



August 2025

# NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Simsbury Sustainability Committee



## Home Habitat Resource Guide

Our August issue wraps up newsletters authored by the Simsbury Pollinator Pathway. To assist readers with biodiversity projects, native plant selection, home pollinator gardening, creating a home habitat, and climate-friendly options, SPP has created this resource guide with sections for each topic. While it's not possible to be comprehensive, this is designed to provide local and web resources that SPP board members have found helpful.



For ongoing information, please follow the Simsbury Pollinator Pathway Facebook page.



### April 2025 Sustainability Newsletter: Pollination & Pollinators

### May 2025 Sustainability Newsletter: Birds In Your Backyard

### June 2025 Sustainability Newsletter: Supporting Biodiversity at Home

### July 2025 Sustainability Newsletter: Hummingbirds



# General Information Resources



## Websites From Which To Learn More About:

Pollinators, Pesticides, Native Plants and Planting, Combating Climate Change, Invasive Plants Home Habitats, Natural Lawns, Natural Pest Management and Organic Gardening, Water Conservation, Wildlife, and more!



**Aquarion Water Company:** <https://www.aquarionwater.com/conservation>

**Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station:** <https://portal.ct.gov/caes>

**Connecticut Conservation Districts:** <https://www.conservect.org/>

**Connecticut College Arboretum:** <https://www.conncoll.edu/the-arboretum/>

**Cornell University Atkinson Center for Sustainability:**

<https://www.atkinson.cornell.edu/wildbees/resources/>

**Great Barrington (MA) Pollinator Action Plan:**

<https://www.townofgb.org/DocumentCenter/View/153/Greatbarringtonpollinatoractionplan2018-PDF>

**HomeGrown National Park:** <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>

**Massachusetts Pollinator Network:** <https://masspollinatornetwork.org/>

**National Bee Monitoring Network:** <https://www.nativebeemonitoring.org/>

**National Wildlife Federation:** <https://www.nwf.org/>

**Pesticide Action Network:** <https://www.panna.org/>

**Pollinator Pathways:** <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>

**Pollinator Partnership:** <https://pollinator.org/>

**Portland (Maine) Pollinator Partnership:** <https://portlandpollinators.org/>

**Save the Bees:** <https://savethebeesusa.org/>

**Simsbury Land Trust:** <https://simsburylandtrust.org/slt/>

**Simsbury Pollinator Pathway:** <https://www.simsburypollinatorpath.org/>

**The Bee Conservancy:** <https://thebeeconservancy.org/>

**UConn Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture:** <https://psla.uconn.edu/>

**United States Department of Agriculture:** <https://www.usda.gov/>

**WildSeed Project: (Maine)** <https://wildseedproject.net/>

**Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation:** <https://xerces.org/>

**USDA National Water Conservation Service:**

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/water>

**While some of the above are Simsbury/Connecticut specific, in most cases the information applies to all areas of the U.S. Two excellent resources that are state specific: each state DEEP/Environmental Conservation Department and state university's cooperative extension website. They'll have definitive information specific to your location.**



# Resources for Native Plants



## Native Plant Identification Databases

Some of our favorite databases for researching before (or after!) buying and planting native plants. Most are searchable.

**Audubon Society:** <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>

**Connecticut Botanical Society:** <https://www.ct-botanical-society.org/gardening-with-natives/>

**Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center:** <https://www.wildflower.org/>

**Missouri Botanical Garden:** <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org>

**University of Connecticut Native Plant list :** <https://ipm-cahnr.media.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3216/2025/03/Native-Plant-Availability-List-March-2025.pdf>

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:** <https://plants.usda.gov/>



## Where To Find Native Plants and Seeds (Mostly) Locally

### *Exclusively Native Plants*

**Earth Tones, Woodbury CT:** <https://www.earthtonesnatives.com/>

**Nasami Farm, Whately MA:** <https://www.nativeplanttrust.org/for-your-garden/nasami-farm/>

**Native Plant Trust, Framingham MA:** <https://www.nativeplanttrust.org>

**Natureworks, Northford CT:** <https://natureworksgardencenter.com/>

**Rewild Native Plant Nursery, Canton CT:** <https://www.rewildct.com>

*Note: Thrive Farm in Simsbury sells plants from Rewild: <https://thrive-farm.com/>*

### *Native Meadowing Seeds and Plugs*

**New England Wetland Plants, South Hadley MA:** <https://newp.com/>

**Vermont Wildflower Farm, Hinesburg VT:** <https://www.vermontwildflowerfarm.com/>

**Wild Seed Project, North Yarmouth, ME :** <https://wildseedproject.net/>

### *Garden Centers With Native Plant Sections*

**Bosco's Garden Center, Simsbury CT:** <https://boscosgardencenter.com/>

**Pride's Corner, Lebanon CT:** <https://www.pridescorner.com>

**White Flower Farm, Litchfield CT:** <https://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/>

**Warner Nursery and Garden Center, Simsbury CT:** <https://warnernursery.com/>

### **UConn College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources**

**This page provides a map of all locations which sell native trees, plants and shrubs. Click on the map on the webpage to identify a native plant business.**

<https://ipm.cahnr.uconn.edu/connecticut-native-availability/>



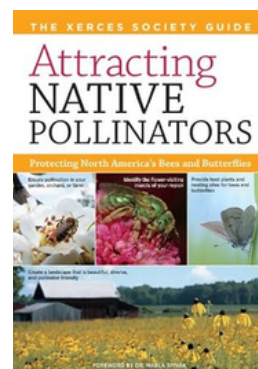
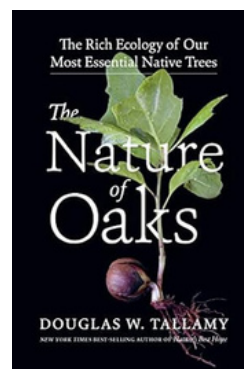
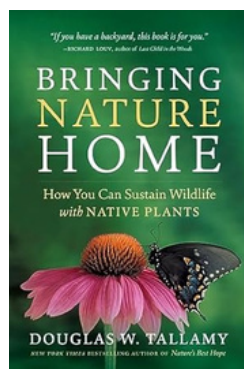
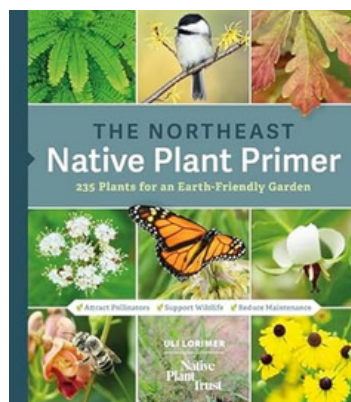
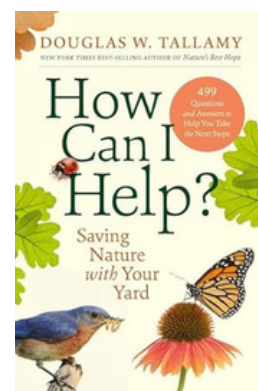
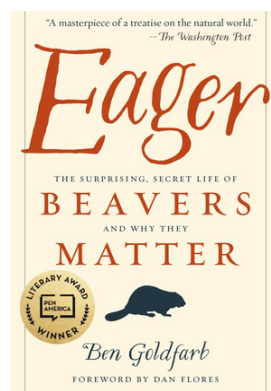
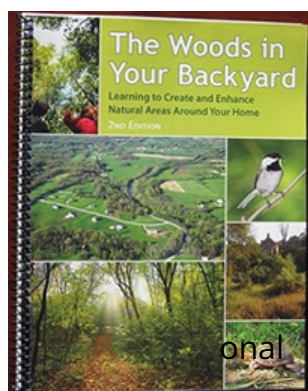
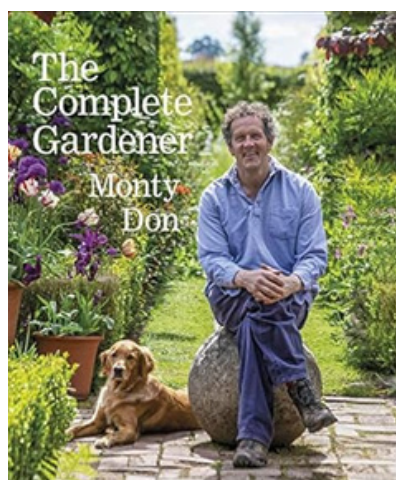
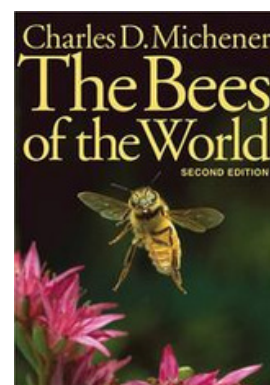
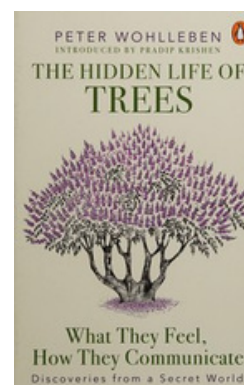
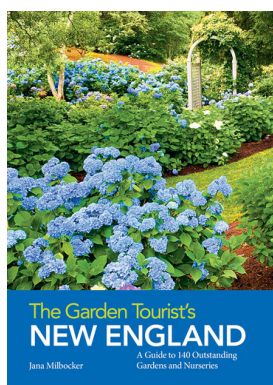
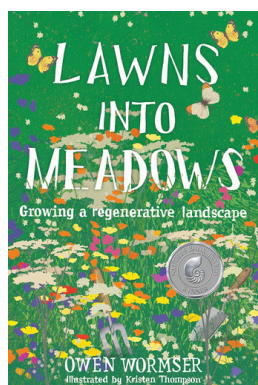
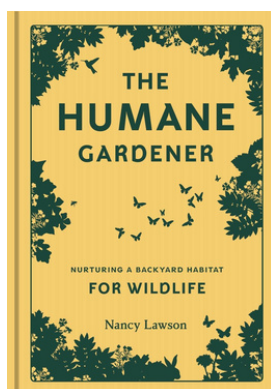
*Reminder: These lists aren't comprehensive, they're resources we used and would recommend.*



## Plant Identification Apps

- iNaturalist (Highly rated)
- Go Botany (Highly rated)
- PlantNet (Highly rated)
- Plant Snap
- Google Lens (Highly rated)
- Picture This
- iPlant
- Gardening Companion (garden planning app)
- Flower Checker
- LeafSnap
- Seek
- NatureID

## Book Recommendations



**Additional Titles:** *Braiding Sweetgrass, The Overstory, The Serviceberry, The Understory: Life Lessons Learned in the Forest, Think Like An Ecosystem; Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*

Volume 2, Issue 8

### Bird App Recommendations (Alison Wilcox):

- Use **Audubon** if you want a beautiful, detailed bird field guide that's easy to browse.
- Use **eBird** if you want to contribute to citizen science and keep detailed logs of bird sightings.
- Use **Merlin** if you're new to birding or want a quick, easy way to ID birds by sound or photo.
- Use **iNaturalist** if you're interested in identifying all kinds of wildlife and contributing to a broader scientific effort.

☀ All of these apps are free. Download them and see which you like best!

Feature / App	Audubon Bird Guide	eBird	Merlin Bird ID	iNaturalist
Focus	Bird ID + Field Guide	Bird sightings + global database	Bird identification (AI + input)	All nature (plants, animals, fungi, etc.)
Best For	Birdwatchers of all levels	Birders who want to track/report sightings	Beginner to intermediate bird identifiers	General naturalists + citizen scientists
Bird ID by Description	✓ Yes	✗ No	✓ Yes (question-based & AI)	✗ No
Bird ID by Photo	✗ No	✗ No	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
Bird ID by Sound	✗ No	✗ No	✓ Yes	✓ Some (limited, community ID-based)
Species Coverage	Birds of North America	Birds globally	Birds globally	All living organisms globally
Checklists / Life List	✓ Yes (basic)	✓ Yes (detailed, GPS-integrated)	✗ No, but can connect to eBird	✓ Yes (observations)
Community Engagement	✓ Birding news & photo sharing	✓ Global birding community (eBird.org)	✓ Share ID results with others	✓ Community IDs & discussions
Offline Use	✓ Yes (downloadable guides)	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Limited
Free to Use	✓ 100% free	✓ 100% free	✓ 100% free	✓ 100% free
Developer / Backed By	National Audubon Society	Cornell Lab of Ornithology	Cornell Lab of Ornithology	California Academy of Sciences & NatGeo