

A photograph of a garden path lined with purple flowers and green foliage. The path is made of brown mulch and leads through a lush garden. The background shows more trees and greenery.

Beauty, Biodiversity, & Resilience: Creating a Climate -Smart Garden with Native Plants

Takoma Park Sustainability Speaker Series

By Lisa Kuder, Native Plants & Landscapes Specialist

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El Título IX de la Ley de Enmiendas de Educación de 1972 (Título IX) prohíbe la discriminación por motivos de sexo, el embarazo o la situación parental) en los programas y actividades educativas que reciben asistencia financiera federal. La ley también prohíbe que las personas sean excluidas de dichos programas o actividades o que se les denieguen beneficios de dichos programas o actividades por motivos de sexo. Esta prohibición se aplica a una amplia gama de escuelas públicas y privadas en los niveles de kinder-12.º grado, y a institutos de estudios superiores y universidades que reciben fondos federales. Una escuela controlada por una organización religiosa está exenta del Título IX cuando los requisitos de la ley entrarían en conflicto con los principios religiosos de la organización. La ley exige que las instituciones o programas educativos financiados con fondos federales difundan ampliamente la información del Título IX, incluyendo el nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono (u otra información de contacto) del coordinador designado del Título IX.

La información del programa está disponible en otros idiomas además del inglés. Las personas con discapacidades que requieran medios de comunicación alternativos (p. ej., braille, letra grande, cintas de audio o lenguaje de señas americano) deben comunicarse con la agencia estatal o local responsable que administra el programa o comunicarse con el USDA a través del Servicio Federal de Retransmisión de Telecomunicaciones al 711 (voz y TTY).

Antes de presentar una queja del Título IX ante el USDA contra una institución, un potencial reclamante puede querer conocer el proceso de queja formal de la institución y usar ese proceso para resolver la queja. Sin embargo, la ley no exige que un reclamante use el proceso de queja formal institucional antes de presentar una queja ante la OCR. Si un reclamante usa un proceso de queja formal institucional y elige presentar la queja ante la OCR, la queja debe presentarse ante la OCR dentro de los 60 días posteriores a la finalización del proceso de queja formal institucional.

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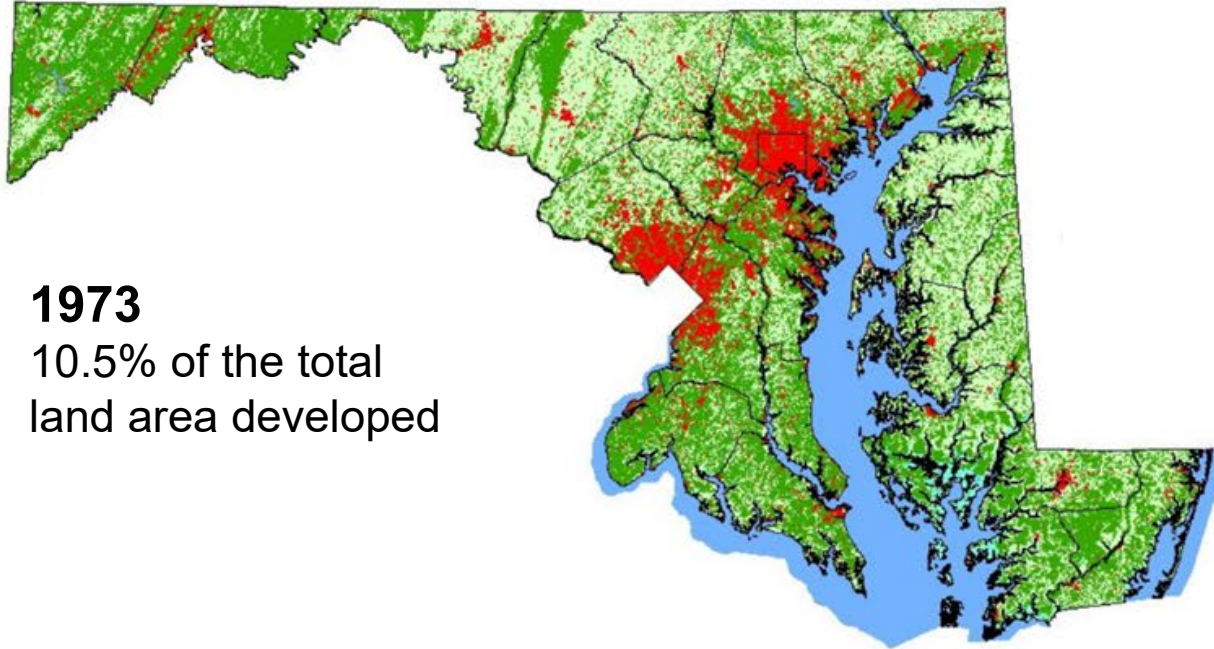
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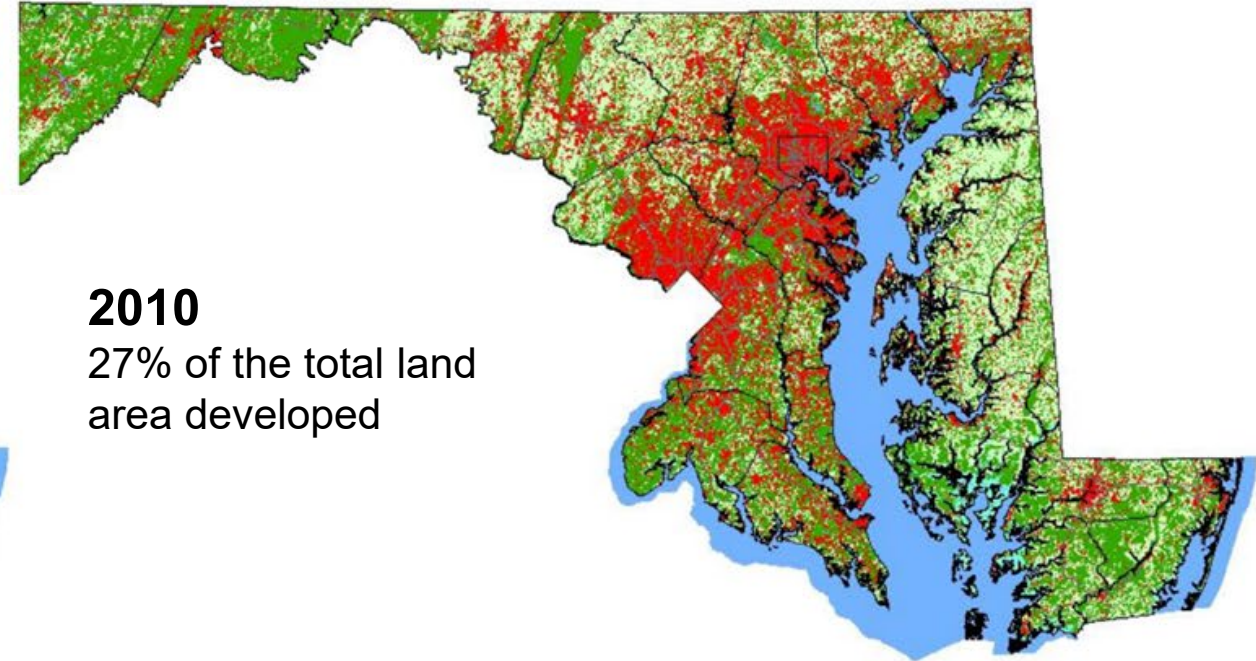
**FEARLESSLY
FORWARD**

Land Use Trends in Maryland (1973 -2050)



1973

10.5% of the total
land area developed

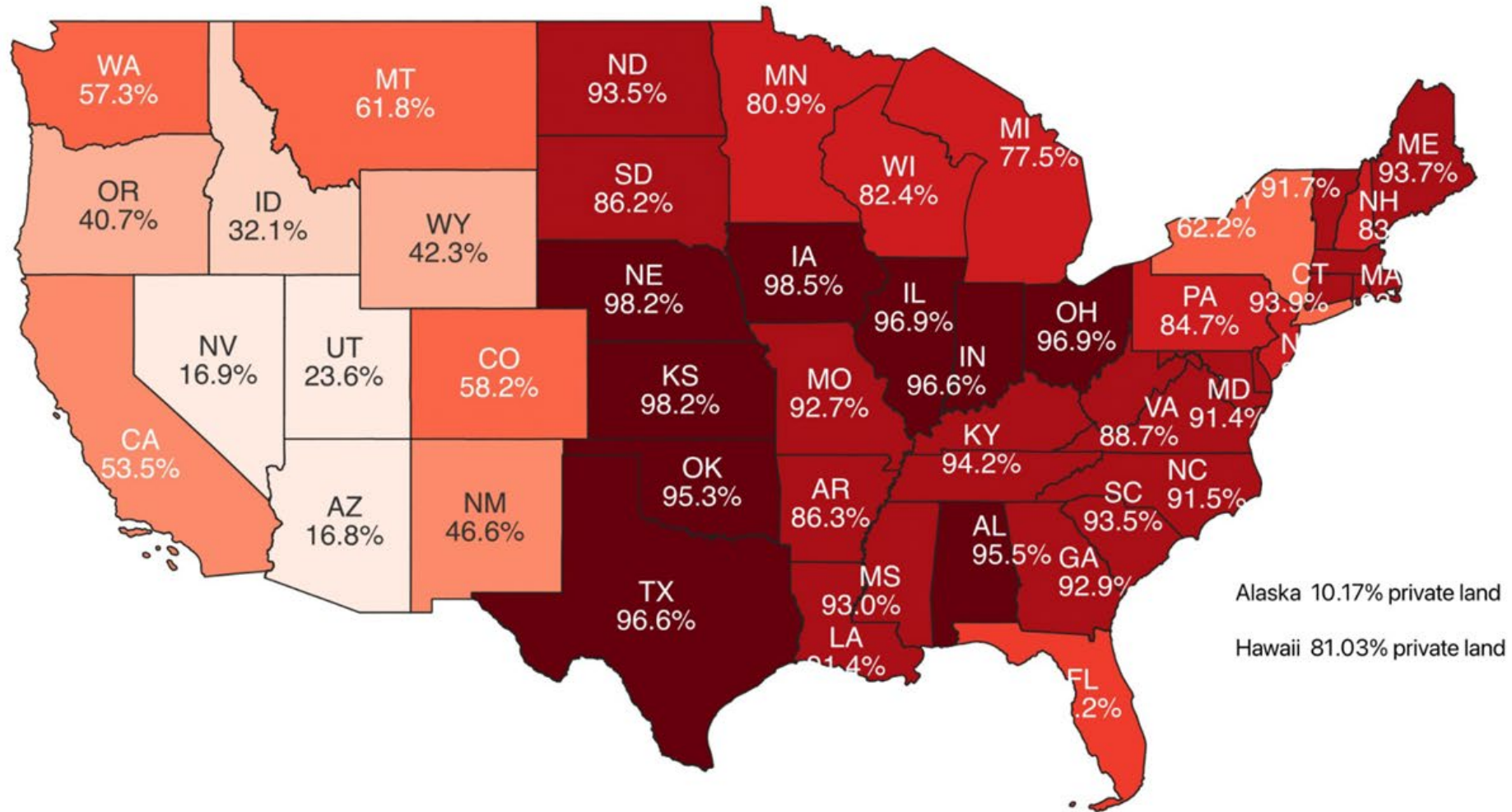


2010

27% of the total land
area developed

By 2050, the State's population is projected to increase by 1 million, resulting in the loss of an additional 6% of land area to development (Maryland Department of Planning, 2024)

Percentage of Private Lands in the U.S.

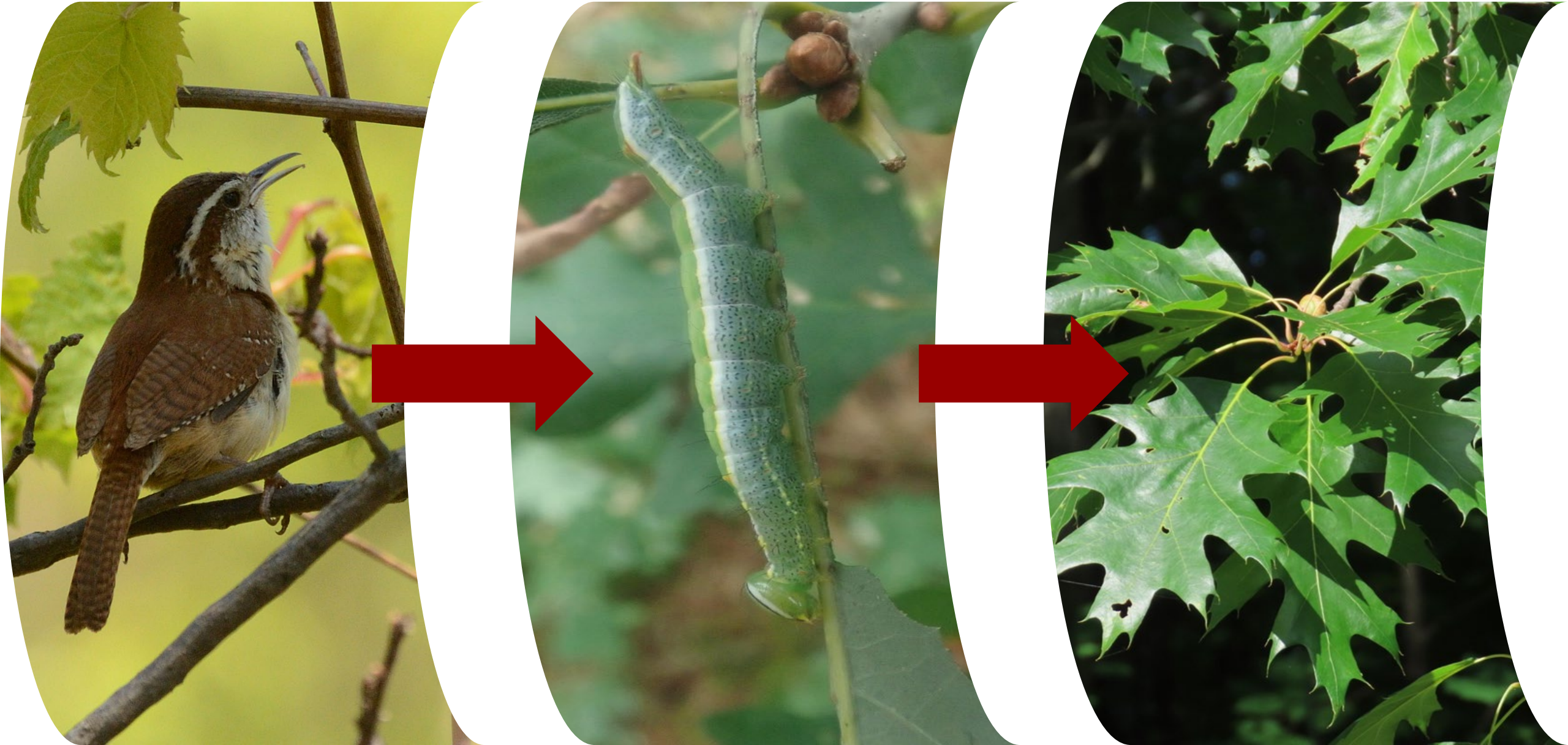


Source: National Wilderness Institute (<http://www.nwi.org/Maps/LandChart.html>)

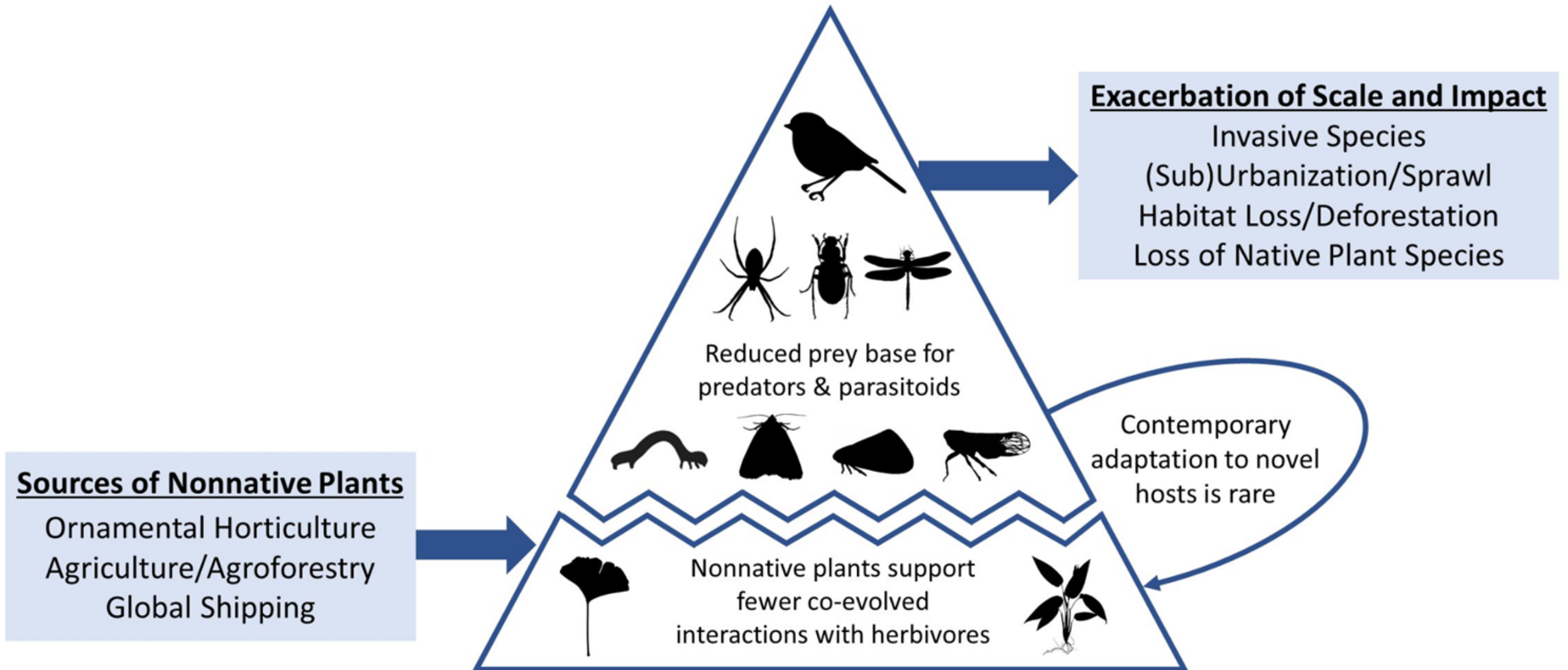
Majority of Plants Sold in MD Are Nonnative



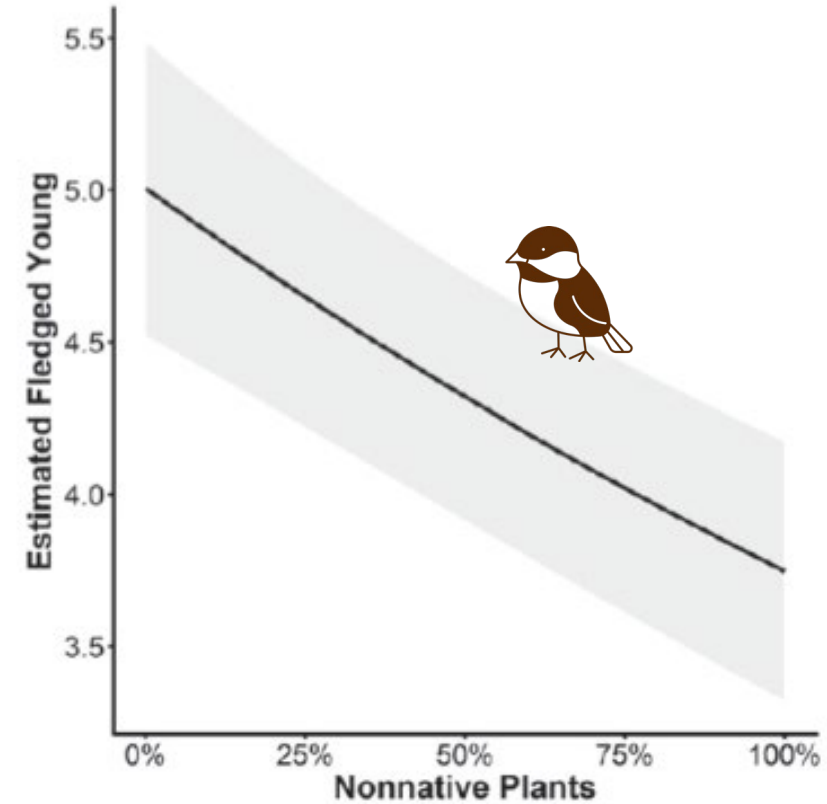
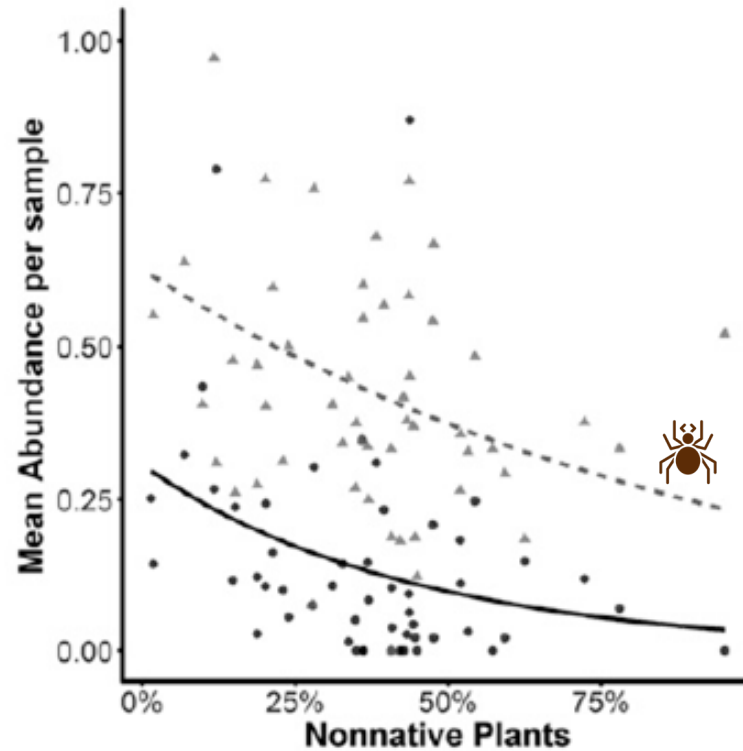
Native Plants: Foundation of Healthy Food Webs



Nonnative Plants Disrupt Food Webs



70/30 (Native/Nonnative) Rule of Thumb



Maryland's Diverse Flora



2,918 established plant spp.



2,101 native spp.

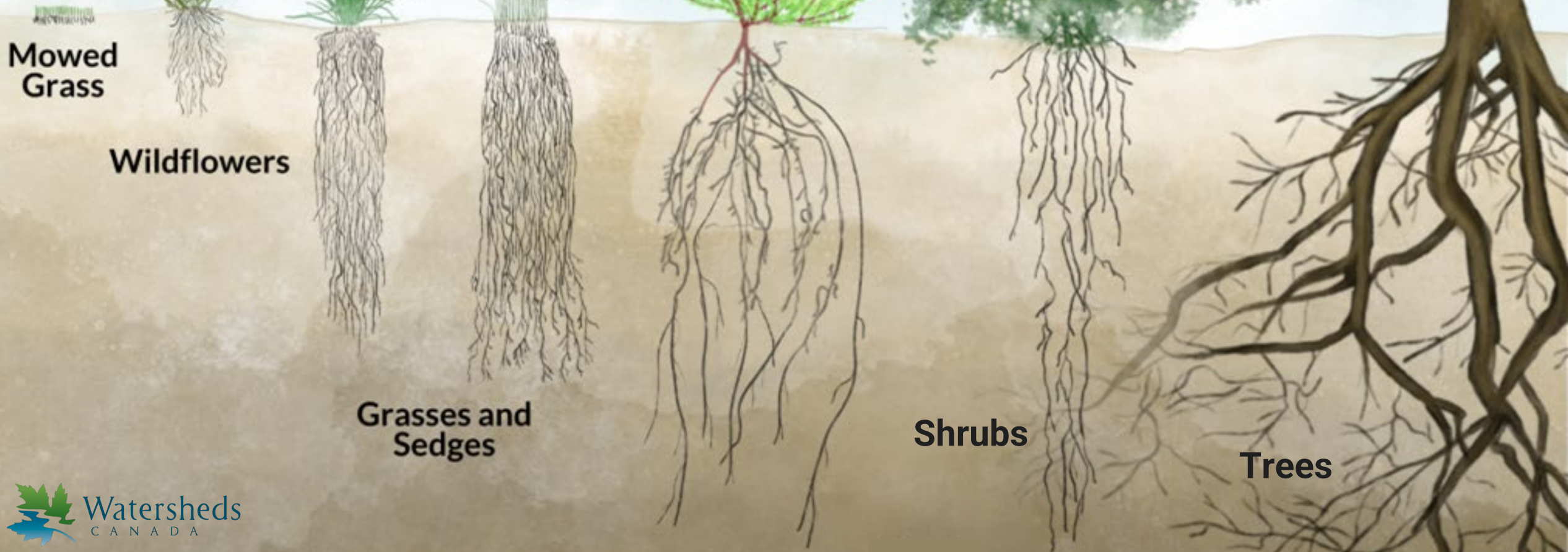


817 nonnative spp.



299 invasive spp.

Stormwater Solutions: Dynamic Roots



Native Plants Provide a Sense of Place



How Can We Incorporate More Natives?



Photo: Zach Kuder



Maryland has over 1.3 million
acres of lawn

Shrink the Lawn



Orig. Photos: Homegrown National Park, Upper righthand photo modified by L Kuder



Sod Cutter

PC170

759801

RYAN

Jr. Sod Cutter
Professional Grade



Before



3 Hours Later

Sheet Mulching



arboretum.ucdavis.edu/news/break-up-with-your-lawn-using-cardboard

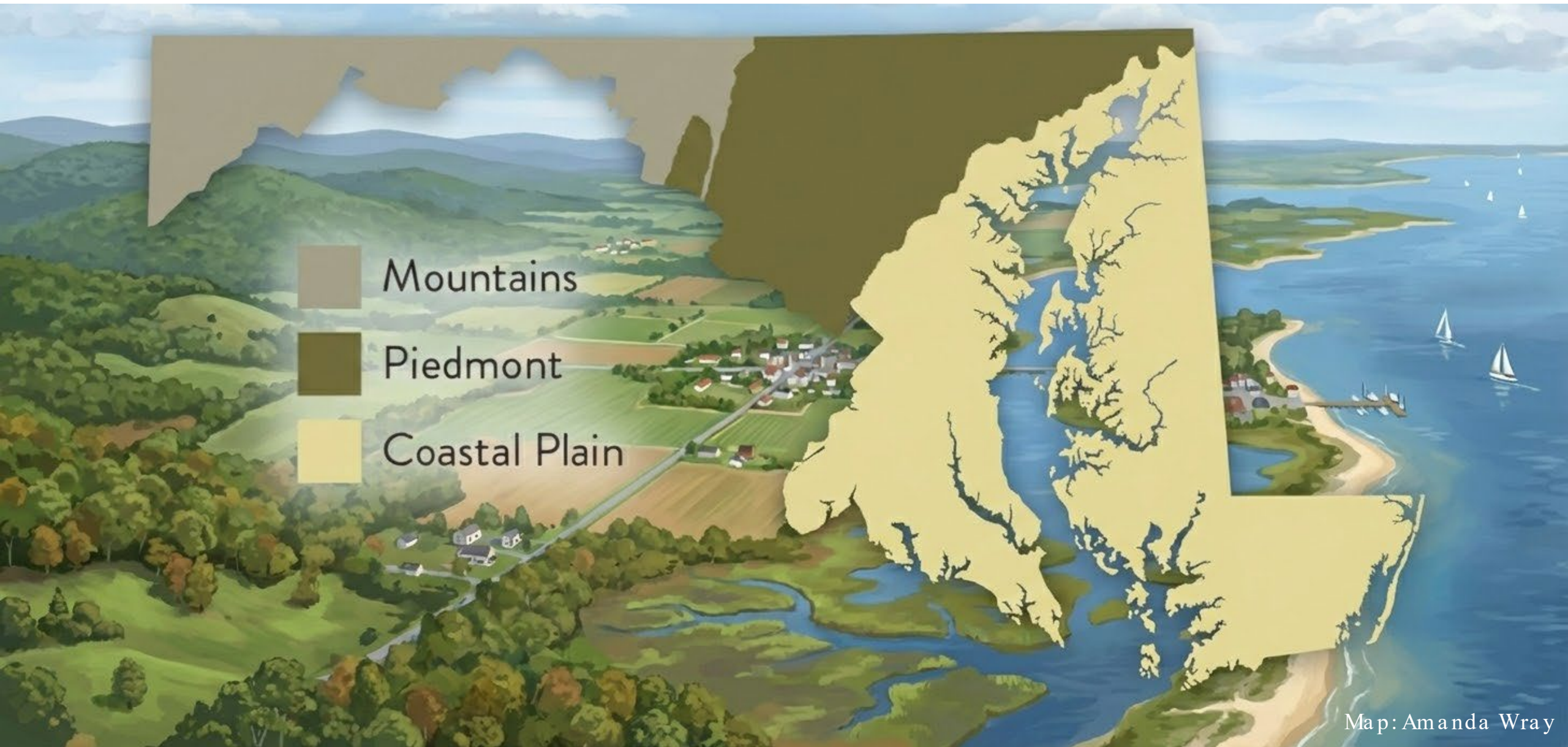
Smother Your Lawn w/ Arborist Chips



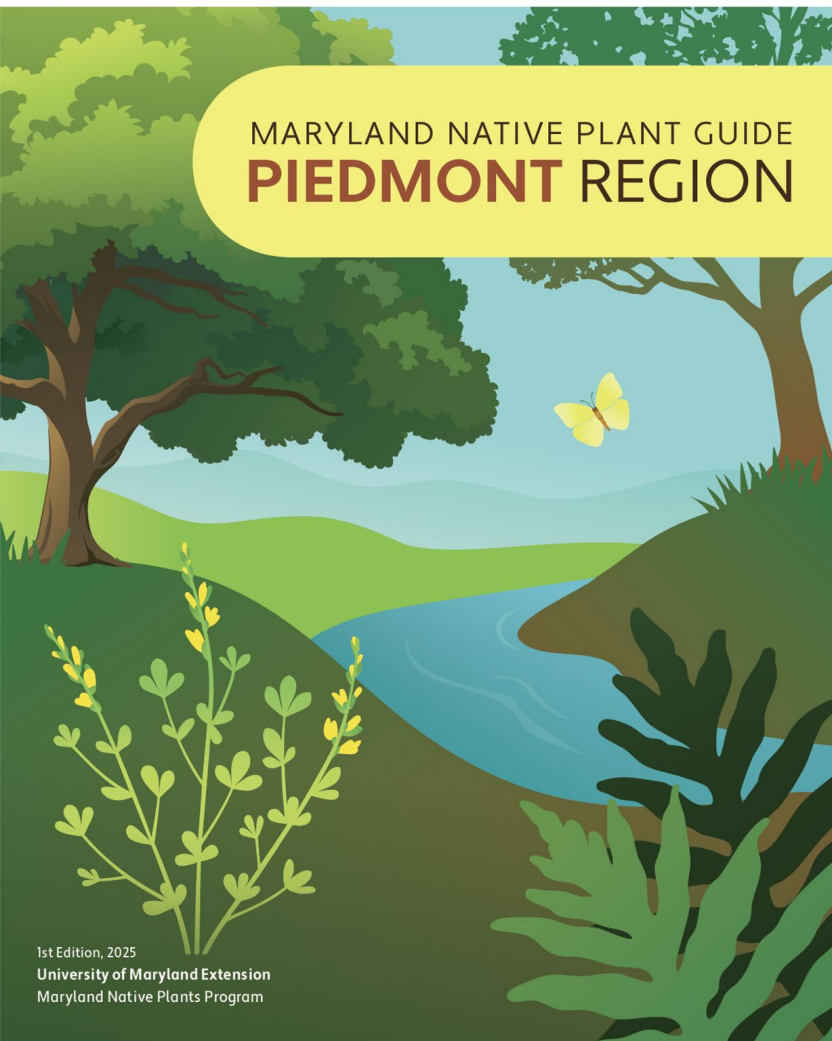
Selecting Plants | Helpful Resources



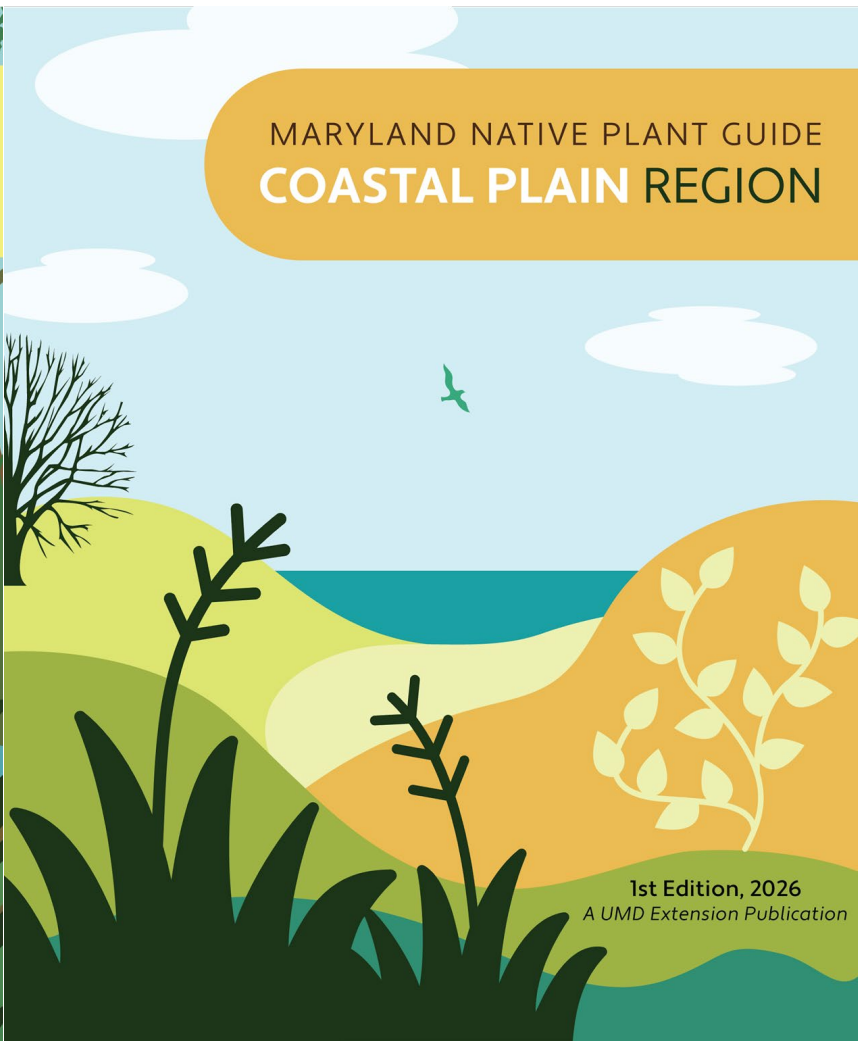
Maryland Ecoregion Level II



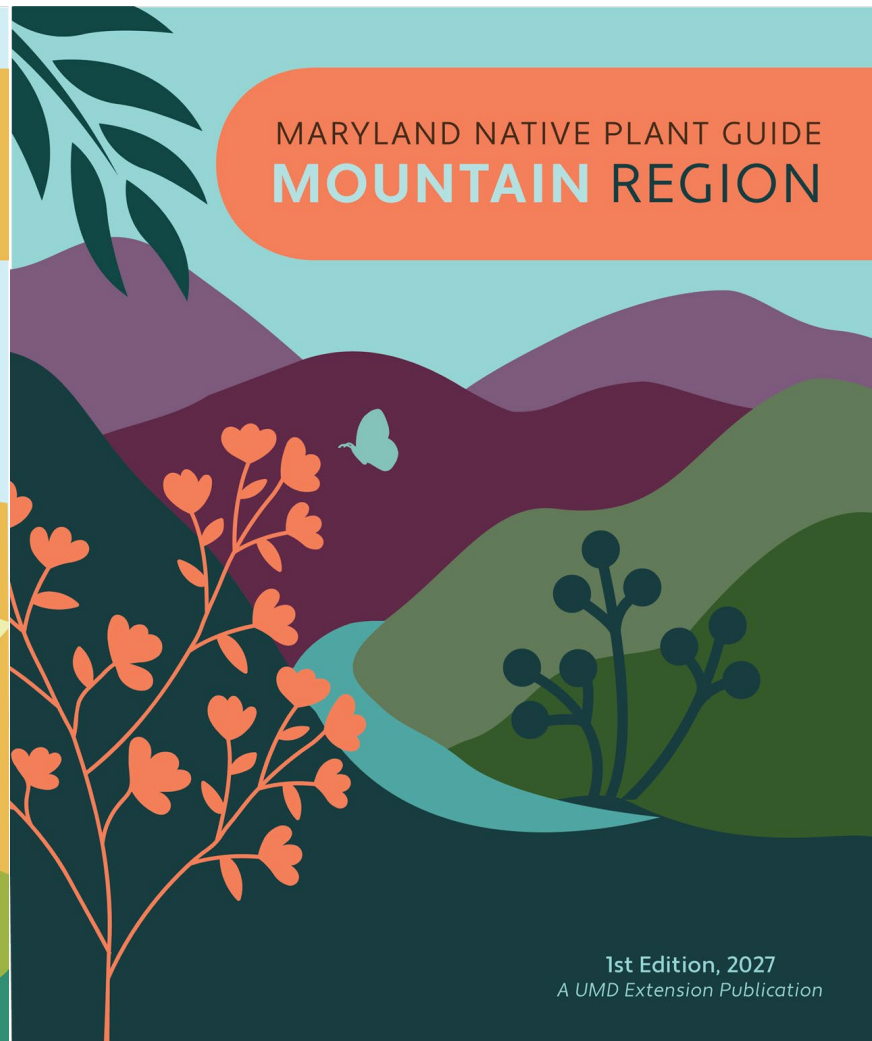
Maryland Plant Guides



Available NOW

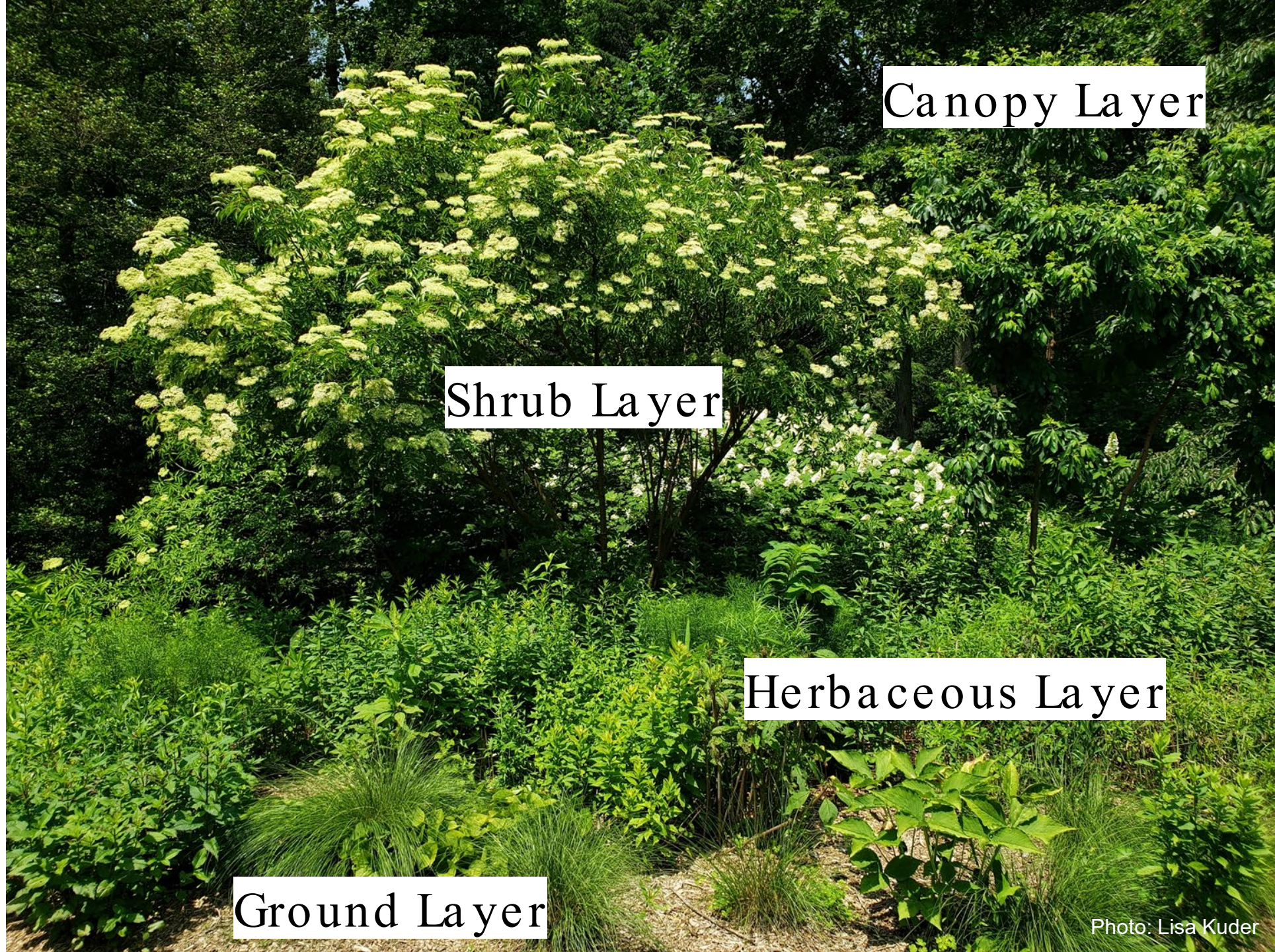


Summer 2026



Summer 2027

Species &
Structural
Diversity
Supports
Resiliency &
Diversity



Canopy Layer

Shrub Layer

Herbaceous Layer

Ground Layer

Keystone Species for the Mid- Atlantic

WOODY PLANTS FOR LEPIDOPTERA [®]			PERENNIALS FOR LEPIDOPTERA [®]		
Plant Genus	Common Name	# of Species	Plant Genus	Common Name	# of Species
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak	557	<i>Solidago</i>	Goldenrod	104
<i>Prunus</i>	Black cherry	456	<i>Fragaria</i>	Strawberry	67
<i>Salix</i>	Willow	455	<i>Helianthus</i>	Sunflower	56
<i>Betula</i>	Birch	413	<i>Eupatorium</i>	Joe Pye, Boneset	31
<i>Populus</i>	Poplar	368	<i>Viola</i>	Violet	28
<i>Malus</i>	Crabapple	311	<i>Geranium</i>	Geranium	25
<i>Acer</i>	Maple	297	<i>Hibiscus</i>	Rosemallow	25
<i>Vaccinium</i>	Blueberry	288	<i>Panicum</i>	Switchgrass	25
<i>Alnus</i>	Alder	255	<i>Lupinus</i>	Lupine	24
<i>Carya</i>	Hickory	235	<i>Sium</i>	Water parsnip	21
<i>Ulmus</i>	Elm	215	<i>Baptisia</i>	Wild indigo	19
<i>Pinus</i>	Pine	203	<i>Erigeron</i>	Fleabane	19
<i>Crataegus</i>	Hawthorn	168	<i>Vernonia</i>	Ironweed	19
<i>Picea</i>	Spruce	156	<i>Rudbeckia</i>	Black-eyed Susan	18
<i>Fraxinus</i>	Ash	150	<i>Oenothera</i>	Evening primrose	15
<i>Tilia</i>	Basswood	150	<i>Thalictrum</i>	Meadow rue	15
<i>Rosa</i>	Rose	139	<i>Verbesina</i>	Wingstem	15
<i>Corylus</i>	Filbert	131	<i>Andropogon</i>	Bluestem	14
<i>Juglans</i>	Walnut	130	<i>Apocynum</i>	Dogbane	14
<i>Castanea</i>	Chestnut	127	<i>Asclepias</i>	Milkweed	12
<i>Fagus</i>	Beech	127	<i>Aquilegia</i>	Columbine	11

MD Native Plant Guide Piedmont
Region, Data from Shropshire and
Tallamy, in press

Over 300 Featured Plants



Vaccinium corymbosum, Highbush blueberry

LIGHT: ☀️ 🌙 SOIL MOISTURE: 💧 💧 HEIGHT: 6-12 ft.

SOIL TYPE: acidic, well-drained FOLIAGE: green > red, orange

SEASONAL INTEREST: **spring • summer • fall** • winter

Highbush has brilliant red fall foliage, making it an excellent alternative to invasive burning bush. Beautiful bell-shaped flowers Mar-May, followed by juicy, edible fruits that attract humans, birds, and small mammals. Aim for a pH of 5 and pair with other acid loving plants.

SUPPORTS: 🐛 🐝 🦋 🐦 🐓 🐭

How to Read Plant Tags

How to read plant tags

Below are illustrated, hypothetical examples of plant tags you might see at a nursery.

- Tag 1** **Straight species** or wild type: botanical name, common name
- Tag 2** **Naturally occurring variety of a straight species**: botanical name, common name, and var. for variety
- Tag 3** **Cultivar of a native plant**: botanical name, common name, and the cultivar name, which usually has single quotes around it
- Tag 4** **Hybrid** (a cross of two plant species): *Note that the botanical name is absent, only the genus is included.* Often the genus of both parent plants that were crossed is included, e.g., genus x genus. Like cultivars, hybrids will have an additional name in single quotes



RISCC Climate Smart Gardening 2.0

Species	Native to state?	Native to shared ecoregion?	Survive current hardiness zones?	Survive future hardiness zones?	Category
 <i>I. opaca</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	Persistent Native
 <i>R. arborescens</i>	✗	✓	✓	✓	Persistent Near-native

CAUTION: Persistent near-natives aren't historically native to the focal state. These species need to move, but moving plants outside of their current range could result in unintended impacts. To minimize risk, we only included near-natives on state lists if their native range shared a Level III ecoregion with that state. Buy native plants from reputable sources, and do not collect wild plants. Pay close attention to nursery labels and consult with state botanical societies and local/regional floras before planting subspecies, varieties, and cultivars.



Download state lists

How to Get a Copy



Full Spread

go.umd.edu/MDPiedmontGuide



Mobile-Friendly

go.umd.edu/MDPiedmontGuideMobileFriendly



Hard copies

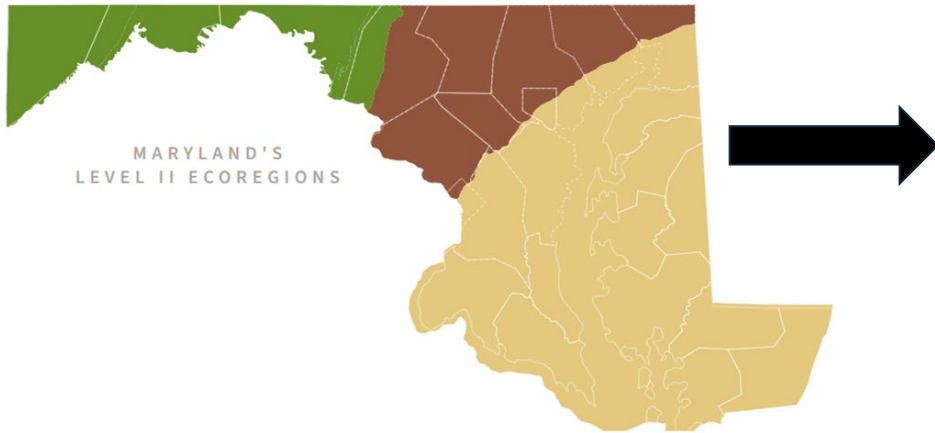
1. MD Native Plant Society
2. Local Extension office
3. Participating nurseries



NEW Plant App

Where are you gardening?

Select your ecoregion using the labels below.



Not sure? Enter your MD ZIP:

e.g. 21401

Find



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION



678 native species

[New Search](#) [How it Works](#) [Feedback](#)

[Español](#)

NATIVE PLANT FINDER (Beta)

Commercial Maryland Native Plants

Saved Plants

YOUR ECOREGION

Search Plants...

Mountains

Piedmont

Coastal Plain

SEARCH BY HABITAT

REFINE RESULTS

Reset

Legend

Keystone species



American Yarrow

Achillea borealis

MTN PDM CST



BLOOM SEASON

HEIGHT: 1-3' WIDTH: 1'



White Baneberry, Doll's Eyes

Actaea pachypoda

MTN PDM CST



BLOOM SEASON

HEIGHT: 1-3' WIDTH: 2-3'



Black Cohosh, Baneberry, Fairy Candles

Actaea racemosa

MTN PDM CST



BLOOM SEASON

HEIGHT: 4-6' WIDTH: 2-4'



Purple Gerardia, False Foxglove

Agalinis purpurea

MTN PDM CST



BLOOM SEASON

HEIGHT: 1-2.5' WIDTH: 1-1.5'



Yellow Giant Hyssop

Agastache nepetoides

MTN PDM CST



White Snakeroot

Ageratina altissima

MTN PDM CST



Lesser Snakeroot

Ageratina aromatica

MTN PDM CST



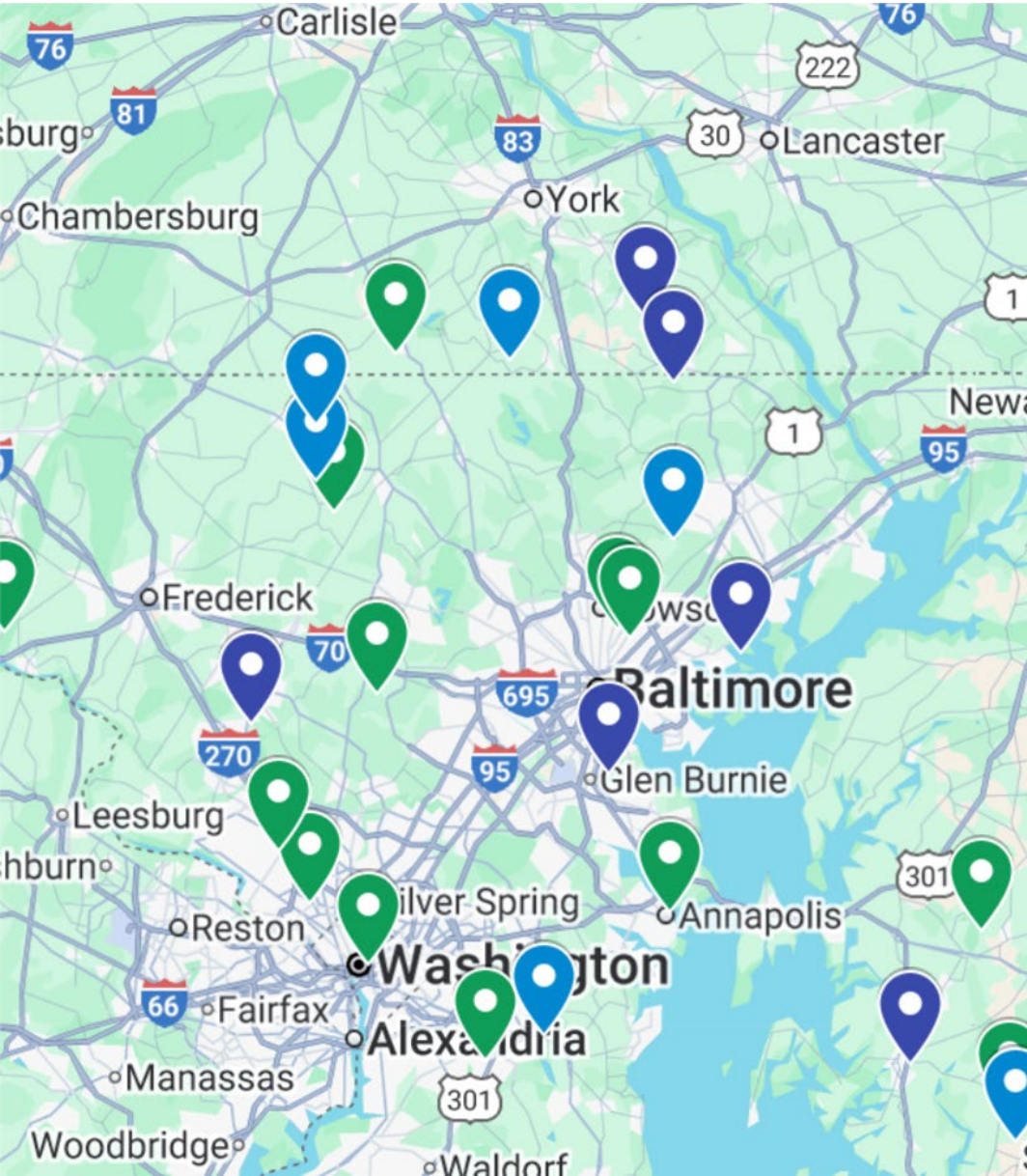
Small-Flowered Agrimony

Agrimonia parviflora

MTN PDM CST



MDA Certified Nurseries



Climate-Resilience Planning



MoCo RainScapes Program



- Must be composed of 75% natives, \$7.5 -20K
- Contractors & landscapers are key partners
- Two certification tracks:
 - National Green Infrastructure Certified Professional
 - Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional



References

Khachatryan, H., Hodges, A. W., Hall, C., & Palma, M. A. (2020). Production and marketing practices and trade flows in the United States green industry, 2018. *South. Coop. Ser. Bull*, 421, 2020-2021.

Knapp, W., & Fernald, R. (2021). *Vascular plants of Maryland, USA: A comprehensive account of the State's botanical diversity*. Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press.

Narango, D. L., Tallamy, D. W., & Marra, P. P. (2018). Nonnative plants reduce population growth of an insectivorous bird. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 115(45), 11549-11554.

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El Título IX de la Ley de Enmiendas de Educación de 1972 (Título IX) prohíbe la discriminación por motivos de sexo, el embarazo o la situación parental en los programas y actividades educativas que reciben asistencia financiera federal. La ley también prohíbe que las personas sean excluidas de dichos programas o actividades o que se les denieguen beneficios de dichos programas o actividades por motivos de sexo. Esta prohibición se aplica a una amplia gama de escuelas públicas y privadas en los niveles de kinder-12 grado, y a institutos de estudios superiores y universidades que reciben fondos federales. Una escuela controlada por una organización religiosa está exenta del Título IX cuando los requisitos de la ley entrarían en conflicto con los principios religiosos de la organización. La ley exige que las instituciones o programas educativos financiados con fondos federales difundan ampliamente la información del Título IX, incluyendo el nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono (o otra información de contacto) del coordinador designado del Título IX.

La información del programa está disponible en otros idiomas además del inglés. Las personas con discapacidades que requieren medios de comunicación alternativos (p. ej., braille, letra grande, cintas de audio o lenguaje de señas americano) deben comunicarse con la agencia estatal o local responsable que administra el programa o comunicarse con el USDA a través del Servicio Federal de Retransmisión de Telecomunicaciones al 711 (voz y TTY).

Antes de presentar una queja del Título IX ante el USDA contra una institución, un potencial reclamante puede querer conocer el proceso de queja formal de la institución y usar ese proceso para resolver la queja. Sin embargo, la ley no exige que un reclamante use el proceso de queja formal institucional antes de presentar una queja ante la OCR. Si un reclamante usa un proceso de queja formal institucional y elige presentar la queja ante la OCR, la queja debe presentarse ante la OCR dentro de los 60 días posteriores a la finalización del proceso de queja formal institucional.

Para presentar una queja por discriminación en el programa del USDA, el reclamante debe completar el formulario AD-3027, el formulario de queja por discriminación del programa del USDA, que se puede obtener en línea en <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027a.pdf>, desde cualquier oficina del USDA, llamando al (866) 632-9992 o escribiendo una carta dirigida a la oficina del USDA que se indica abajo.

La carta debe contener el nombre, la dirección, el número de teléfono del reclamante y una descripción escrita de la supuesta acción discriminatoria con suficiente detalle para informar al subsecretario de derechos civiles sobre la naturaleza y la fecha de una supuesta violación de los derechos civiles. El formulario AD-3027 o la carta completos deben enviarse al USDA por:
correo:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; o
correo electrónico:
program.intake@usda.gov
Esta institución ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.



Questions?

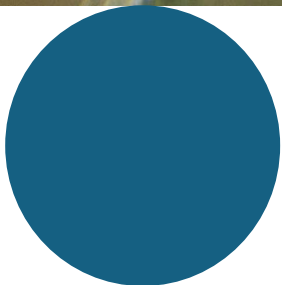
Lisa Kuder

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