

## THE BENEFITS OF LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS:

### Lower maintenance costs:

Plants that grow naturally in the Glacial Lake Albany Sandbelt are accustomed to the sandy, nutrient poor soils. Money can be saved over the long-term by reducing the need for fertilizers, irrigation systems and regular watering.

### Attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife:

Many native plants provide food and cover for birds, butterflies and other beneficial wildlife. Watching wildlife attracted to your native landscape is a fun and educational reward that will help counter the loss of important habitat.



### Beautify your property:

The aesthetic quality of native species is now being rediscovered. Native flowers bloom in a variety of colors throughout the spring and summer while trees and shrubs add beauty and distinction to lawns and gardens throughout the year.



Right: Woodland Sunflower

## THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM:

- Develop a local inventory of native plant resources to enable developers and residents to use native species for landscaping.
- Initiate the restoration of pine barrens species to disturbed or degraded natural sites.
- Invite local and regional nurseries to participate in growing and distributing native species.



Above: Butterfly Milkweed

### Glacial Lake Albany partners have:

- Collected seeds and cuttings for nurseries.
- Coordinated nursery production of native plants.
- Educated and coordinated landowners, developers and municipal planners in native plant use.
- Created and published an educational packet.
- Facilitated the use of native plants on a variety of public and private projects.

## Native Sandbelt Species

All need partial to full sun.

Includes Height, Bloom Time and Color

### NATIVE TREES

**Pitch pine** (*Pinus rigida*) 40-60ft

**Smooth shadbush** (*Amelanchier laevis*) 15-30ft, March-June, white

### NATIVE SHRUBS

**New Jersey tea** (*Ceanothus americanus*) 1.5-2.5ft, May-Sept, white

**Sweet fern** (*Comptonia peregrina*) 2ft, Apr-June

**Huckleberry** (*Gaylussacia baccata*) 2ft, May-June, pink

**Sand cherry** (*Prunus pumila* var. *susquehanae*) 1-2 ft, May-June, white

**Dwarf chestnut oak** (*Quercus prinoides*) 2-5ft

**Scrub oak** (*Quercus ilicifolia*) 3-8ft

**Carolina rose** (*Rosa carolina*) 1-2ft, June-July, pink

**Dwarf prairie willow** (*Salix humulis*) 1-4ft

**Dwarf upland willow** (*Salix tristis*) 1-3ft

**Early lowbush blueberry** (*Vaccinium pallidum*) .5-2ft, Apr-June

**Late lowbush blueberry** (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) .5-1ft, Apr-June

**Meadow-sweet** (*Spiraea latifolia*) 3ft, June-Sept, white/pink

### NATIVE WILDFLOWERS

**Spreading dogbane** (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*) 6-12in, June-Aug, pink

**Butterfly Milkweed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*) 2ft, June-Sept, orange

**Stiff-leaf aster** (*Aster linariifolius*) 3-8in, Aug-Oct, violet

**Late purple aster** (*Aster patens*) 6-12in, Aug-Oct, purple

**Woodland sunflower** (*Helianthus divaricatus*) 3-4ft, July-Oct, yellow

**Round-headed bush clover** (*Lespedeza capitata*) 3-4ft, Late July-Sept, ivory

**Wood lily** (*Lilium philadelphicum*) 2-3 ft, June-August, orange/red

**Wild blue lupine** (*Lupinus perennis*) 8-12 in, Apr-July, purple/blue

**Dotted horsemint** (*Monarda punctata*) 6-12in, July-Oct, pink/yellow

**Goat's rue** (*Tephrosia virginiana*) 6-12 in, May-Aug, yellow/pink

### NATIVE GRASSES/SEDGES

**Big bluestem** (*Andropogon gerardii*) 2-7 ft

**Pennsylvania sedge** (*Carex pensylvanica*) 3-6 in

**Little bluestem** (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) 2-4 ft

**Indian grass** (*Sorghastrum nutans*) 2-6 ft



Indian Grass

## Plants that threaten the Glacial Lake Albany Sandbelt

Many ornamental plants can be invasive and should be avoided. Substitute native plants when possible.

### Invasive Trees

Austrian pine, Big tooth aspen, Black locust, Box elder, Cottonwood, Norway maple, Tree of Heaven, Trembling aspen, White poplar

### Invasive Shrubs

Blackberry, Black raspberry, Buckthorn, Honeysuckle shrubs, Japanese barberry, Wild Red Raspberry, Ornamental Olives, Japanese knotweed, Multiflora rose

### Invasive Wildflowers

Bouncing bet, Celandine, Crown vetch, Hawkweed, Purple loosestrife, Black swallow-wort

### Invasive Vines

Honeysuckle vines, Wisteria, Oriental bittersweet, Porcelain-berry

### Invasive Grasses

Japanese stilt grass, Many common lawn grasses are highly invasive. When possible use native or non-invasive grasses.

## RETAIL NURSERIES GROWING NATIVE PLANTS

Species availability may vary.

Oligny's Creative Landscapes  
390 Wilton-Gansevoort Road  
Gansevoort, NY 12831  
518-745-7604  
www.olignys.com

Behn's Best Perennials  
689 Albany Turnpike  
Old Chatham, NY 12136  
518-766-9820  
www.behnsbestper.com

Saratoga Tree Nursery  
431 Route 50S  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
518-581-1439  
www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7127.html



Horsemint



Goat's Rue

## THE GLACIAL LAKE ALBANY SANDBELT...

In the heart of the Capital Region, remain several thousand acres of the Glacial Lake Albany Sandbelt, an area that once spread over 25,000 acres from Glens Falls to Newburgh.

This unique and special natural environment provides the community with valuable ecological, recreational, educational, and open space benefits.

The Sandbelt is home to many rare plants, animals and natural communities, hundreds of common, but no less worthy species, many people, businesses and jobs.

Located in the Sandbelt, the Albany Pine Bush Preserve and the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park contain important Karner blue butterfly habitat and represent one of the best remaining examples of an inland pitch pine-scrub oak barrens ecosystem left in the world.

Ecologists and local conservation organizations have long been interested in and encouraged the use of locally obtained (within 50 miles of the Sandbelt) native plant species for landscaping areas within the Glacial Lake Albany Sandbelt.



Left: Pitch Pine

## THE GLACIAL LAKE ALBANY NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION PROJECT

The Glacial Lake Albany Native Plant Restoration Project is making locally grown native plants available for landscaping existing and new developments and open space areas. The plants will also be used to support the restoration of wildlife habitat on thousands of acres. Above: Lowbush Blueberry



### Why use native plants?

Most developed areas are landscaped with plants that originate from far away places such as Norway, Austria, California, and Florida; these plants are considered **alien or exotic** species. In some cases, these alien plants aggressively push out the species that naturally grow there (known as **native** species). Such unnatural changes to the plant community degrade the health and quality of wildlife habitat. Above: Bittersweet



**Landscaping with native species can help slow the invasion of alien plants and soften impacts from development on surrounding natural communities and their residents.**

In 1999 The Nature Conservancy received a challenge grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support this initiative. Private partners making generous financial contributions are helping to raise the needed challenge funds and have been working closely with Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park, and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in this effort.



Working together, goals of environmental protection, sustainability and compatible economic development can be balanced and advanced. The program will support appropriate sensitive development that compliments efforts to protect and restore the rare and endangered plant and animal communities.

**COLLECTION OF PLANTS FROM THE WILD IS DISCOURAGED AND PROHIBITED IN SOME PLACES.**

For more information on how you can help promote the use of native species in New York State's Capital Region, please call the Albany Pine Bush Preserve (518) 456-0655 or the Wilton Wildlife Preserve & Park (518) 587-1939 x220.

# Landscaping with Native Plants in the Glacial Lake Albany Sandbelt



## Protecting a Rare Ecosystem

Illustrations by Noriko Meada  
Environmental Design and Research

