

Native Plants Canada: Quick-Start Garden Canvas

Step 1: The Site Audit (Checklist)

- **Identify Sunlight:** (Full Sun 6h+ / Part Shade 3-6h / Full Shade <3h)
- **Test Soil Texture:** (Squeeze damp soil: Does it stay in a ball? Yes = Clay / Falls apart = Sand)
- **Measure Space:** Total square footage for the native bed.
- **Check Hardiness Zone:** Confirm your local Canadian zone (e.g., 5b).

Step 2: Species Selection Matrix (Fill-in Template)

Layer	Species Name	Qty	Bloom Time	Pollinator Target
Keystone Tree	(e.g. <i>White Oak</i>)			
Structural Shrub				
Floral Anchor 1				
Floral Anchor 2				
Ground Cover				

Step 3: The 12-Month Success Timeline

- Month 1-3: Soil prep (Sheet mulching).

- **Month 4:** Spring planting and deep watering.
- **Month 5-8:** Monitoring for invasive weeds (Manual removal).
- **Month 9-12:** Winterizing (Leave the stalks standing!).