Alternative Plant Resources

WEB RESOURCES:

The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG)
www.cipwg.uconn.edu
A clearinghouse of information relating to Connecticut’s invasive plants, which also includes news and events, fact sheets and other publications and resources for planting native alternatives to invasive plants. Contact Donna Ellis (860-486-6448; donna.ellis@uconn.edu) or Penni Sharp (pensharp1@comcast.net) for more information or to join the listserv.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin
www.wildflower.org/collections select “Connecticut”
Recommended species database gives names, photos and descriptions of hundreds of native plant species that can be used for gardens and landscapes in Connecticut. Also lists Connecticut suppliers of native plants and related organizations. Note: Some plants listed are native to US but may not specifically be native to Connecticut.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) PLANTS Database
www.plants.usda.gov
Database of both non-native and native plants provides standardized nomenclature across species.

Go Botany! - New England Wildflower Society (NEWFS)
http://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/
Go Botany is a four-year project to build a web-based, comprehensive, scientific reference for the flora of New England. Pick from their “simple key” or “advanced key” tools to identify plants and learn more about their habitats, characteristics, and uses, and view photos and maps.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
USDA-NRCS webpage with links to a number of publications about invasive plants, including publications with information on alternative plantings for some invasive plants.

University of Illinois Extension – Selecting Shrubs for Your Home
http://urbanext.illinois.edu/shrubselector/
This site will help you make knowledgeable shrub decisions based on specific characteristics, such as size, or light and temperature tolerance. Use this site to help with the selection of landscape plants, but also check with local organizations to see if the plants you chose are a problem in your area.

ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS:

Connecticut Botanical Society (CBS)
www.ct-botanical-society.org
Group that promotes conservation and public awareness of Connecticut’s natural heritage. CBS holds a number of field trips throughout the year, holds twice-annual meetings, and publishes a quarterly newsletter. Website is a great resource with photographs and descriptions of plants found in Connecticut, with a special emphasis on native species.

New England Wildflower Society (NEWFS)
www.newfs.org
Oldest plant conservation organization in United States. Promotes conservation of native plants through various programs and operates a native plant nursery. Also organizes volunteer eradication efforts for invasive plants and holds public education events. Call 508-877-7630 to volunteer.

**ALTERNATIVE PLANT BOOKS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS:**


**SOURCES FOR ALTERNATIVE PLANTS:**


Project Native
www.projectnative.org
A 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in Massachusetts, which provides basic information on the benefits of native plants. The group also manages a nursery specializing in native plants in Housatonic, MA.

For additional resources please visit www.cipwg.uconn.edu (Click “Meet the Plants”)