

Viewer questions: Native Plants at Noon 02/2022

Can you mention native shrubs in difficult places, or is that a coming program? This is a great idea for a program! Some of our favorite native shrubs are Ninebark, Buttonbush, Spicebush, Golden currant, Witch Hazel (short tree), American hazelnut, Aromatic sumac, Smooth hydrangea, False indigo(Amorpha), and Shrubby St. John's wort. It depends on your difficult (light and water specs) place to know which one to choose.

We have tall native grass and woodlands intermingled, so there are so many leaves that build up and seem to suffocate the flowers. We want flowers in the woodlands, and in the fields. We want flowers in the yard gardens but the leaves from oaks are so thick. Suggestions? You've got it all! Yes, a heavy oak leaf layer on full sun native plants is not good. If they are building up there, I would blow or rake the majority off. We leave mulch our woodland species and use leaf mulch on other areas (over 1-2 year old gardens, just around the plants, mulched/crushed leaves) to suppress weeds and build soil. Burning would be ideal, and that's the issue here. These plants have evolved to burn, so when fire is taken out of the clean-up tools, it can be difficult to not smother prairie forbs and grasses.

Compost, just sprinkle on yard, beds, areas you want more organic? Turn it in? It depends on your goals? Thanks! Depends on the kind of compost. We don't use any compost on established native plants. We do use whole leaf "mulch" in our woodland areas and we mulch up leaves for some beds that are younger or require spring weed suppression or a more formal look. In the program we talked about adding "compost" (leaf mulch) onto areas with heavy clay to help build up organic material.

my challenge—a very steep clay soil slope facing east. this is between a fence at the top and parking lot at bottom. Bush honeysuckle was removed, then teasle was removed. A double whammy of terrible! This area sounds like it would be difficult to plant in, so I might suggest seeding it with any seed of the clay tolerant plants we talked about. You may need to solarize/smother the teasel before laying down seeds. Fortunately we haven't had teasel show up at the Discovery Center yet!

Is there a good native honeysuckle? There sure are! Two of our favorites are Coral honeysuckle vine(it blooms for a long time and it's a hummingbird magnet!) and Yellow honeysuckle vine(a sturdy plant with some of the most unique leaves). There are lots of other native honeysuckles in North America, depending on ecoregion.

What is the best time for burning my Tallgrass native plant garden? Jan/Feb is usually best, but it always depends on details. If you have a particular invasive species that your trying to get rid of, then successful burn times can vary. You don't want to burn past March typically.

How do you control Sericia lespedeza which invades forbs? Herbicide, unfortunately. Thankfully we don't have Sericia at the Discovery Center, but from what

I've gathered, it looks like spot spraying is the most effective way. I don't like it, no one does, but in the effort to save the forbs, it's worth it.

What is the website to sign up for the native landscape class? [Events | Missouri Department of Conservation \(s3licensing.com\)](#)

Have several beds ready to seed. I then plan on adding plants. Is there a "schedule" I should follow? [Seed in the winter. Right before a snow is a great time. Then I would wait until your seedlings show up to plant, so late spring or even fall.](#)

I have a large bare area after we cleared a bunch of bush honeysuckle. It is under a pin oak and tall pine tree. What would you suggest for groundcover (deer resistant). Thanks, I'm impatient to get things filled in :) [Roundleaf groundsel, Wild ginger, Columbine, Wild geranium, Alumroot](#)

it may have been a mistake, but I put straw around my new plants last fall. should it remove it right away? [If its just around them that's fine, just make sure they're not smothered come spring. The issue with straw sometimes is that it comes with pesky seeds that sprout pesky weeds, just watch out for that.](#)

Where is a good place to purchase native plants close to St. Louis? I have a hill and used herbicide to remove invasive honeysuckle and would like to plant native plants. Thanks. [You can find vendors on DeepRoots website at https://deeproofs.org/find-plants/ or find plant sales \(some in St. Louis area\) at https://deeproofs.org/plantsale/](#)

please share any resources about native plants that can tolerate dog urine in hell strips along the sidewalk. I am planting in the urban core and the dog urine is our biggest issue. Thanks! [We don't have many recommendations from our experience, but this website does: https://sugarcreekgardens.com/deer-resistant-missouri-native-plants/](#)