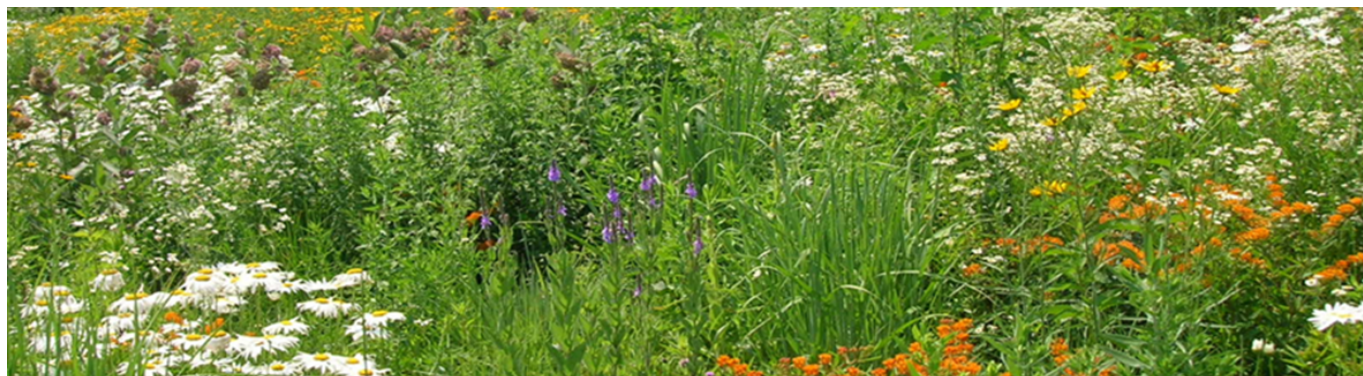


Tips for Design, Installation, and Maintenance



Design Considerations

PLANT

Plant each species in groupings of at least three plants

MIX

Mix native and non-native plants

LOW

Use low growing plants for the front yard and under windows

AIM

Aim for continuous blooms, at least three plants in bloom each spring, summer, and fall

INTALL

Install edging around garden beds and use permeable walkways for water infiltration

LAYER

Layer plants, trees, shrubs, grasses, forbs, and groundcover

MAINTENANCE & INSTALLATION

You've got them, now how do you take care of them? Check out these maintenance and installation tips compiled from University of Illinois Extension Educators

- Prune woody plants properly
- Monitor for invasive species
- Eliminate existing or unwanted vegetation
- "Chop and drop" herbaceous perennials in the spring to return organic matter to the soil
- Water, weed, and mulch in the first few years
- Allow organic matter to fall to the ground
- Dead vegetation should remain over the winter
- Control the spread of aggressive natives by deadheading or pulling unwanted seedlings

GET YOUR YARD CERTIFIED WITH COOK COUNTY CONSERVATION@HOME

Conservation@Home properties are specially recognized for their efforts in attracting pollinators, improving water quality, and promoting healthy soils. By planting locally sources natives, you are supporting healthy ecosystems.

Find resources at go.illinois.edu/ch

