

## Gardens Are the New Nature

Our gardens play a role in sustaining local biological diversity.

Although this is not an entirely new idea, few of us are actually gardening with this in mind. Why is this becoming more important? To quote from [Bringing Nature Home](#), by Douglas W. Tallamy, "in too many areas of our country there is no place left for wildlife but in the landscapes and gardens we ourselves create". Although we have just begun to scratch the surface in our understanding of the interactions between our gardens and the natural world in which we live, what is becoming clear is that we, as gardeners, are playing an increasing role in sustaining local biological diversity as more and more land around us is developed.

The outlook is not good. Below are a few quotes from Douglas W. Tallamy from his book [Bringing Nature Home](#) -

- "we simply have not left enough intact habitat for most of our species to avoid extinction"
- There simply are not enough native plants left in the "wild" - that is, not enough undisturbed habitat remaining in the United States - to support the diversity of wildlife most of us would like to see survive into the distant future
- "...the consensus among landscape ecologists is that 3 to 5 percent of the land remains as undisturbed habitat for plants and animals."
- "We can no longer safely relegate nature to our parks and preserves, assured that it will be there for us when we need it. We can no longer replace the native vegetation in our neighborhoods with foreign plants and remain confident that our native species will survive somewhere else. We can no longer rely on local natural areas to supply food and shelter to the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians of North America."

These are profound statements that we cannot even begin to comprehend the full ramifications of. What we do know is that native plants sustain native wildlife. And we are also beginning to realize that biodiversity sustains us humans, too.

### **Our gardens are the new Nature.**

The good news is we can still have beautiful gardens that also sustain more wildlife. Glover Perennials has been focusing for many years on offering **natives that have ornamental appeal**. We are fortunate in the eastern U.S. to have a rich diversity of native ornamentals.

For too long our gardens have been viewed as divorced from nature: here is my garden and there is a natural area. I highly recommend reading [Bringing Nature Home](#). It will open your eyes to the large role our gardens play in the natural world. We now have a reason to garden that transcends our needs as gardeners. Who knew we had such an awesome responsibility?