



NATIVES

Native plants may require less maintenance than their non-native counterparts, but like any living thing, they need attention to thrive and flourish.

Here are five ways that you can start caring for your new native plants today:

1. **Plant a new plant** as soon as possible.
2. **Choose the Right Location**--Just because a plant is native to a specific location doesn't mean it can survive in any soil. Research your specific type of plant at [USDA Plants Database](#), to determine the best location and care of your new plants.
3. **Water Immediately**--Once you plant your native plants, water them. This will help them adjust faster to their new environment. Soil particles settle easier when they are wet, so they have a better chance of binding to the new roots.
4. **Mulch** provides your native plants with protection from the hot sun and other elements. Apply a two-to-three-inch application of mulch around the plant. Pull the mulch back about two to three inches from the stem of the plant.
5. **Establish a Watering Schedule**--Plants are healthiest when they receive a consistent amount of water each week. Establish a watering schedule, and water your native plants deeply to saturate the soil completely. If the soil is very dry from the sun or lack of rain, water the plants lightly. Once the water has soaked completely, water the plants again.

For more information visit:

[Cape Cod Pollinator Pathway](#) and consider registering your garden with Pollinator Pathways.

[What are Native Plants? | Grow Native Massachusetts](#)

[Why Native Plants Matter | Audubon](#)

