



The term sustainable can be defined as a method of using a resource in a way that the resource is not permanently depleted or damaged. Plants are natural resources that are not always managed sustainably. In some countries entire plant species become extinct without ever being identified first.

Your garden can help sustain the living heritage of the region you live in. By planting a diverse variety of native plants, you can create a landscape that helps all of us sustain our natural world.

Any activity that increases the number of plant species in your yard is a step towards a sustainable landscape. Having a diverse population of plants is natural. This natural tendency towards biodiversity is threatened when we plant invasive species that crowd out our native plants or we constrict the landscape by growing only a selected few plants. You can improve upon biodiversity by



- Ridding your property of invasive species
- Planting layers and layers of different plant species starting with tall trees down to low ground covers.
- Use plants that propagate naturally so you don't have to continue planting every year. This will eliminate bare areas in the garden.

- Reconsider the amount of mowed lawn and allow naturalized areas of your yard.
- Take clues from the natural areas around you and plant species that reflect the area where you live.



Increasing the diversity of plants in your yard will also increase animal diversity. When you take small steps to improving the natural world around your house, you begin to create new habitats for all forms of life.