

While attending a nature seminar at a local college, I ran across the WPPC booth and became interested in their use of reintroducing native plants back into our landscapes and the benefits they provide.

Not having much gardening experience I was a little hesitant but applied for the WPPC mentoring program and my journey into native plantings began. My mentor gave me some easy to follow guidelines and some basic planting tips in our first meeting and assured me I was quite capable of having a successful native garden, even though I didn't quite have a green thumb, yet.

Fast forward a couple of years and my property has been transformed into a beautiful landscape of color, textures and movement all with native plants. I have come to learn they really do make a difference. It's hard to believe the results of something as simple as planting a few of the right flowers will achieve. There has been a substantial increase in the amount of birds and butterflies using the gardens for food and nesting material as well. With the added benefits of less water usage and maintenance overall you will have more time to relax and enjoy your landscaping creations.

If you're new to the plant world, like I was or, you are a seasoned gardener you will not be disappointed by learning how our native plants offer so much in healing the land. You will be making a difference in your own backyard, which I believe is a great place to start. Happy Planting!

Ron Grochowski

