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NATIVE PLANT KITS

Native Plant Kits Available from Penn State Extension

Penn State Extension will offer the Sale until June 18

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*Interested in reducing stormwater runoff, lowering water pollution, conserving water, and supporting wildlife and pollinators?
(photo by Penn State University)*

WEST CHESTER, Pa. — Interested in reducing stormwater runoff, lowering water pollution, conserving water, and supporting wildlife and pollinators?

To help nurture more watershed-friendly properties, Penn State Extension (<https://extension.psu.edu/>) will offer the Master Watershed Steward Watershed-Friendly Native Plant Kit Sale (<https://web.cvent.com/event/c8842ad8-abe3-4726-91ed-31654439a173/summary>) from May 3 to June 18.

These kits are designed to help individuals incorporate more native plants into their property. Plants are available for pick up from locations in the following counties: Allegheny, Berks, Bucks, Chester, (<https://www.morningagclips.com/category/pennsylvania/>) Cumberland, Delaware, Erie, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Wyoming and York.

The Chester County pick up will be at the Penn State Extension office in the Government Services Center, West Chester, and the Delaware County pick up will be at the Penn State Extension office in Smedley Park, Springfield.

This sale is aimed at native plant lovers, anyone interested in straight-species, open-pollinated native plants from their region, sustainable landscaping advocates, and supporters of watershed-friendly practices.

The kits contain plant plugs carefully selected from species grown by Kind Earth Growers using locally collected

open-source pollinated seeds and 50% peat-free growing media. Plant plugs are smaller than what is typically found in nurseries, allowing for easier transportation and planting within existing vegetation. The plugs have healthy root systems which will establish this fall so plants can flourish next growing season.

Kit options are the Sunny Soggy Bottoms Kit, Shady Soggy Bottoms Kit for wetter-soil areas, and the Wildlife Magnet Kit, which contains generalist plants that provide food and habitat for numerous pollinators and wildlife. All three kit options are available in two kit sizes.

“Bountiful Kits” are \$100 and include five species with five individual plants of each species, for a total of 25 plants. The smaller “Container Kits” cost \$25 and include five species with one plant of each species, for a total of five plants.

Individuals can choose their kit and select the pickup location most convenient from 16 counties across the state. Proceeds will support the Master Watershed Steward program in providing volunteer-driven education and restoration work in that region.

Penn State Extension also offers the opportunity to earn the Master Watershed Steward watershed-friendly certification in collaboration with Nurture Nature Center. Native plants are woven throughout the certification criteria because of the abundant benefits they can provide.

More information about the watershed-friendly native plant kit sale is available on the Penn State Extension website at <https://extension.psu.edu/mws-native-plant-kit-sale> (<https://extension.psu.edu/mws-native-plant-kit-sale>). There will also be a no-cost Watershed-Friendly Planting webinar on June 10th. Registration for the webinar can be found at <https://extension.psu.edu/watershed-friendly-native-planting> (<https://extension.psu.edu/watershed-friendly-native-planting>).

–Alexandra McLaughlin, Penn State University

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