

TECH GUIDE

TYPES OF PLANTS



Plants can be broken down into several categories or types based on where they originated and their growth habitats. These Types are commonly broken down as follows; native, Introduced, naturalized, and invasives. Each of these has a purpose and reason they are on the landscape. Some need to stay while others should be removed. See below to learn more about each of these types.



Black-eyed Susan, a Native Plant



Corn Poppy, an Introduced Plant

NATIVE PLANTS

Native plants are plants that were originally found here in the United States before European settlement. These plants are adapted to the climate and pests of the area meaning they have evolved to the rainfall, geology, temperature ranges, and slope of the area. For these plants, we pick the species to match the site as native plants can be found in wet to dry conditions, full sun to shade, and fertile soil to poor rocky ground. An example of native plants would be Little Bluestem, Black-eyed Susan, and Switchgrass. These plants are commonly used in habitat projects, restoration, forage, and any projects in which clients wish to use native plants instead of introduced plants.

INTRODUCED PLANTS

Introduced plants are plants that were brought over to the United States, either on purpose or by accident, after European settlement. A lot of these species were brought over for quick growth, aesthetic value, or forage value. Many of these species were sod-forming grasses or aggressive growers that would grow quickly after planting and were suitable for the livestock that was also brought over. Examples of introduced plants would be Fescue, Bermuda grass, White clover, and Sericea Lespedeza. These plants are commonly used in landscaping situations and note that some introduced plants are considered invasive as well.

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Fescue, a Naturalized Plant



Kudzu, an Invasive Plant

NATURALIZED PLANTS

These are plants that were introduced into the country but have grown well and now can propagate without human help. They are typically commonly found in the areas where they grow. Many of these grow so well and have been here so long that some people mistake them for natives. Examples of these plants would be Fescue, White clover, and Orchard grass. These plants are commonly used in lawns, construction projects, and improved pastures.

INVASIVE PLANTS

These are plants that dominate an area and grow so well that they push out most other species where they are growing. They can easily spread and out-compete other vegetation in the area, lowering the overall quality of the habitat. These plants are likely to cause harm to the economy, environment, and or humans. Examples of these include Johnson Grass, Kudzu, and cut-leaf teasel. These species are not recommended to be used and should be eradicated from the landscape as well.

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