

# NATIVE PLANTS 101

What are native plants and why are they important?



## Approximate time needed:

25 minutes

## Grade level:

High school (9-12)

## Educator prep:

- Review [Native Plants 101 slideshow presentation](#), including speaker notes
- Watch ["Why Native Plants" video](#) (4:09)

## Materials needed:

- Method for presenting slideshow
- Digital needs
  - YouTube access
  - [Native Plants 101 slideshow presentation](#)
  - ["Why Native Plants" video](#)

## Essential student background information or skills needed:

- Baseline knowledge of plant anatomy (functions of roots, stems, leaves, flowers), life cycles, and pollination.

## Objective:

Students will understand the difference between native and non-native plants and be able to discuss the importance of native landscapes.

## Background Info for Educator:

- If you are unfamiliar with the topic, this U of M Extension page is a good primer on MN Native Plants: <https://extension.umn.edu/find-plants/native-plants>

## Activity Plan:

### Introduction:

**5 minutes**

- Begin class with the first slide of the [Native Plants 101 slideshow](#) pulled up on the screen.
- Ask students what they see in the photo. Encourage them to reflect on what they think it shows, how it makes them feel, what connections they make with the landscape. You could do this as a group, or ask students to write down their thoughts as the class gets settled.

### Present:

**10 minutes**

- Present slides 2-10 of the [Native Plants 101 slideshow](#) to the class. Use the speaker notes to elaborate on the content of the slideshow.
- Allow time for questions.
- Watch the ["Why Native Plants" video](#), linked on slide 11.

## **Closing:**

**10 minutes**

- As a class, discuss these questions:
  - What do you think has caused the decrease in native plant communities?
    - Example answers: urbanization, industrial agriculture, human population growth, introduction of invasive species, preference for lawns
  - What can you do to help increase native plant populations?

## **Potential Extensions**

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## **Potential Challenges**

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