



## Stewarding God's Creation by ... Including Native Plantings in your Yard

**Stewardship:** the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care

- Merriam-Webster

**Ecological Function:** a species interaction or ecological role whereby a species or group of species (functional group) prevent secondary extinctions or endangerment, maintain a biogeochemical balance, or support ecosystem productivity.

- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2018.08.013>

**Resilience:** the capacity of a community, business or natural environment to prevent, withstand, respond to and recover from a disruption

- Climate Resilience Toolkit (.gov)

**By including native plants in our yards and supporting their healthy habitat, we can support nature's resilience.**

### Native Plants:

- Have adapted to local soils, rainfall and temperature conditions over generations
- Tend to have long / deep root systems making them drought tolerant and prevention soil erosion
- Have relationships with local creatures

### Keystone Species and Plants:

- Are native plants that support 90% of caterpillars of Lepidoptera (butterflies, moths, skippers, fritillaries) and up to 60% of native specialist bees in a specific ecoregion that depend on the pollen of these plants
- Much of this wildlife is also responsible for supporting over 75% of all flowering plants, thanks to their pollination powers. In turn, the plants they support provide 1/3 of the food we eat

**Keystone species and plants are the lynchpin of ecosystems that maintain balance and support biodiversity**

