

# Monsters Love Native Blooms:

Exploring Indiana  
Native Plants and  
Their Habitat



Copyright © 2023 by  
Chloe Kennedy, Autumn McNinch, Kayla Kramer, Molly Wimberg, Wanting Zhang,  
and Yiwei Huang\* (\*faculty advisor, corresponding author)

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher and authors, except as permitted by U.S. copyright law.

First edition [2023]



To Carolyn

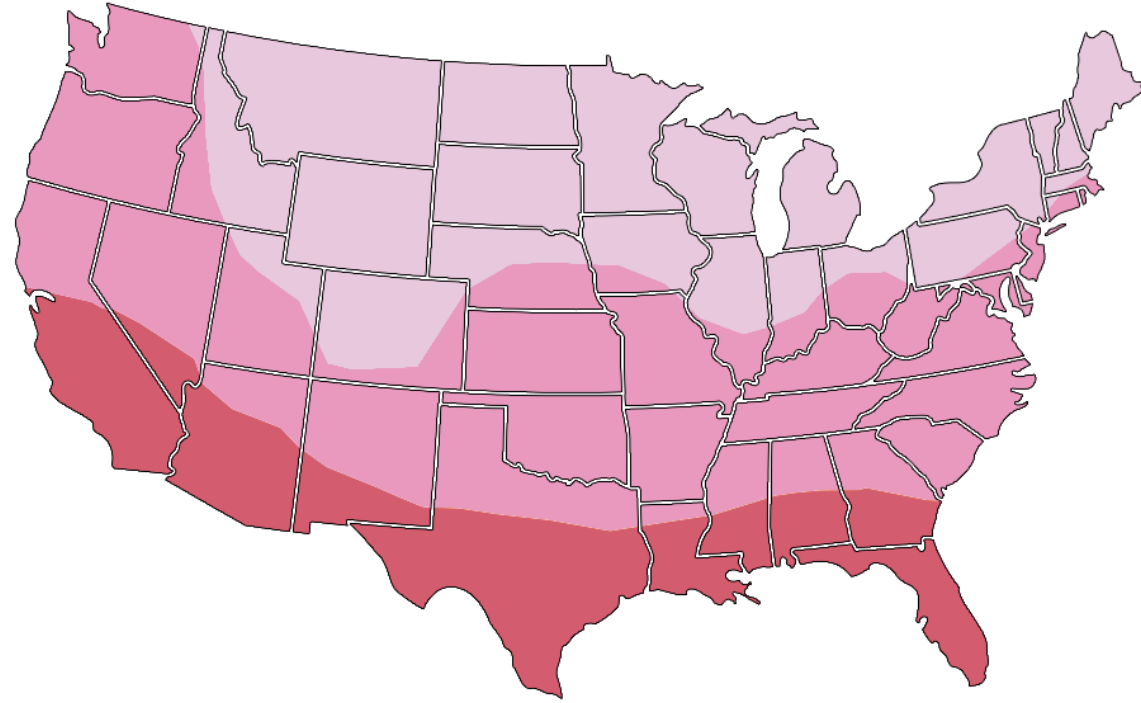
Our first reader, an aspiring little human being who gave us tremendous courage on  
our journey to create this book

For all the young minds

who believe in the power of nature and that we can use our hands to make the planet a  
better place to be

## Hardiness Zones

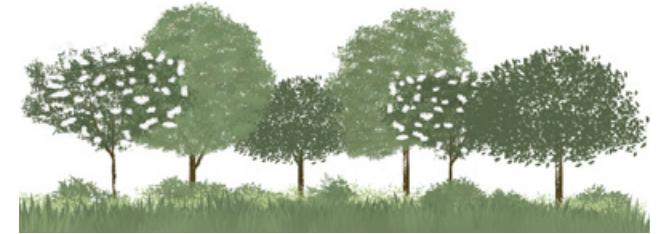
In the United States, there are zones known as hardiness zones. These tell us which types of plants should be planted in different areas around the country.



In northern states, such as New York and Maine, plants must be able to withstand cold temperatures. Some plants you may find here are pines and aspen trees.



In the middle of the country, in states like Tennessee and Kansas, climates are more moderate, and temperatures are less extreme. You may find maples and oak trees here.

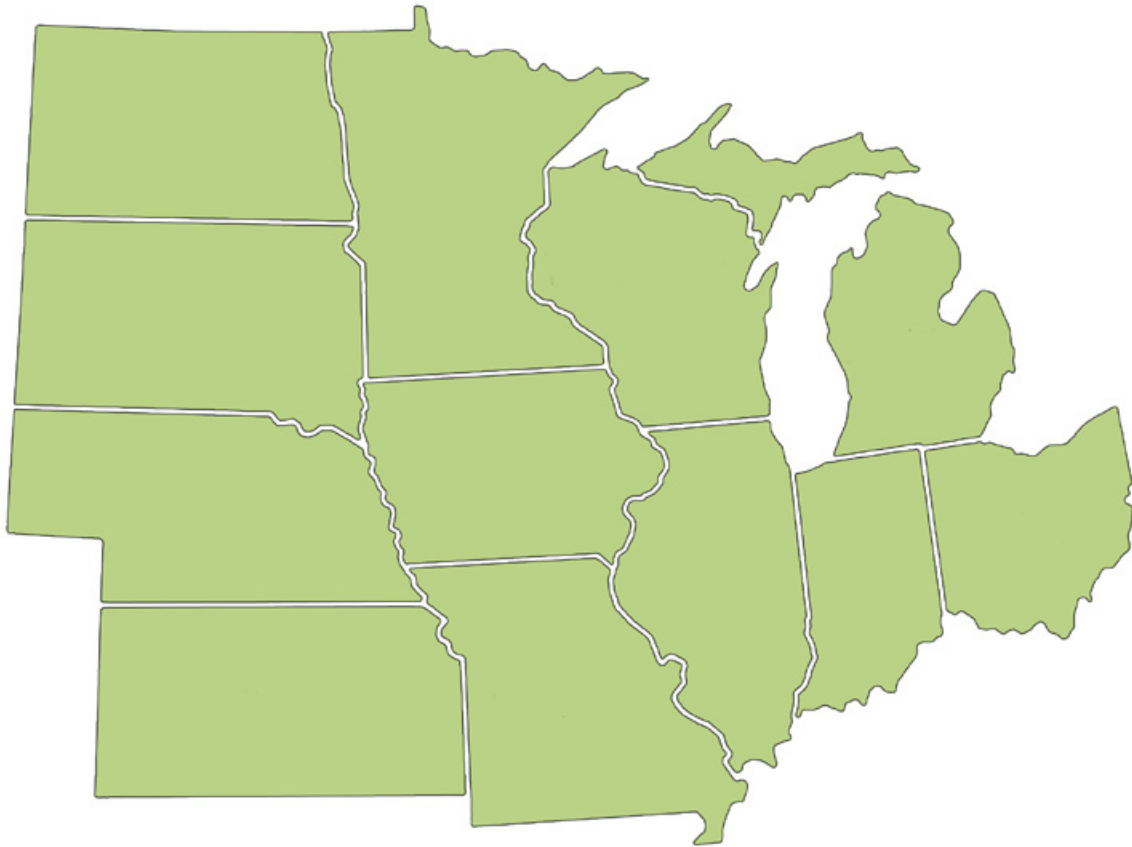


In the south, states like Arizona and Florida need plants that tolerate heat and in many cases, less water. Palm trees and agave plants are common in these areas.

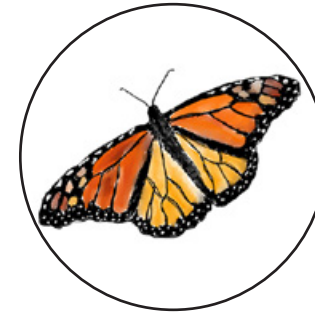


# NATIVE PLANTS & POLLINATORS

In the Midwest, we have our own special plants that support local wildlife and pollinators, such as bees and butterflies. It is important to continue planting native plants to help pollinators flourish!



Milkweed



Monarch Butterfly



Goldenrod



Ladybug



Columbine



Hummingbird



Echinacea

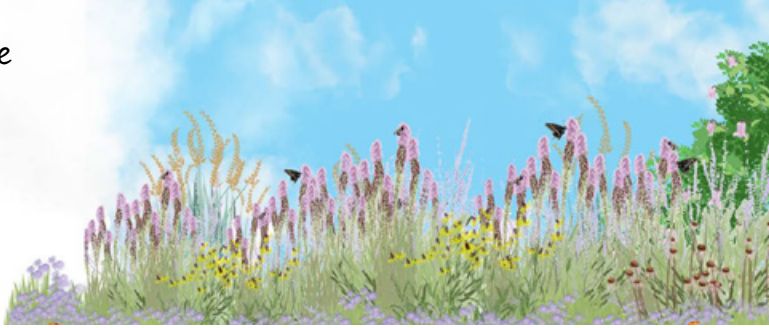


Bee



Scientists have put together a list of native plants in Indiana, and we divided them into 4 categories based on where they live and thrive.

Prairie



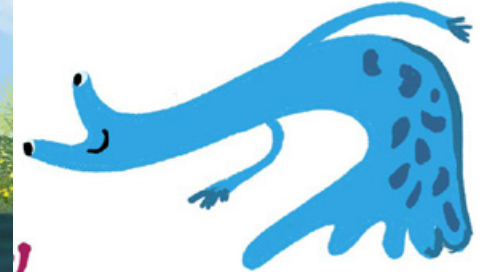
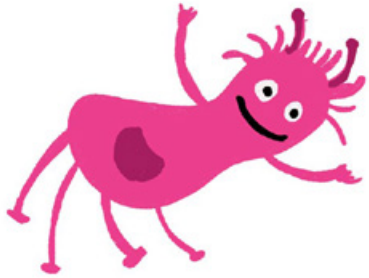
Forest Edge



Forest



Water Edge



# Prairie Blazing Star (Liatris pycnostachya)



Prairie Blazing Star is a **PERENNIAL** plant (which means it will come back on its own). The flowers range from dark pink to purple. If you look closely around summer, you will find there are a bunch of small fluffy flowers clumped together. It really enjoys being in the sunshine, and can grow to be as tall as 5 feet!





## New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)



The flowers are large and showy -- typically 1.5 inches in diameter. That makes them an important source of nectar for late-season pollinators. More than one plant is needed to make seeds, and the seeds are an important food source for songbirds. You can find the Isabella Tiger Moth hanging around, or its fluffy caterpillar!

With purple-blue petals circled around gold,  
Though I'm close to the ground I can be pretty bold!





## Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

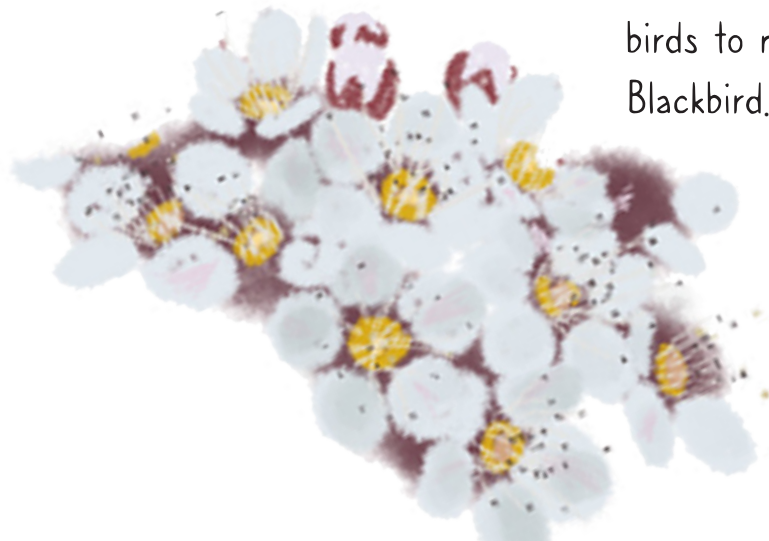
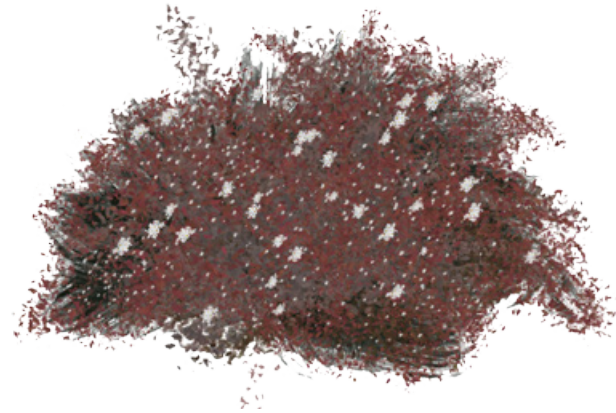
This plant enjoys some water but can also do well where it is dry. As long as it sees the sun, the plant will survive! It typically grows to 3-8 feet tall. Indiangrass seeds feed small mammals and granivorous birds, and also can be used as nesting material. Keep an eye out for the American Goldfinch hanging about!

Green, tall stems that appear like grass in a prairie,  
My golden yellow seeds make me far from ordinary!





## Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)



Common Ninebark is a strong shrub. The leaf colors can be anywhere from green to dark red. Its small flowers are a light pink and pop out when spring arrives. It can grow to be as small as 3 feet or as tall as 8 feet. It likes to feel the sun sometimes, but not all the time. The dense leaves and flowers make for a great area for birds to nest and hang out, like the Red Winged Blackbird.



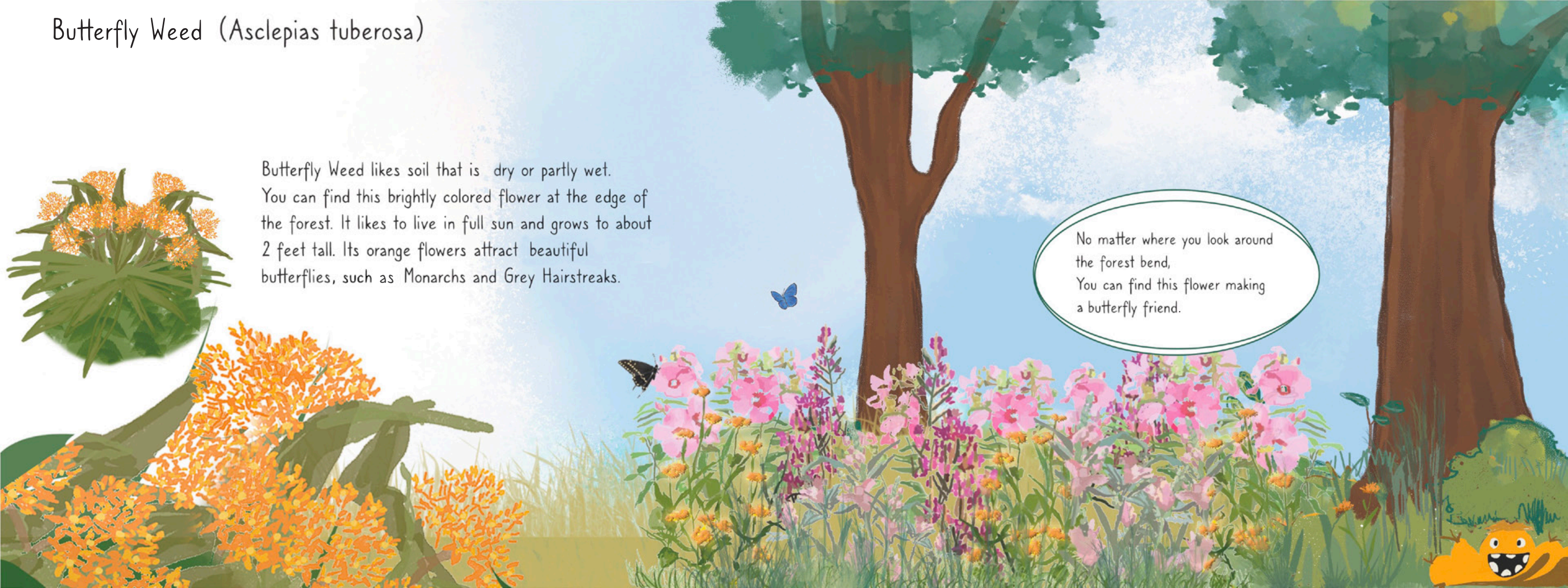
From green to red my leaves  
may be dark, but underneath  
you'll find cinnamon like-bark!



## Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa)

Butterfly Weed likes soil that is dry or partly wet. You can find this brightly colored flower at the edge of the forest. It likes to live in full sun and grows to about 2 feet tall. Its orange flowers attract beautiful butterflies, such as Monarchs and Grey Hairstreaks.

No matter where you look around the forest bend,  
You can find this flower making a butterfly friend.





## Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*)

Joe Pye-Weed likes soil that is dry or partly wet. You can find this pink **PLUME** plant at the edge of the forest. It likes to live in full sun or partial shade and grows to about 5 feet tall. The plant was named after Joe Pye, a Native American from New England.

A beautiful flower  
known as trumpetweed,  
Growing purpley pink plumes  
from every seed.





## Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)



The Christmas Fern likes soil that is well-drained. It likes to live in partial sun and shade and grows only about 2 feet tall. This fern has "Christmas" in its name because its leaves are always green, even during the cold holiday months!



Found deep in the forest,  
or perhaps next to ponds,  
Look for my feather-like leaves  
and evergreen FRONDS!



## Blue-Eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)



Blue-eyed grass likes soil that is moist and well-drained. It has blue flowers that bloom in the late spring or early summer, and has green **FOLIAGE**. This plant grows to about 1 foot tall, and likes partial shade or full sun.



On the forest floor,  
collecting morning dew,  
See my bright yellow center,  
and blue-purple hue!



## Celandine Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*)



The Celandine Poppy, also called the Wood Poppy, likes moist soil and shade. It is a short **GROUNDCOVER** plant, only 1 to 2 feet tall. This plant has bright, yellow flowers, and seeds that attract chipmunks.



If you see me on the ground,  
make sure to say hello,  
To my green, lobed leaves,  
and flowers of bright yellow!



## White Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)

The White Turtlehead is a perennial that likes to be in medium to wet soil, so it is a great plant to put next to a pond or river. It also attracts butterflies to a garden!

If you're by water, look where you tread. You might find my flowers, that look like a turtle's head.





## Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*)



The Blue Flag Iris is a perennial that blooms purple to blue flowers in early summer. It likes to be near water, so ponds or low wet areas are good places to plant this. Hummingbirds are attracted to this plant!

Blue Flag Iris smells sweet, not sour. They also are recognizable by their purple drooping flowers.





## Swamp Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)

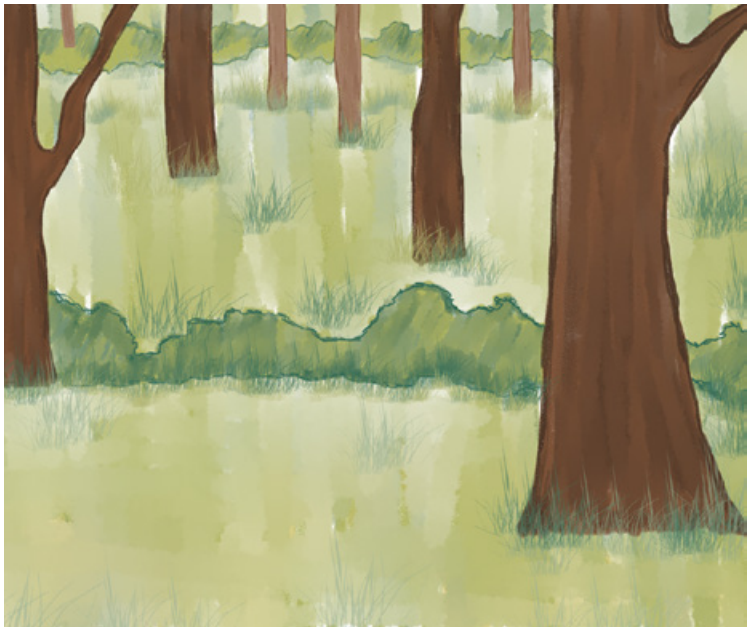


Swamp Mallow is a somewhat shrubby perennial that has large, pink to white flowers. It does best in medium to wet soils, so plant it somewhere the soil does not dry out.

If you see a plant with large flowers and petals of five, you are probably in a place where Swamp Mallows thrive.







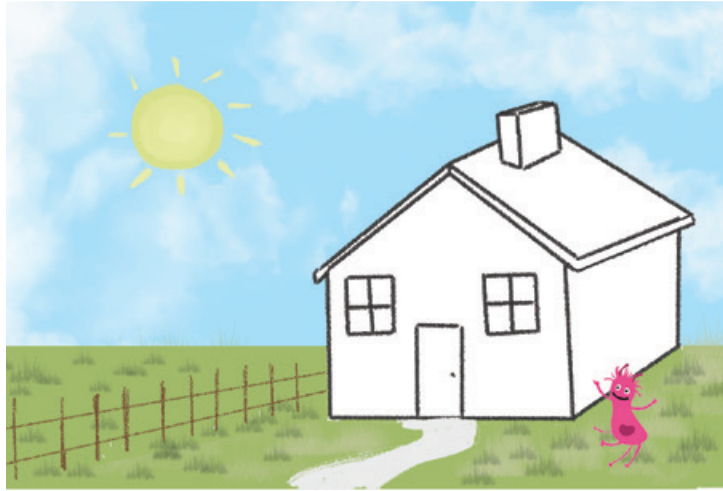
QUIZ TIME! Can you match the plants to their environment?





# WHAT PLANTS GO WHERE?

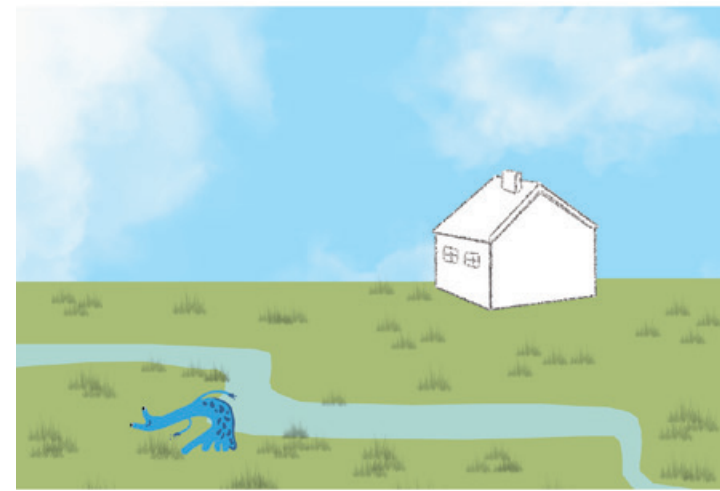
Imagine this is your house. Can you place the plants where they belong?



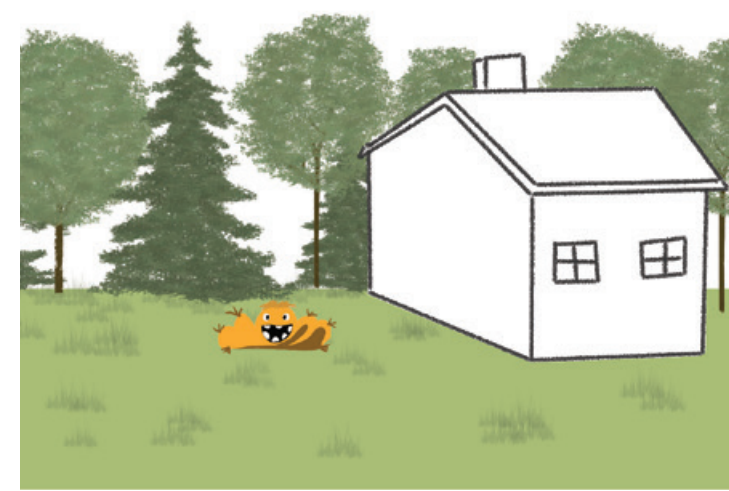
Your front yard has lots of sunlight and is very open!



Your house is in a shady forest with lots of tall trees!



A stream runs through your backyard!



Your house is next to a forest, but there's lots of open grass in the yard!





Landscape architects and horticulturists put plants in their “right places” in the built environment and make our outdoor spaces joyful, beautiful, and ecologically friendly!





# GROW YOUR OWN NATIVE PLANTS

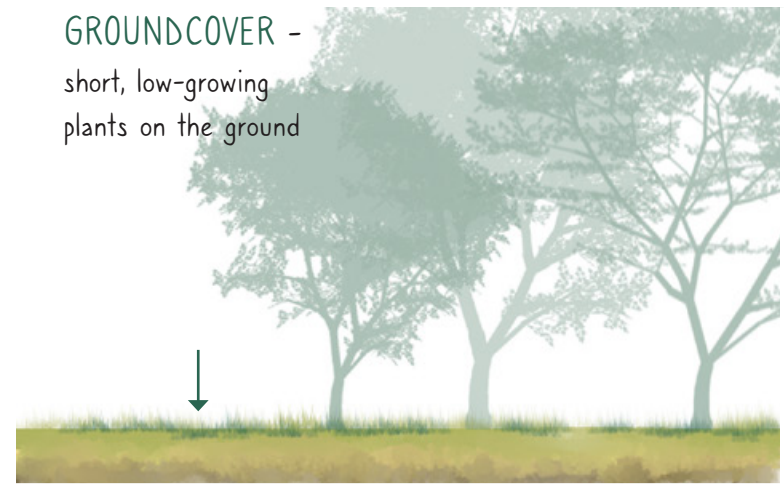


Go to your local nursery stores and see if they sell any native plants that are ecologically friendly in your own region.

# GLOSSARY

## GROUND COVER -

short, low-growing plants on the ground



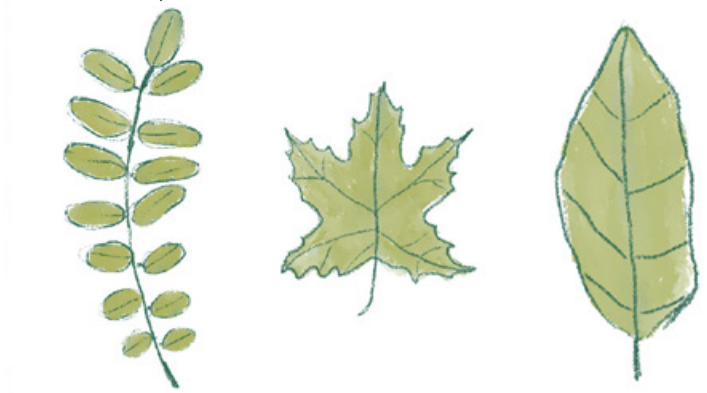
## FRONDS -

the leaf or leaf-part of a palm, fern, or similar plant



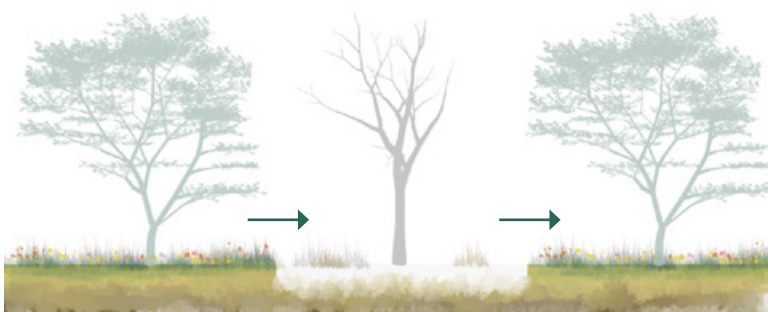
## FOLIAGE -

plant leaves



## PERENNIAL -

plants that come back every year





SEE YOU NEXT TIME ...

