

NATIVE PLANT MAINTENANCE

Since some species require more maintenance than others, maintaining a native landscape begins with the initial selection of plant species. All plants have a tendency to grow (get bigger) and procreate (self-sow or sucker); some more than others, so wise plant selection early-on is paramount.

As for maintenance, a little knowledge, a good pair of hand pruners and a shovel should be all you need and you can say good-bye to the internal combustion engine and all those poison sprays.

Unfortunately, most landscape companies don't train their people to do this kind of work because they don't know how to manage the plants much less identify them. Consequently, native plant landscape maintenance becomes a DIY proposition and a labor of love. The good news is that it requires nowhere near the time, effort or expense that traditional landscapes do. It does help to know a few guidelines and to have gotten off to a proper start and there's nothing like a good dose of knowledge to help get started right.

Each plant species will have its own prescription for care so tune in. Many of our favorite native species, especially the herbaceous annuals, perennials and biennials have a tendency to procreate, namely move quickly from flowering to bearing seeds, seeds that are very efficient at germinating and overpowering adjacent plantings.

Among them are:

- Scarlet Sage
- Leavenworth's Coreopsis
- Wild Petunia
- Blue Eyed Grass
- Blanket Flower
- Black-eyed susan
- Partridge Pea
- Spiderwort
- Ironweed
- Spotted Beebalm
- Snow Square-stem

Others transport themselves below ground and can pop up hither and yon:

- Sunshine Mimosa
- Passion Flower
- Oblongleaf Twinflower

October Daisy, Narrowleaf Sunflower
Florida Betony (considered a native weed)

Several Woody Plants are known to travel underground and sucker up nearby:

Simpson's Stopper
Walter's Viburnum
Sparkleberry