

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Berkshire Conservation District Native Plant & Seedling Sale is Now Open for Ordering.

The Berkshire Conservation District, a non-profit conservation organization, is presently taking orders for their Native Plant & Seedling Sale fundraiser. This year the District is focusing on native perennials, shrubs and tree seedlings that benefit pollinators.

With the increasing loss of habitat, use of pesticides and introduction of non-native species of plants, pollinators are in decline in the US. Pollinators provide a vital ecosystem service by transferring pollen between plants to facilitate reproduction, making them responsible for 1/3 of the bites of food eaten by humans each day. "Gardening for pollinators creates links between humans and nature while fostering environmental stewardship" notes the District's Board of Supervisor Chair, Adam Galambos. "Stresses on pollinators exacerbated by climate change is disrupting biological systems including the pollinator-flower relationship which poses challenges for all pollinators. By planting a variety of native pesticide-free pollinator gardens, we can help to support pollinators in our communities."

Late summer planting of cold-hardy native perennials, shrubs and trees, has many advantages:

Warm soil + cool air = happy plants. With moderate air temperatures and soil still warm from the summer, late summer and early fall provide optimum conditions to plant.

Insects and diseases are less active in fall.

Newly-planted perennials need less water when it's cooler and plants can tolerate drought better than during summer heat.

Plants have a head start for next spring. With an extra few months of root growth, plants grow faster in spring with better flowering.

To order visit www.berkshireconservation.org. Pick up will be at Holiday Brook Farm, Rt. 9, Dalton, MA on Saturday September 3 between the hours of 10am and 2pm. Rain date Sept. 4, 10-2.

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