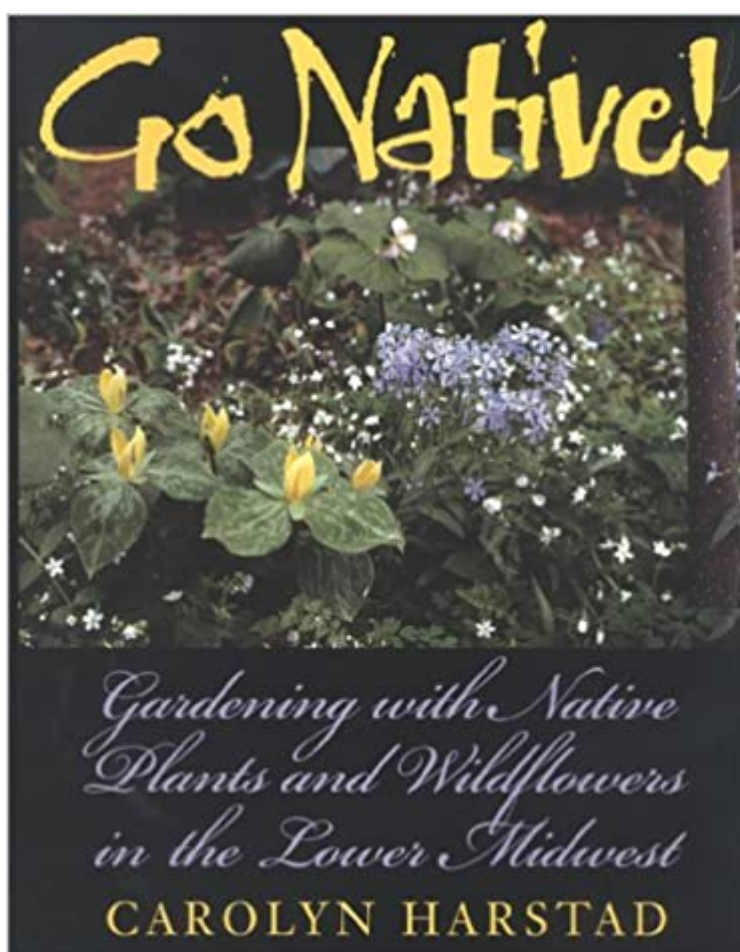


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# Go Native!: Gardening With Native Plants And Wildflowers In The Lower Midwest



## Synopsis

Finally: a guide to gardening with plants native to the lower Midwest! Using a simple Q & A format, this informative and user-friendly book offers advice on planning, site and soil preparation, garden design, plant selection, and propagation. Includes 125 illustrations and 100 color photos. A must-have for Midwestern gardeners.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Using a simple question and answer format, this informative and user-friendly book focuses on the Lower Midwest, and includes everything you need to know about gardening with plants and wildflowers native to the region." [Booked Solid with Virginia C \(Booked Solid with Virginia C\)](#)

CAROLYN HARSTAD has been gardening with native plants for many years. She is one of the founders of two successful organizations--the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (1993) and the Indianapolis Hosta Society (1986). She is a popular garden lecturer, nature photographer, certified Landscape Design Critic, and a regular contributor to several gardening newsletters. In 1990, Harstad wrote the wildflower guidelines, still used by 4-H members, to complete her certification as Advanced Master Gardener, Purdue University.

I can't tell you how many times I have referred to this book in just the short time I've had it. First,

when I started reading it, I couldn't put it down. After finishing it I still turn to various pages, chapters, sentences, to help me with my own wildlife habitat. Just a week ago, I noticed a new group of native plants that popped up in my bird/butterfly garden almost overnight. I didn't know what they were. "Go Native" actually had a drawing of them -- swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*). Great! This book has shown itself to be the bible of native gardeners in my opinion. D. Reinert, Shawnee, Ks.

This is an excellent guide to using native plants to garden in the lower Midwest. Because it focuses on a very specific local, individual species that will thrive, require less water, and less attention are mentioned. I want to plant species that will survive the dry spells and the cold winters resulting from climate change. Also, planting such species as milkweed can encourage local wildlife. Altogether a useful book.

I find this a useful book that I refer back to time to time, as I innately trust the author's advice. There is excellent info in here on a plant's propagation/division and planting requirements. I haven't found anything better. There are problems: 1) I wish it was more exhaustive in the number of plants it covers, although for a primer it picks really good candidates. 2) It commits the common sin of putting the photographs in their own section instead of with the text, substituting nearly useless line drawings next to the text. 3) The book is topically organized -- plants for shade, using ground cover, developing woodland gardens, etc. I find this rather annoying, and I can never find what I want right away. I'm forever referring to the index. 4) It's presented on cheap paper stock in an amateurish paragraph format, with no page divisions for different plants. This makes it needlessly difficult to use as a reference. In sum, there is a lot of great info in here, enough to recommend it. I just wish the layout was better.

Great info on plants native to southern midwest written in conversational, engaging style. Very helpful in planning my family's garden near Indianapolis!

"Go Native...", written more as warm personal narrative, is as extensive as an encyclopedia without being dry, includes superb drawings and gorgeous color photos. It is a great help if one personally chooses to prepare for the low maintenance stewardship of our natural "wildlife" environment, maybe heeding Thoreau's simple joys of nature. "Perhaps it is time for each of us to consider taking a single step" suggests Harstad. Even a modest land plot can be a natural theater of brilliantly sunlit landscape in constantly changing shadows and colors. Some, albeit greatly scaled down, might be

reminiscent of those scenes from the 19th Century landscape artists, such as the Hoosier Group and the Hudson River School, that at the beginning of the 20th Century inspired today's goals in Conservation and Habitat Preservation. Or, as I can imagine, your own "...Brigadoon...look in your heart and there it will be." Carolyn Harstad writes that native plants and wildflowers have the ability to thrive and survive on their own and when the "pioneers" came "...they wrote glowing reports... that the land through which they were traveling looked like an immense flower garden." Can we assume that similar sentiments inspired George Washington, Daniel Boone, Lewis and Clark among others of America's early visionaries? Here is a small but highly pertinent cross-cultural reference: Eva Cassidy sings of seasonal moods in her typically heartfelt manner: "Autumn Leaves", "Fields of Gold", "What a Wonderful World", and "Blue Skies" on the cd "Live at Blues Alley".

I do not usually write reviews at , but I felt compelled to do so after the unfair one-star reviews by people who appear to have not read the book! This is a great resource for gardeners who want to use native plants but are unsure of where to start. I have returned to this book over and over each year for advice, tips, and more ideas for planting native shrubs, trees, and perennials. My dad has been gardening for over fifty years, and he just picked this book off of my coffee table when he was visiting; he couldn't put the book down, and then he kept talking about the ideas and plant species in it for hours later. I just don't understand why someone would write a negative review of a book without having read it. The invasive, non-native plants are listed in the book as things to avoid, not as recommendations for planting.

I have read this book cover to cover several times. so I bought it instead of checking it from the library. Author is from Indianapolis, and gives lots of information for gardening in the Midwest. very easy to understand, and she lists NOT desirables at the end of each chapter.

I almost did not buy this book because of the 1 star reviews. Fortunately I was able to look more closely at the copy I checked out of the library to see that these reviewers were totally incorrect. The invasives and non-natives they referred to were in the "Outlaw the Outlaws" chapter. I found the book to be thoroughly researched and reviewed by experts - and a charming read!

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