



How to create a CTPN home garden

PLAN

- 1. Pick a theme.** *Don't skip this important first step! Think about your goals for your garden. Some examples of themes are: pine rockland, butterfly, or meadow.*
- 2. Pick a location.** *Choose a location with conditions that will serve the theme. For example, the themes listed above would all need full to partial sun. Also consider who you want to be able to see your garden.*
- 3. Make a wish list of plants.** *Just put your zip code into the fabulous [Natives for Your Neighborhood](#) website from IRC and see what plants are appropriate for your area and for the theme and location you have chosen. This great resource also tells you how big your plant will get and how much light it will need. Tip: we recommend including grasses for "filler" and weed suppression.*
- 4. Design it.** *Sketch it out, use an online design site, or just have an idea in your head about what you want your garden to look like. If you're worried about having enough time or expertise, start small!*

PREP

- 5. Prepare the location.** *Kill the existing weeds/turf by pulling them out by hand (for small areas) or by scraping them away with machinery (for large areas). Other options include (1) applying herbicide and raking a week later, or (2) solarizing with black plastic tarp. If it is within your means, also consider scraping away the first inch or two of topsoil to remove weed seeds.*
- 6. Define a border.** *Borders are not only attractive; they also help to keep weeds—and maintenance equipment—out of your garden. Use bricks, oolitic limestone, or create your own.*
- 7. Obtain your plants.** *A CTPN starter kit is great if you want to start small. If possible, we recommend you supplement it with plants from our recommended native nurseries (see our website), or those recommended on IRC's Natives for Your Neighborhood page.*

PLANT

- 8. Install your plants using proper technique.** *See our "CTPN guide to planting and maintaining your pine rockland plants" flyer on [our website](#). Don't forget to add your CTPN yard sign!*
- 9. (Optional) apply mulch.** *We recommend pine straw (which can be hard to find) or eucalyptus mulch.*
- 10. Keep up with maintenance.** *Native plants are low-maintenance, not no-maintenance. Initial watering will be needed until your plants are established. Our planting and maintaining guide has a recommended schedule. Weeding will be needed. If you use mulch, you will need to re-apply it periodically.*

