



GARDEN ELEMENTS

Create a natural oasis for native species and a connection with nature for students and staff. Canadian wildflowers and other native plants are so diverse and fascinating that you can easily customize your campus In the Zone Garden.

You can start from scratch or transform an existing green space or garden. You can also consider the following when making your choices:

PLANTS Start with either a few native plants or go 100% Canadian; make sure they are local to your region. If using seeds, ensure they are locally and ethically sourced.

ENHANCE QUALITY Choose organic and natural gardening methods to make your garden wildlife friendly and healthier for people.

THROUGH THE SEASONS You can aim to provide wildlife food and shelter year round for different life stages of local wildlife or choose one species or one season to focus on.

STRUCTURES Your garden can include diverse and innovative habitat structures like bird houses, perches, ponds, bee hotels and toad houses.



GARDEN ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER (cont'd)

HARMONY You can decide on a balance between nature and cultivation that suits you. You may want to start with one Canadian wildflower or you may want to jump right in and help nature in a big way. This balance may evolve over time as you experiment with native plants.

CONNECTIVITY Together with your campus team you are helping to create a natural network of healthy ecosystems. You can also collaborate to create mini greenways to traverse boundaries, connect nearby habitats and protect wildlife from urban threats.

RESILIENCE Healthy biodiversity builds ecosystem resilience which is even more important as the climate changes. The changes you make to your campus can act as a buffer to extreme weather events, higher temperatures, droughts and floods.

SAFETY Be aware of plants that are toxic vs. edible; many look alike, so consult an expert when needed.