



John Oyston
North American Native Plant Society

Native Plants: Beautiful,
Important, Threatened

Native plants are important!





Time spent in natural areas soothes the soul, calms the brain, and promotes healing.









Native plants
are a source
of food.

Only plants
can convert
solar energy
into food.

CULTIVATION of NATIVE PLANTS

Began in North America with the First Nations
5,000 to 6,000 years ago.

Companion planting of “three sisters” –
Squash, maize and beans.

Wild native plants still used for human food:







UNCLE LUKE'S
TASTE GREAT! BEST GOUT!
SYRUP • SIROP

100% Pure / Pur
MAPLE SYRUP
CANADA No.1 MEDIUM
SIROP D'ERABLE

MACC
Serving Suggestion
Présentation suggérée

250 ml



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Native plants
are a source
of traditional
herbal
medicines

e.g. for restlessness
and sleep disorder,
St John's Wort from
*Hypericum
perforatum*





Echinacea – the medicine and the native plant



Evening primrose – the medicine and the native plant



Half of all medical drugs are derived from natural sources

DANGER PROHIBITED AREA
KEEP OUT
TRESPASSERS PROSECUTED
Misuse of Crop May Result in **DEATH**





Native trees
provide
lumber for
construction.

Ontario's Provincial Tree

Pinus strobus



No other tree has had such an impact on Ontario's history as the eastern white pine. It is the tree the province was built on.

... years ago, Great Britain needed lumber to build its navy. Eastern white pine made superior masts. They sought out and marked the tree as a provincial symbol into the 19th century.





..for furniture



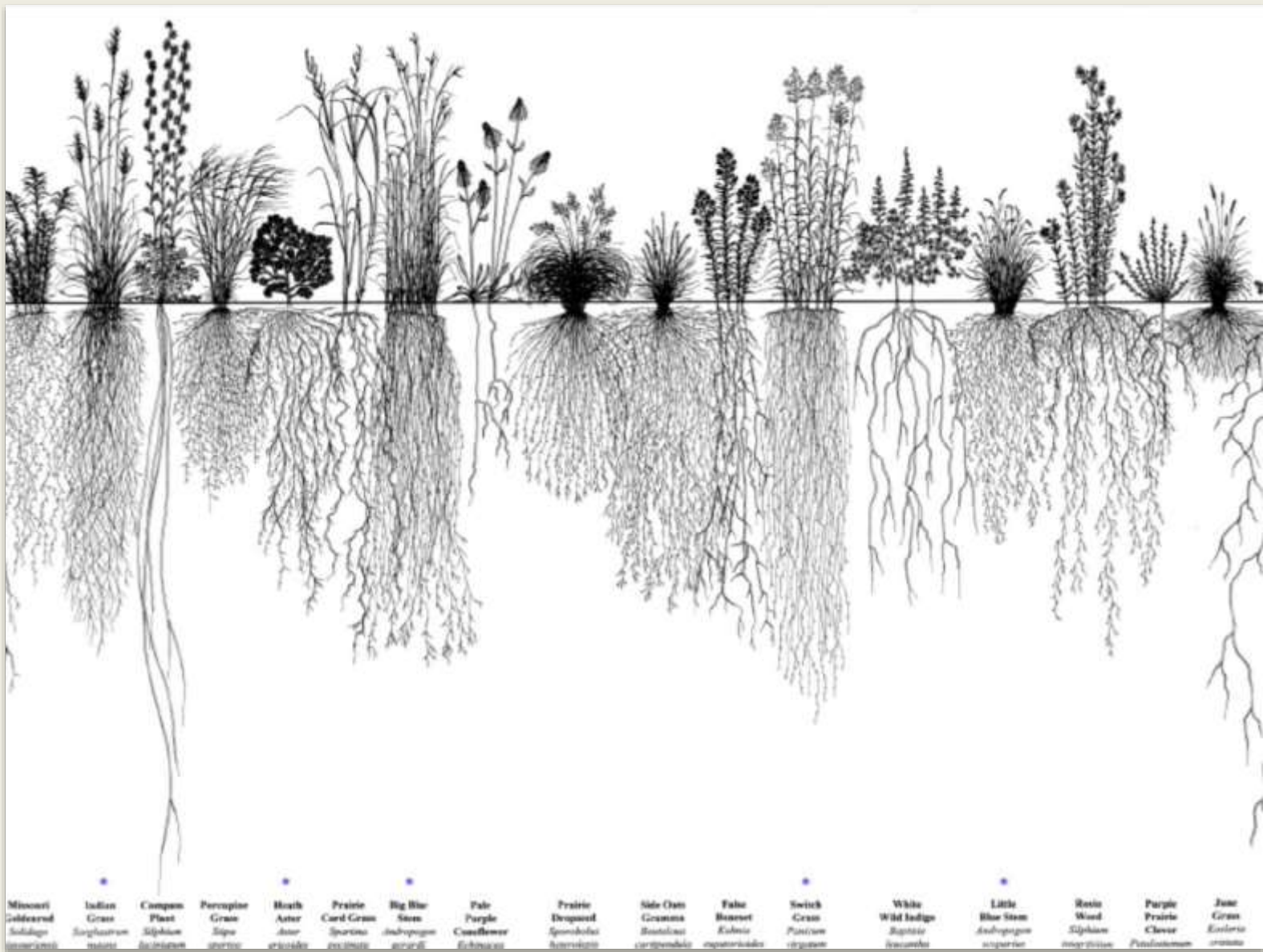
... and for ornamentation

Native plants are good for the climate





Prairie plants can also capture carbon ...



in their extensive root system.



They can also be used to create ethanol and as biomass fuel.



Native plants provide food and habitat for caterpillars, which become butterflies or bird food.









Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*) (Wikimedia image)



Native plants provide food and habitat for the pollinators we need for our crops.

Economic importance of pollinators

30 % of crops grown worldwide depend upon pollinators for reproduction.

Pollinators are needed for 1 of every 4 mouthfuls of food and drink.

100 US crop plants need pollination:

Almonds, apples, pears, citrus fruits, cherries, pumpkins, cucumbers, blackberries, cranberries, raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, melons, tomatoes, soybeans and sunflowers

Economic importance of pollinators

- Commercial farming does not provide a continuing source of food for pollinators.
- Imported honey bees are already being trucked around US.
- In China, some crops are pollinated by hand.







