1997
- www.wildones.org Website on native plants, natural landscapes
- https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/ DNR Invasive website
- www.pollinator.org download a free 'Pollinator Friendly Planting Guide'
- ***Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin***, Lynn M. Steiner