



WILDFLOWER NEWS

"Growing Nature's Garden"

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Contributors:

Rachel Brown, Patsy Cotterill, Liz Deleeuw, Kathleen Mpulubusi, Susan Neuman and Kate Wilson

Welcome to the June Wildflower News!

Good news!

ENPS is able to continue publishing throughout the summer thanks to our new lay-out person, Susan Neuman, who has joined our WN team of editors and regular contributors. Over the summer we plan to present tips on gardening with natives, botanical information on what is flowering and fruiting locally, and feature articles. As usual, we invite feedback and contributions from our readers with any information, photos, comments and questions; email us at info@enps.ca

Bad news

At the time of writing, we are experiencing problems with the ENPS website and it is currently unavailable.

THANK YOU!!

On May 27, ENPS held a very successful native plant sale at "Wild Birds Unlimited", selling over **540** native plants. People's interest in growing native plants is certainly increasing! Our thanks to WBU for hosting this event, and to the many volunteers that made it all possible. We hope to hold another native plant sale sometime in June

Corrections:

- In the May issue of *Wildflower News* a couple of errors slipped past us:
- the scientific name for field chickweed or mouse-ear chickweed is *Cerastium arvense*;
 - the scientific name for hairy sweetgrass is *Anthoxanthum hirtum*.

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Announcements

River Valley Planning Modernization – City of Edmonton

Remember the Ribbon of Green? The City is giving notice that it will be initiating Phase 3 of public engagement on the River Valley Planning Modernization project “to renew strategic planning for the river valley” (complete the Ribbon of Green) and “renew or replace the River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan.”

Registration for stakeholder and public workshops will open on June 5 at edmonton.ca/ribbonofgreen.

Online maps allowing input on stretches of the Ribbon of Green will be available June 12–July 4 and stakeholder workshops will be held June 20 and 22, with opportunities to meet also in two parks on June 18 and 24.

Further information on the project is accessible online, for example: https://edmonton.ca/city_government/initiatives_innovation/ribbon-of-green

The RVPM involves zoning of the river valley into areas with specific uses compatible with preservation and conservation areas and working landscapes. **We encourage everyone with concerns about the future of the river valley and ravines to take an interest and participate.**

Front Yards in Bloom - A “Natural” Way to Celebrate Edmonton’s Front Yards

By Kathleen Mpulubusi

Front Yards in Bloom is a City of Edmonton recognition program run in conjunction with the Edmonton Horticultural Society and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) Edmonton Local. Members of the public nominate beautiful front yards in their neighbourhoods. The nominated front yards get a lawn sign and a certificate of recognition. The program has run since 1999 and is a nice way to show pride in communities and connect communities together. Over 6,000 yards are nominated annually. At the end of the summer, the top yards are celebrated at a recognition ceremony.

There are six categories that yards can be nominated in: General, Tiny Yard, Natural, Edible, Balconies and Public Spaces. From fewer than 50 yards nominated 10 years ago, the Natural Yard category has grown to having over 200 nominations. The interest and growth in using native plants in yards has been steadily increasing, particularly with concern for native pollinators and habitat loss. The Front Yards in Bloom program has been instrumental in publicising the possibilities of growing native plants in gardens and creating gardens that provide a natural oasis for all native species.

To nominate yards, go to www.FrontYardsinBloom.ca You can also submit a photo of the yard as well. Volunteers are needed to help judge nominated Natural Yards after nominations close on July 4. If you are interested, please contact Kathleen Mpulubusi at kmpulu@gmail.com.

Happy Nominating!

Nominations close on July 4.

Events

Title: Nature Alberta's Nature Kids & Root 4 Trees: Tree Planting for Biodiversity

Date: Thursday, June 8 from 6 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Rundle Park sled hill; [Register here](#)

Content: Nature Alberta and Root for Trees are [partnering](#) to offer a guided tree planting volunteer experience and guided citizen science nature walk. The nature walk will be guided by nature experts from MacEwan University, discussing citizen science and contributing observations for the Biodiversity Challenge (more on that below).

Price: Free

News

2023 Native Plant Garden Challenges Are Well Underway!

By Rachel Brown

2023 ANPC Native Plant Pollinator Garden Challenge

[ANPC's garden challenge](#), open to active members, is running from March to November 2023. Participants receive a toolkit with information for planning and executing a native plant pollinator garden, membership in a Facebook group, opportunities to share and meet virtually, printable signs for the garden, help, and advice.

2023 City of Edmonton's Front Yards in Bloom

[Front Yards in Bloom nominations](#) are open now through July 4th for 2023. Submit nominations for yards, balconies, or public spaces that brighten your day to recognize and celebrate someone's efforts. Nominees receive a sign they can place in their garden. ENPS is pleased to once again assist the program in the Natural Yard category.

Annual Alberta Biodiversity Challenge Starts June 8th

Speaking of challenges, the [Alberta Biodiversity Challenge](#) hosted by Nature

Alberta is running between June 8-11th. Anyone can participate in the BioBlitz by photographing as many species as you can and uploading your sightings to the iNaturalist citizen science app. Contributions go to a good research cause.

Have a Native Plant Garden? Get It on the Map!

[Homegrown National Park®](#) has an [interactive map](#) that allows users to list their very own native plant gardens. Cofounded by celebrated entomologist Douglas Tallamy, author of *Nature's Best Hope*, HNP's call to action is "Catalyzing a collective effort of individual homeowners, property owners, land managers, farmers, and anyone with some soil to plant in...to start a new **HABITAT®** by planting native plants and removing most invasive plants. It is the largest cooperative conservation project ever conceived or attempted." So, Edmonton, let's get on the map and keep growing our own homegrown national park!

Advocacy

Naturalization – Bringing More Nature to the City – or Not?

By Patsy Cotterill

Naturalization is a term that Edmontonians are hearing a lot these days, especially now as the City of Edmonton launches its new Naturalization, Reclamation and Restoration Plan (NRRP). The term naturalization has passed into common usage over the years as municipalities have grown to indicate a type of civic landscaping that steers away from intensive management and aims to “make more natural.” (Hence it is not being used in its original technical sense of an organism becoming established in a foreign land.) The City is now saying the Plan will “provide processes and best practices to bring maintained turf and depleted land areas back to a more natural state of vegetation and ecological function,” as well as to “expand the urban tree canopy by identifying locations for park, boulevard and other open space opportunities to plant new trees and implement naturalization.” (Among other things citizens are invited to nominate sites for tree planting and can leave their comments on the Engaged Edmonton page at <https://engaged.edmonton.ca/naturalizationandtrees>.)

Naturalization sounds like something the ENPS would support, and in fact it once called itself the Edmonton Naturalization Group as it participated in some of the City’s initiatives in the early 2000s. But while the City’s ideas about naturalization have been evolving, there are ecological flaws in its conceptualizing.



The north stormwater management pond in the Edgemont/Woodhaven subdivision in the City of Edmonton's southwest. Stormwater management facilities collect and filter stormwater runoff from surrounding streets but are also green spaces and candidates for naturalization, with planting of native species. To date, the surrounding grassy areas are being mown.

Photo P. Cotterill

Considerable emphasis has been placed on the idea of **passive naturalization**, i.e., simply stopping mowing in its green spaces, which theoretically would allow native flora to passively infiltrate, although it

also recognizes that in some circumstances deliberate planting of native species *may* be necessary (**active naturalization**). Economic savings would be the main driver in the case of passive naturalization through reduced horticultural management, although increases in native biodiversity are anticipated in both instances.

However, the notion that natural biodiversity will increase by passive naturalization (simply by stopping mowing) contradicts ecological principles. In civic environments there is no source of native plant propagules (except possibly in parts of the river valley and some natural areas). On the other hand, there are plenty of weeds, and existing or planted natives will struggle to compete against them; remember, weeds are naturally super-adapted to the modified, disturbed environments in which naturalization would be slated to occur; conversely, natives thrive in long-established, natural, consolidated and cooperatively evolved communities. The City will either take on a bigger bill for weed control or citizens will have to learn to tolerate a much weedier city – without an increase in natives. This may to some extent be alleviated if native trees and shrubs are planted densely and adequate after-care reduces a traditionally high mortality, but all this will be costly, and will surely offset any cost savings that might be realized from ceased mowing. Is the City prepared to invest the necessary resources to do a proper job? Another question arises: will the City commission the growing of sufficient native material, or will it forge ahead unprepared, relying on nursery-grown cultivars of ‘native’ species?



The earlier established south stormwater management pond in Edgemont/ Woodhaven showing a fringe of riparian vegetation, cattails, poplars and willows, and more formal landscaping higher on the slopes.

Photo P. Cotterill

Anyone wishing to see an example of the City’s previous naturalization handiwork in a natural area should take a look at Schonsee Natural Area in the northeast, a completely ploughed-up and re-contoured wetland area. It was inadequately re-planted and since appears to have been abandoned, resulting in a wasteland of weeds. How the City proceeds with its NRRP will be interesting to watch.

Articles

Native Plant Primer

By Patsy Cotterill

ENPS has acquired several new members in recent months and it has been suggested that a primer on native plants and native plant gardening might benefit newcomers to this field of interest and endeavour. So here goes.

Natives vs. Non-natives

Native plants, that is, plants native to a particular country, area or place, are usually assumed to be those that have evolved in that place or else migrated there naturally in geologic time. This is in contrast to species that are not native to the place in question, but have come from elsewhere, usually carried by human agency, or have been deliberately bred and cultivated by humans. If these non-native species have become established in the new place and now grow independently without further introduction or cultivation, they are said to be **naturalized**, by analogy with citizens who adopt a foreign country as their new home. Note that this definition differs from the one commonly used these days – see the article on **Naturalization** in this issue. Another word you may see in connection with plant origins – or indeed disease organisms – is **endemic**, referring to species that occur as native to one place or region only. Endemics have high conservation value. In Alberta, although we have our share of **rare plants**, we have few endemics to worry about; a very large number of our species occur all across Canada in the appropriate habitats, and/or we share some western ones with B.C. Most native plants live in natural communities, such as woodlands, grasslands, peatlands, wetlands and river or stream sides.

Non-natives, Weeds and Invasives

Most of our **non-native** plants have been **introduced** from temperate countries through human activities such as international trade and the development of agriculture. They have found our Canadian climate and environment to their liking once human settlement has created the disturbed, anthropogenic habitats they had become used to in their home countries. Many of the species listed as Prohibited Noxious or Noxious Weeds (with varying implications for removal) have significance as problems for agriculture, reduced crop production and lost revenue; other species in the built-up areas of cities are merely unpleasant or untidy to look at, in other words a **nuisance**; yet others (introduced plants, usually weeds and often **invasives**), penetrate natural plant communities and reduce biodiversity and ecosystem function. Brome grasses provide an interesting example. In the drier south, an annual brome, downy brome or cheatgrass, causes havoc in rangeland, outcompeting native grasses, and here in Central Parkland, perennial non-native smooth brome grass, originally introduced for forage, is the grass you see everywhere, from roadsides and fields to forests. Another ubiquitous grass, also introduced with settlement, is Kentucky bluegrass. Both grasses are considered naturalized and fall below the purview of the provincial Weed Act, although both are responsible for huge loss of native groundcover. In the grassland habitats of the Parkland and farther south they replace the native plains rough fescue grass which simply cannot regenerate after it has been removed by the plough, and other native grasses. A few invasives do, however, warrant control under the Weed Act, such as garlic mustard, which invades forests, particularly in eastern Canada, purple loosestrife, which invades wetlands, and Himalayan balsam, likewise a moist ground/riparian species.

ENPS' Mission

Because settlement and urban expansion have meant both the loss of native species and a great increase in the volume of horticultural plants in civic beds and residential gardens, the ENPS has sought to redress the balance a fraction by growing native plants and promoting native plant gardening to others. We have salvaged native plants from within the city and its environs that were going to be destroyed by development, and now we mostly grow native plants from wild-collected or garden-grown seed.

Much confusion exists in the public mind about weeds and wild plants. Some people regard all non-



L: Golden bean, *Thermopsis rhombifolia*, is an example of a native legume species that grows in prairie. It was of great significance to Indigenous Plains peoples as its flowering indicated that the bison were well fed enough to hunt.



R: Common dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*, grows without cultivation (that is, has become naturalized) in lawns, fields and waste places, but is a non-native and invasive weed from Eurasia. Photos P. Cotterill

horticultural species (i.e., growing wild) as weeds, while others define, highly anthropocentrically, a weed as simply a plant that it is growing where it is not wanted. Generally, the ENPS distinguishes between native (as defined above) and non-native plants (introduced plants (weeds) that may also be invasive, and horticultural varieties of native plants). Weeds usually have a particular set of characteristics: they are fast-growing and quick to reproduce, either by seed or vegetatively or both, which makes them well suited to colonize open, disturbed ground. This has implications for naturalization in urban environments (see the Naturalization article).

The Home-grown National Park® Idea

Doug Tallamy, an entomologist and ecologist at the University of Delaware in the U.S., has conceived the idea of a Homegrown National Park®, in which citizens across North America grow natives on private and public property to create a vast network of native vegetation that feeds declining insects which in turn feed declining numbers of birds. They are fortunate in the eastern U.S. in having oaks which represent complete

ecosystems and are easy to plant, but we in the West should also try to emulate the Homegrown National Park® idea by establishing connected natural spaces. Even in a city, some form of natural connectivity is possible. Plants can move to a limited extent, by their seeds, rhizomes and suckers, and through the agency of animals, insects, birds and mammals, including humans, so even isolated green spaces can be connected. ENPS is a big fan of Tallamy's ideas!

Gardening with Native Plants

As stated, ENPS encourages the use of native plants in gardening, and we recommend that you garden with native plants in the same way as with horticultural ones.

It is often said that natives are easy to grow because they are adapted to local climate and soils. While this may be true, we do not necessarily understand their growing and survival requirements. Traditionally, nature has grown native plants, and we weren't around when some of these ancient plant communities were formed. By contrast, we have been growing commercial species for centuries for food, medicine and other resources, and in many cases have bred them to germinate easily and can be grown reliably. However, countries all over the world are learning how to grow their native species. ENPS' experience has been mostly limited to herbaceous species over the last 20 years, but what we know appears in some of our literature on the website and in our past WN newsletters. Across the globe and even in Alberta researchers are now figuring out how to grow plants that are on the brink of extinction or are important components of ecosystems that have been destroyed by human pressures.

In my opinion, native plant gardeners in the city should apply the same principles of landscaping to natives as they would to regular, horticultural species: plant low species in front of taller ones, do mass plantings of a single species for effect and to create weed-excluding ground cover, be aware of flowering times for a continuous display of colour, and so on. Species that have attractive fruits as well as flowers should also be considered, such as three-flowered avens, and meadow blazingstar, as well as the berry-bearing shrubs such as red-osier dogwood, saskatoon, and roses. Indeed, a variety of native shrubs are available from nurseries or can be grown more speedily from cuttings to provide foundation plantings of natives.

If you are raising natives from seed we recommend growing them in flats or pots nursery-style, providing the same kind of watering care, and potting them up and doing the final transplanting when they are robust enough to go into the ground. (Fertilizer should not be necessary if the soil is good enough to support growth.) See our website Plant Index pages for more details.

Native plants spread, die back, and sometimes suffer from insect infestation and disease in the same way as horticultural species do, so management is necessary. However, seed heads should be left on plants to provide food for animal life (they often look very attractive in the winter when covered by hoar frost or snow) or for collection and propagation, and litter provides insulating winter shelter for insects and other wildlife. Growing natives can present a learning curve but the conservation motive is a strong one until the rewards kick in – a garden of healthy native plants, insects and birds.

ENPS is Interested in Feedback

Popular interest in promoting pollinators is high, and we in ENPS would like to have more precise knowledge of which pollinators use which native plants. More generally, we are interested in learning about the growing experiences from our native growers out there. To provide feedback, please contact us at info@enps.ca.

Reference:

https://edmonton.ca/programs_services/pests/weed-identification-advice

Native Gardening

By Patsy Cotterill

Native Ground Covers

Common wild strawberry, *Fragaria virginiana*, is a low-growing perennial that forms excellent ground cover and is good for edging. It has a long flowering period beginning late May and its small strawberry fruits have great flavour. ENPS has not grown it from seed but it spreads readily by its overground runners which bud off new plants. In nature it grows in more disturbed habitats, such as trailsides and woodland edges, and open ground.

Alert walkers in natural woodland will notice a slightly different-looking strawberry with bright-green leaves (compared to the blueish-green leaves of common wild strawberry) which are more ovate and evenly toothed. This is the shade-loving **woodland strawberry, *Fragaria vesca***. If you are in doubt as to the plant's identity, check the terminal tooth on the terminal leaflet (of the three): in woodland strawberry it projects slightly beyond the two lateral teeth, whereas in common wild strawberry it is shorter and sunken below them.



Fragaria virginiana, common wild strawberry.



Fragaria vesca, woodland strawberry.

Native Shrubbery

Another good way to occupy space in your garden with natives is to plant native shrubs, of which we have several species to choose from.

Red-osier dogwood, *Cornus sericea*, is very commonly planted as it has a number of advantages for landscaping. In nature it prefers moist habitats but does well in most gardens and civic beds. It can be grown from seeds (with time) or from cuttings.

Clusters of tiny white flowers appear amid the abundant, large-leaved foliage in late May-June and sometimes again in late summer, followed by white berries that are relished by birds. The red stems of younger plants are especially attractive in winter. When stems get old and grey and leggy they should be pruned out. I'd be interested to know how long these shrubs live in garden situations before they become old and unsightly and need replacing. In natural communities they are often heavily browsed by moose and deer and so retain their bushy, red stems for very long periods.

Cornus sericea, red-osier dogwood.

All photos P. Cotterill



Commercial Bio-inoculants in Native Soil Systems

by Kate Wilson

“Contrary to large organisms, studies on the impact of microbial invasions are less frequent, despite the fact that microbes have been intentionally released into open environments for a long time.” Panji, Cahya Mawarda et al., University of Groningen, Netherlands, 2020

This is the second in a two-part review of soil-inoculants. The first article (in the May, 2023 issue of *Wildflower News*) touched on the use of soil inoculants and whether they’re worth the cost. There’s another factor to consider when thinking about augmenting your garden with a bio-inoculant. We shed some light below.

Soil sustains an ecosystem

In any habitat such as a wetland or mixed woodland, living and inorganic forms co-exist in a interdependent way that is sustained over time – typically millennia. Soil is no different. It provides the substrate for a living ecosystem that is the foundation for what’s been called the soil-food-web.

Globally, the impact of introduced macro-species into local environments is well documented – Japanese knotweed, common cord grass, flatworm, zebra mussels, [the list goes on](#). In many cases the impact is neutral, in others interfering with habitats, and at worst degrading natural systems and our urban landscapes.



These photos show fungal mycorrhizae on a decaying alder leaf and a peony root. Mycorrhizae, soil bacteria and other microbes are the foundation for the soil-food-web, which can be disrupted with the introduction of commercial soil-inoculants.

Photos K. Wilson



The introduction of non-native soil microorganisms into our yards and gardens through the use of microbial inoculants is underway. Professionals are starting to acknowledge their potential impact. They want to know more, as it's increasingly recognized that bio-inoculants can modify local soil microbial communities.

Some recent studies

In their 2020 review of rhizobacteria and mycorrhizae, researchers with the [National Centre for Appropriate Technology](#) emphasize that attempting to change a soil's ecosystem by adding a small amount of inoculant – while sometimes dramatically effective—is also inherently unpredictable.

Competition with the vastly greater numbers of microorganisms already in the soil is one consideration. There are also issues of microorganism-plant incompatibility and lack of diversity. Different plants exude different chemicals and release different nutrients into the soil upon decomposition. A soil may lack the necessary plant and microbial biodiversity to respond to an inoculant.

The authors note that 30 plus years of greenhouse-based experiments have been conducted, but few studies are available under field conditions.

In another review of bio-inoculants and [their impact on soil microbial communities](#), authors in north Africa and France presented factors that can change the structure of indigenous soil communities. They cited studies on different combinations of Bacillus strains on various plants that show an inherent complexity and unpredictability.

While the authors note the rhizosphere is “one of the most diverse habitats on the planet and is central to ecosystem functioning”, they acknowledge that a modification in the bacterial community after inoculation could be buffered by ecosystem resilience. Also, the loss of bacterial species may not change soil's functioning since different bacteria may carry out the same functions. In conclusion, they emphasize the need for further research and that studies on long term impacts have been neglected.

A 2020 [literature search](#) from the Netherlands and France showed that microbial inoculants can modify native soil communities and alter soil functioning. In one study, the introduction of Fusarium and Rhizoctonia strains led to a decline in weed population and suppression of the native plant species. The authors noted that while soil inoculation aims to regulate or improve ecosystem processes, the effects can deviate from the intended purposes. They conclude it's still unclear how long an impact persists over time, and that mechanisms underlying an impact – and how it affects the resident soil microbial communities – are still poorly understood.

There is also potential for [plant-soil feedback on invasive plants](#). Researchers from the western US noted there are many management projects which have attempted to decrease or eradicate invasive species, only to have them recolonize. While this is often attributed to reinvasion through propagules at the site or from the surrounding landscape, it may also may be due to invasive species changing site conditions to favour those same species over native species.

Another factor is the effect of soil inoculants on [seed germination of native and invasive species](#). In a study in 2016, researchers from the University of California tested soil- and lab-grown bacterial inoculants on germination on 19 plant species. The invasive plants showed the highest percentage and speed of germination over the native shrubs. Their study also suggested that lab-grown inoculants increase germination in some native species, whereas soil inoculant does not.

But in another study in 2018, researchers from Ohio and Kansas showed that [reintroduction of the native microbiome](#) and native mycorrhizal fungi improves plant diversity, accelerates succession and increases the establishment of plants that are often missing from restored communities, as opposed to commercial fungi.

In their 2018 paper on [developing soil microbial inoculants](#) for agriculture, authors from Pennsylvania State University noted that microorganisms disperse widely from things like rain, dust and movement with invertebrates. They conclude that, while industry and academia have boosted investments into bio-inoculants, their efficacy remains unreliable and continued investigation into the long-term fates of microbial products is needed.

To address growing concerns over invasive species, researchers from Germany, Switzerland and the UK have [devised four categories](#) to clarify and define the impacts of non-natives in local ecosystems. They concluded that impacts of most non-native species are poorly understood, and hope their definition helps the global community understand the implications for biodiversity and ecosystems. They also hope it helps disentangle which aspects of debate about non-native species are due to conflicting definitions, and which represent true scientific discord.

Something of a conclusion

Soil-inoculants have been used in agriculture for things like nitrogen-fixation and biopesticides for several decades. Starting around 2010, research has started to overlap technologies – genetic, microbial, molecular – to peer into the complexity of microbiome relationships within soil communities.

Meanwhile, professionals and researchers agree that 1/ bio-inoculants have potential for improving crops and natural ecosystems such as grasslands, 2/ there are benefits but also mixed results, 3/ we don't know the long term consequences, and 4/ non-native soil microbes have potential for interfering with native soil ecosystems.

The predominant conclusion is that more research is needed.

Some things to consider

The horticultural world is on the cusp of mass marketing of bio-inoculants for home use. This new frontier is big business, with manufacturers competing for space on store shelves and all that entails, including big advertising.

Meanwhile life forms have a way of ignoring how we want them to behave, expanding beyond their initial conditions. When it comes to local and global markets, consumers are often the same. As a product becomes normalized, people start to use it beyond its intended use and instructions.

As you consider whether or how you're going to apply a commercial bio-inoculant, in your potting soil or your back-forty, it's good practice to acknowledge the product contains living organisms that are integral to soil-plant and ecosystem functioning.

If you've made a commitment to learning about native plants and their place in the aspen parkland, you can continue that commitment by learning about native soil and its inter-relationships.

Here's a very short list of resources to start:

<https://gardening.usask.ca/articles-and-lists/articles-notillgardening/what-lives-in-soil.php>

<https://ses.uoguelph.ca/research/plant-and-environmental-health>

<https://soilfoodwebstudent.com/2020/09/07/review-soil-food-web-foundation-courses/>

Spotlight on Garden-worthy Species

Nodding Onion (*Allium cernuum*)

By Liz Deleeuw

Nodding onion is an interesting plant for your home garden. While this native onion can be eaten (has a strong onion taste) it also has a beautiful flower which really looks good when grouped. It is good for rock gardens or naturalized beds. The light to mid-pink flowers bloom anywhere from May to July. Around Edmonton they usually bloom a little later than May. Nodding onion can handle sunny to part shade conditions and average soil moisture. Nodding onions can be from 20 to 40 cm high and suggested spacing is 20 to 30 cm. Try adding one or two of these plants into your garden and they will politely self-seed to form a nice group. Happy gardening!



Nodding onion, *Allium cernuum*.

Photo C. Dodd

Aims of the Edmonton Native Plant Society:

- ❖ Promote knowledge of the Edmonton area native plants.
- ❖ Conserve our native plant species and their habitats.
- ❖ Preserve native plant species and habitat for the enjoyment of present and future generations.
- ❖ Educate individuals, business and local governments about native plants.

Lifetime ENPS Membership

You can now become an Edmonton Native Plant Society member for life. Memberships are \$20.

Purchase by email: enpsmembership@gmail.com
or visit one of our booths at plant events in your area.

ENPS members are also eligible for a free Lifetime Membership with Nature Alberta.



Labrador Tea, *Rhododendron groenlandicum*, flowers in early to mid-June and indicates the end of spring and start of full summer. It grows in peatlands and peaty depressions. Acreage owners with organic soil might wish to plant it if they don't have it already.

Photo P. Cotterill

Please send compliments, concerns and questions to info@enps.ca
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