

Green Mountain College Native Species Landscaping Policy

Brandon Gowdy and James Graves

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I. Overview

Campus lands are a tremendous asset to Green Mountain College, with values for academic programs and research, the social environment, and ecosystem function. We celebrate our unique place in the biosphere, and seek to minimize the ecological footprint of our land use. We envision a campus landscape that supports the college mission to foster environmental responsibility. To implement our vision, we adopt a native species landscaping policy that demonstrates sustainable land management and supports academic programs (Gowdy and Graves 2010).

II. Scope and Application

This policy applies to all outdoor land on the main campus of Green Mountain College.

III. Procedures

1. Plantings in designed spaces and in natural areas on campus must be selected from species native to Vermont and adjacent portions of New York, New England, and Canada, except as noted in #2 below. A native species is one that grows in the region without direct or indirect recent or historical human transport past natural barriers to dispersal. Typically, native species have long evolutionary histories with flora and fauna in the region. Provenance (the geographic origin of the original populations) of plant material must be from the Northeastern U.S.
2. On Cerridwen Farm and in lawns, non-native species may be planted if the species are considered non-invasive. Invasive species are listed by the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England. Non-native species must not be planted in any other outdoor area on campus unless there is a compelling rationale to make an exception to the native species landscaping policy. For example, there may be a compelling rationale for establishing food-production gardens near campus buildings.
3. Existing non-native plants that are invasive will be removed when reasonable and, if appropriate, replaced by native species. It is recommended that other existing non-native plants not known to be invasive be removed or replaced over time; non-native non-invasive species may remain in the short term where they have recognized value or when action is limited by budget constraints. Any landscape planning for an area where non-native species grow must consider options for replacing these.

IV. Responsible Parties

1. The college administration will enforce the policy, and approve all plantings.
2. Faculty and staff with expertise in plant biology must be consulted to evaluate species in proposed plantings for consistency with this policy.

V. Supporting Document

Gowdy, Brandon, and James Graves. 2010. *The Green Mountain College native species landscaping policy: a rationale*. Report for Green Mountain College, Poultney, VT.