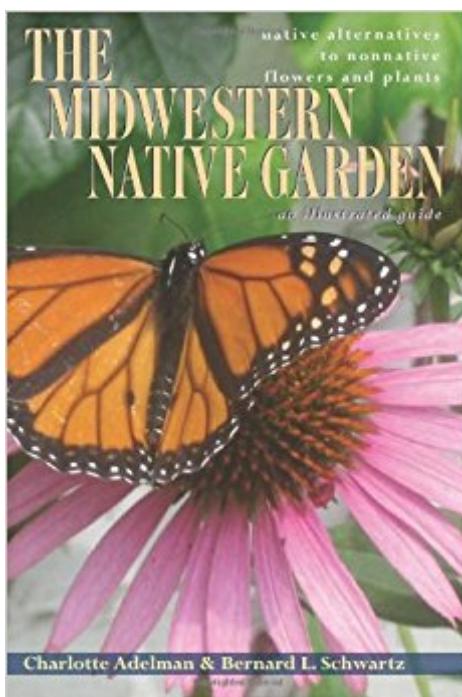


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# The Midwestern Native Garden: Native Alternatives To Nonnative Flowers And Plants, An Illustrated Guide



## **Synopsis**

Winner of the 2012 Helen Hull Award, presented by the National Garden Clubs. Midwestern gardeners and landscapers are becoming increasingly attracted to noninvasive regional native wildflowers and plants over popular nonnative species. The Midwestern Native Garden offers viable alternatives to both amateurs and professionals, whether they are considering adding a few native plants or intending to go native all the way. Native plants improve air and water quality, reduce use of pesticides, and provide vital food and reproductive sites to birds and butterflies, that nonnative plants cannot offer, helping bring back a healthy ecosystem. The authors provide a comprehensive selection of native alternatives that look similar or even identical to a range of nonnative ornamentals. These are native plants that are suitable for all garden styles, bloom during the same season, and have the same cultivation requirements as their nonnative counterparts. Plant entries are accompanied by nature notes setting out the specific birds and butterflies the native plants attract. The Midwestern Native Garden will be a welcome guide to gardeners whose styles range from formal to naturalistic but who want to create an authentic sense of place, with regional natives. The beauty, hardiness, and easy maintenance of native Midwestern plants will soon make them the new favorites.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Ohio University Press; 1 edition (September 20, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0821419374

ISBN-13: 978-0821419373

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #179,512 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Region > Midwest #55 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Ornamental Plants #107 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Garden Design

## **Customer Reviews**

At last, an idea whose time has come! This is the only book I know of, for the Midwest, that systematically suggests native plants of similar appearance and growing requirements, to replace

nonnatives we might otherwise plant in our landscapes. Importantly, "The Midwestern Native Garden" alerts the reader to the natives' unique roles in attracting and sustaining increased biodiversity in our gardens. Maryann Whitman, Editor, Wild Ones Journal "Midwestern gardeners who aim to create native landscapes that provide important habitat to birds and other wildlife have a valuable new resource. . . . What sets (The Midwestern Native Garden) apart from similar titles lining gardener's bookshelves is the authors' comprehensive selection of colorful plants native to the Midwest that hold their own against popular ornamentals. Each featured plant includes garden notes about the birds and butterflies it may attract." "Audubon" "What a great idea! Local authors Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz compiled a wealth of information for those of us who are looking to add a few native plants to our gardens or for those who intend to go all-the-way native. I had the luxury of spending a morning in their beautiful gardens. . . . I saw firsthand how native plants will bring the birds, butterflies and other pollinators as only a balanced eco-system will do. Color and motion!" "Chicago Sun-Times" "The 268-page paperback is flush with possible substitutes of common garden plants from ajuga and day lilies to tansy and chrysanthemums. . . . Adelman says the book's goal is to raise awareness of the vital role that native plants play in the ecosystem and prompt gardeners to consider options." "The Columbus Dispatch" "The material in this book is comprehensive, impassioned and highly focused; is valuable and supportive for the gardener who is tentative about growing natives. It offers a huge menu of plants for a person who is committed to creating a dynamic, healthy environment of native plants." "Rapid City Journal" "This lovely and inspired book will turn your mind to the future, to gardening, and to creation, of whatever divine, authorial, or arboreal inspiration. Get your green fingers at the ready." "ReadWorthy Books" "Adelman and Schwartz have written an informative, beautifully illustrated book. . . . Every Midwestern gardener interested in the reintroduction of native plants will want to own this book. Applicable to gardens in adjacent states as well." "Library Journal"

Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz are the authors of *Prairie Directory of North America* and *US and Canada*, winner of the 2003 National Garden Club Illinois Tommy Donnan Certificates Publications award and the 2003 Garden Clubs of Illinois' Award.

I chose this book(*The Midwestern Native Garden: Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers*) to help

me reintroduce native plants into my gardens and landscape. The lives of our birds, bees as well as a host of other pollinators, depend on native plants. This book provides very useful information, including which are host plants for butterflies. I planned on relying on the index and my Kindle when shopping for native plants. Since my Kindle does not feature colors, I am unable to do this. For those who do, natives are listed in a different color than non-natives plants. This feature is important because plant names can be very similar. Had the asterisk been used to indicate natives, (for e-readers) this downside could have been avoided.

Arranged chronologically, starting with Spring, The Midwestern native Garden gives many native alternatives for every common non-native plant. A few of the suggested native alternatives are well-known native plants, but many are not widely used in our gardens now but should be included more often. The reasons, very clearly explained by the authors, are the needs of native pollinators, on whom so many other creatures, including humans, depend. The pictures of both plants and pollinators are excellent. I am using them every day in my gardens walks.

The Nature Institute, Godfrey, IL had a great power point presentation and discussion by Charlotte and Bernard last weekend. The book is going to be a great resource for our members and friends. Their passion for natives is obvious! Their knowledge is vast. Love the preface of the book. I have done the same thing in my gardens.

Wonderful book that pictures native flowers and grasses, and suggests substitutions for common garden selections from among them. Native plants will thrive where other species are grown with difficulty.

Excellent book to assist the gardener in knowing what plants to purchase and plant for native Plantinus. If there is a plant you like, but it is not a native plant, the book directs you to native plants very similar to that non-native plant.

This book is really good as the native flowers do so well and I was not aware of this. Had to take the Master Gardeners course to find this out. Lots of good information in this book for people with questions.

This guide gives a lot of great information about native plant alternatives to those that are invasive

or have little value for our ecosystems.

Inclusion of so many species that I must keep this handy for reference purposes. The format is a bit complicated, but if you garden with natives in the Midwest you will find it very useful.

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