

# FBMG Help Desk Question of the Week

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Every summer my flower beds suffer and sometimes die.

What can I do to ensure success in the future?

*Learn to love plants that thrive and grow here, consider  
converting plantings to all natives.*



# Positive Impact on Landscape

## *Native plants have many pros!*

In addition to being beautiful they are home and food to native wildlife!

They add to the environment and are actually a lower plant footprint!



**native (naturally happy)**



**non-native (high maintenance)**

### **Benefit to environment and wallet;**

- water conservation by reducing need for irrigation
- reduce pollution by requiring less chemical use of pesticides and fertilizers
- can be self renewing, often returning year after year reducing landfill waste

### **Non - natives while beautiful;**

- require much more attention
- may not thrive
- often decline after a short time

# Natives are Easy to Find

## *Multiple Sources Available*

Multiple places to see, visit and find native plants. For example:



- FBMG Demonstration Gardens
- Texas Superstars
- Earth Kind Plant Selector
- Native Plant society
- US Audubon Society
- Nurseries Specializing in Native Plants
- Botanical Gardens in your area

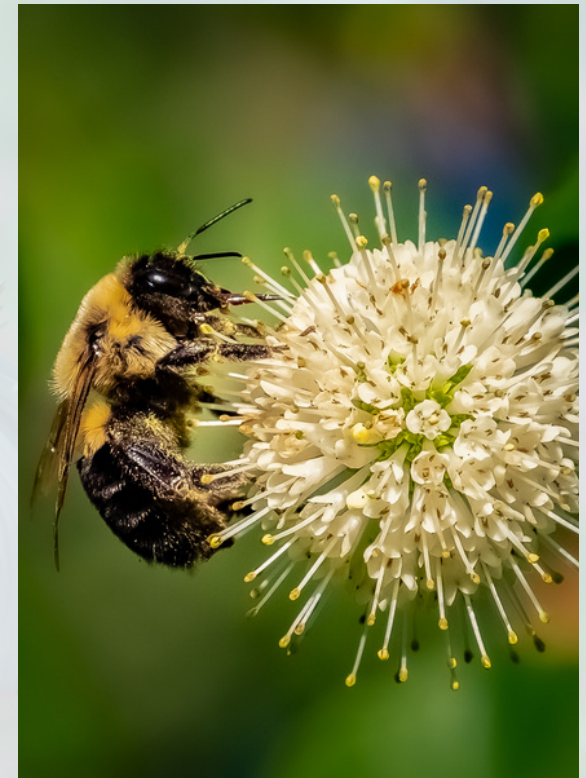
## A Native Plant:

*Grows and thrives in the soil and climate that are found naturally in an area.*

It is a naturally occurring plant, having been in an area long before settlers arrived.

### **Having evolved to a region native plants;**

- *have adapted to the local climate*
- *are better able to tolerate the drought, heavy rainfalls, heat and cold*
- *are more resistant to pests and disease*
- *are happiest in the soil types and conditions found locally*
- *are better suited to take up the nutrients available to them*



**Local wildlife welcome!**

# ***Pollinators, Birds, Insects, Squirrels, etc.***

**Native Plants support the health of local ecosystems and the environment.**

**They create a sense of beauty and are an important food source for local wildlife such as caterpillars, butterflies, moths, and birds.**

*Landscaping with native plants empowers gardeners to care for nature and enhance the local environment while adding beauty and diversity to their homesites.*

*By planting natives, gardeners support native pollinators and connect with the natural heritage of a region.*

*Native doesn't mean plants that are relative newcomers to the local ecosystem - Native plants developed and adapted to local soil and climate conditions over thousands of years and are vital parts of local ecosystems necessary for the survival of pollinators, insects, birds, mammals, and other wildlife.*



*Do you have questions  
about your home  
landscape and plants?*

*Contact the Fort Bend  
Master Gardener Help Desk*

*Email:  
[FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu)*

*Phone:  
281-341-7068*

*The Help Desk is manned  
Monday thru Friday,  
9am-Noon*

*<https://npsot.org/>  
<https://texassuperstar.com/plants/>  
<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>  
<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/plant-selector/>  
[Pollinators and Native Plants - TPWD \(texas.gov\)](#)  
[Pollinators and Native Plants Medicinal Plants 3 — Texas Parks & Wildlife Department](#)  
[20 Tough Plants that Like Full Sun and Heat | Proven Winners](#)*

*[Native Plants for the Landscape - by Peggy d'Hemecourt - Advanced Master Gardener: Earth-Kind Landscaping](#)*

