



## Important Beneficial Plant Purchasing Pointers

Here are three important considerations when buying plants to create your ecologically beneficial garden, yard or "yarden"

### **Invasive Jumping/Snake/Crazy Worms**

We have a new invasive creature in our midst, jumping worms. "These earthworms are wriggling their way across the United States, voraciously devouring protective forest leaf litter and leaving behind bare, denuded soil. They displace other earthworms, centipedes, salamanders and ground-nesting birds, and disrupt forest food chains. They can invade more than five hectares in a single year, changing soil chemistry and microbial communities as they go, new research shows. And they don't even need mates to reproduce." Rinsing bare root plants in a safe location is one of the only current means of assuring that jumping worm eggs are not transplanted to your property in the soil of a potted or balled and burlap (B&B) plant.

Due to the presence of invasive Jumping/Snake/Crazy worms, please follow the recommended guidance at this link when buying community-sale plants:  
<https://extension.unh.edu/blog/invasive-spotlight-jumping-worms>

### **Preventing Pollinator Poisoning**

"Neonicotinoids and other systemic pesticides are devastating to bees and butterflies. These types of systemic chemicals can poison wildlife for years after their use. Avoid using weed killers and other insecticides on your lawn or your garden. Ask your local nursery if they use neonicotinoids and shop at ones that practice organic or integrated pest management. Share plants with like-minded neighbors, or grow plants from untreated seeds. Nature centers, local native plants sales and native nurseries are also great sources of pesticide-free plants.

Neonicotinoid pesticides do make our flowers and plants picture-perfect by killing insects. Some are safer than the even more dangerous chemicals we used to use. However, "when plants treated with a neonicotinoid produce flowers and pollen, the pesticide is

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## Preventing Pollinator Poisoning continued.

concentrated within the pollen and bees bring it home to their hive, where even small amounts can affect the health of the bee.” How do we make sure that we don’t buy plants for our gardens that negatively impact the health of the pollinators we are looking to support? Ask. Only increased, consistent and vocal consumer demands will slowly remove these chemicals from our area's nurseries' business processes.

### **“Nativars” do not provide the same ecological benefits as seed-grown native plants**

What some customers may not know when they are shopping at the garden center is many of the native plants available are actually native cultivars nicknamed "nativars".

“If (you) are wanting to create a garden that meets the needs of wildlife or pollinators, then you need to focus on using straight species. The function of the plant needs to come before whether the plant simply looks good.” says Douglas Tallamy, entomologist and author of Nature’s Best Hope, Bringing Nature Home & The Nature of Oaks

‘It is a bad idea to load the landscape with cultivars that have no genetic variability,’ tells Wild Ones. ‘I would go that route only if it is a choice between a nativar and a plant from China. I think the safest policy right now is to encourage the use of straight species. Ask for them at your local nursery, encourage nurserymen to start stocking more straight species.

The nursery industry has not embraced the message that native plants are more about ecosystem function than about looks. We have to convince them that here is a market for plants with high function.’

Additionally, truly native, seed-grown plants are also best adapted to the climate and soil they evolved in. Meaning they survive our weather events better and need less care after establishment than "nativar" plants.

Nativars are not evil, but they should be used with the proper consideration and not as a full-blown replacement for natives just because some can become too tall or aggressive at times. There’s no shame in breaking out the pruning shears to keep (full native) plants in check.”

<https://tinyurl.com/2zksrnw7>



**Healthy Home  
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## **Cheshire County, NH Plant Sources - Nurseries**

First choice is to spend your money with businesses that use organic or integrated pest management standards.  
Remember to ask if they or their growers use neonicotinoid pesticides.

**Nasami Farm Nursery - Native Plant Trust**, 128 North St, Whately, MA 01093  
(413) 397-9922

**Northeast Native Habitats**, 161 Meadow Rd, Montague, MA 01351  
(413) 824-1076

**NH State Forest Nursery** - great for bare root whipstock,  
<https://www.nh.gov/nhnursery/> (603) 271-2214

**Harlow Organic Farm**, Route 5, Westminster, Vt. [harlowfarm.com](http://harlowfarm.com) (802) 722-3515

**FEDCO Trees/Perennials/Plants**, <https://www.fedcoseeds.com/trees/>

**Sarah's Windsock Gardens**, 4 Sycamore Hill Rd, Swanzey, NH 03446  
(603) 358-6629

**Julie's Garden at Maple Lane Farm & Greenhouse**, 220 Gunn Road, Keene, NH 03431  
(603) 352-2329

**Cheshire Floral Farm**, 2 Pleasant Street Marlborough, NH 03455  
(603) 313-4124

**Ridgeview Farm**, 171 Belvedere Rd, Gilsum, NH 03448  
(603) 352-9044

**Walker Farm - Nursery**, 1190 US-5, Putney, VT 05346  
(802) 254-2051  
<https://www.walkerfarm.com/>

**Allen Brothers Farm Market**, Westminster, VT 05158  
(877) 722-3395  
<http://www.allenbrothersfarms.com/gardencenter.html>

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