

# Native Garden Success: Your 7-Step Implementation Roadmap

## Phase 1: Site Diagnostics

- Identify your Ecoregion (not just the Hardiness Zone).
- Measure sunlight exposure (6+ hours for "Full Sun", 3-6 for "Part Shade").
- Perform a "Jar Test" to determine soil texture (Clay, Sand, or Loam).

## Phase 2: Species Selection (The Native Plants Canada List)

- Select 3 **Keystone Species** (Oak, Willow, or Cherry) to support 90% of local caterpillars.
- Pick 5 **Perennial Wildflowers** with staggered bloom times (Spring, Summer, Fall).
- Choose 1 **Native Groundcover** to replace high-traffic turf areas.

## Phase 3: Site Preparation (The Modern Way)

- Source cardboard for "Sheet Mulching" (avoid plastic solarization).
- Locate a supplier for organic, weed-free compost.
- Acquire native mycorrhizal inoculants for root health.

## Phase 4: Sourcing & Ethics

- Verify with the nursery that plants are "Straight Species," not cultivars.
- Confirm that no systemic neonicotinoids were used during cultivation.
- Check for local "Seedy Saturday" events for ecotype-specific seeds.

## Phase 5: Planting & Establishment

- Plant during the "Cool Windows" (Early Spring or Early Fall).
- Apply 3 inches of untreated wood mulch to protect the soil microbiome.
- Water deeply twice a week for the first 21 days (Establishment Phase).

**Pro Tip:** Take a "Before" photo today. In two seasons, your native garden will be unrecognizable!