

Native Herbs

When we speak of native herbs, we refer chiefly to seed-bearing plants—annuals, biennials and perennials, as well as shrubs, vines and trees—that grew naturally in this country, without the influence, accidental or intentional, of humans. From ground cover to canopy, native herbs have something to offer to both humans and wildlife. The defining characteristic for these plants is their past or present usefulness, including their value as:

- flavoring
- economic
- medicine
- industrial
- ornament
- cosmetic

The Native Herb Conservation Committee selects a native herb each year to study and promote. Informational sheets on this Notable Native and on the specific variety for different eco-regions, are available to members of the program.

Guiding Principles for creating a GreenBridges™ Garden

- Incorporating native herbs, shrubs, vines and trees in the home or commercial landscape
- Providing habitat, including host and food plants, for pollinators as appropriate for the site
- Respecting the integrity of nearby natural areas
- Removing or containing invasive species when possible
- Promoting nurseries that propagate, rather than wild collect, native herbs and their seeds

Green Social Security

Native plants:

- feed people, birds, insects and more
- clean the air
- filter water
- moderate the climate

This makes native herb conservation a humanitarian cause.

Native herbs are under stress from development, climate change, habitat fragmentation, non-native invasive species, and the over-collection of plants from the wild.

Individuals can participate in the resolution of these issues, in their own yards, gardens and communities. This complements the efforts of like-minded private organizations and government agencies.

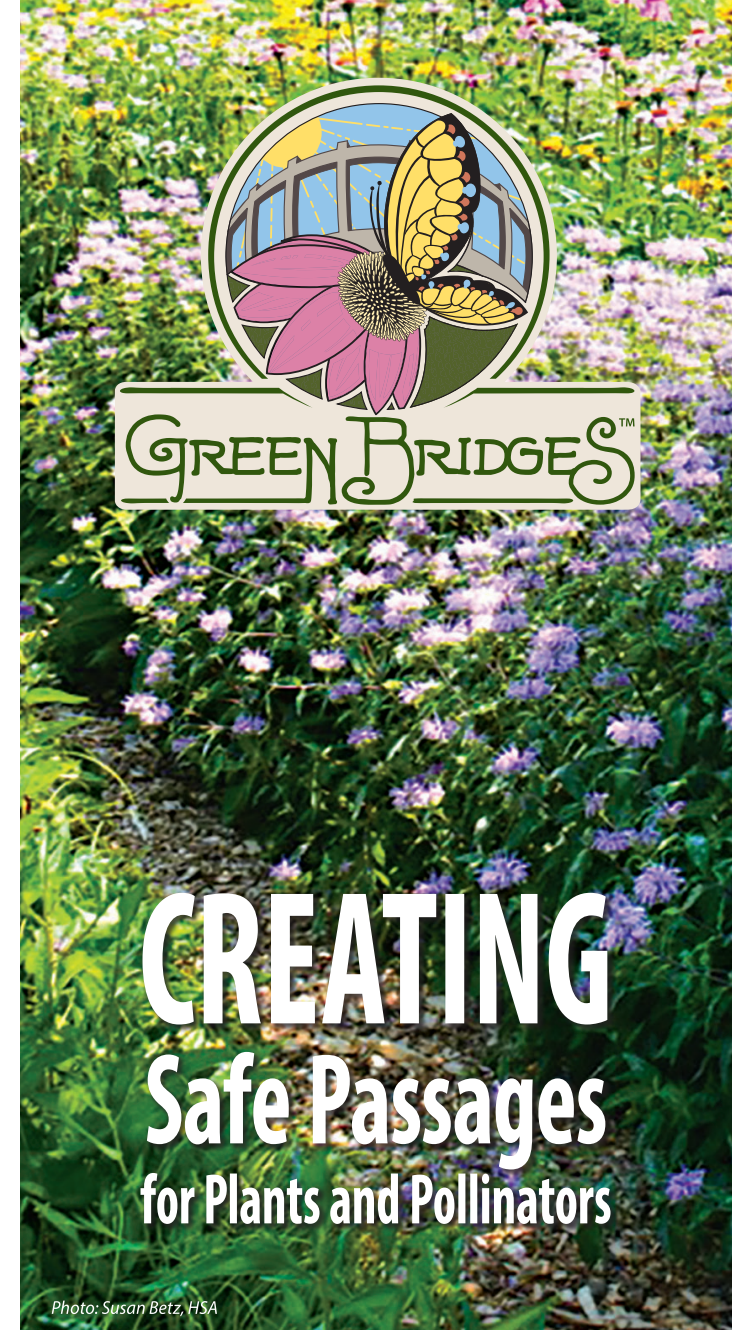


Photo: Susan Betz, HSA

**Find out more about our
Native Herb Conservation
Committee on our website!**

herbsociety.org/explore/hsa-conservation/hsa-explore-conservation.html

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The Herb Society of America
9019 Kirtland Chardon Rd. | Kirtland, OH 44094
440-256-0514 | www.herbsociety.org





Creating Green Corridors

The GreenBridges™ program helps to create opportunities for the safe passage of plants and pollinators, and avoid habitat fragmentation. Each GreenBridges™ garden is a link in the chain across the nation, providing safe movement for the plants and pollinators that help maintain healthy ecosystems.

Learn

Get involved in creating GreenBridges™ and you'll...

- *Learn best practices from a network of GreenBridges™ gardeners*
- *Grow the native herbs unique to your own region*
- *Share the information, working toward a more sustainable gardening style*

Explore

Benefits of GreenBridges™ Participation

- Acknowledgement in The Herb Society of America's newsletter as a GreenBridges™ gardener
- Join a community of environmentally aware herb gardeners with a particular interest in our native herbs
- Research, explore and share your experiences with others who are concerned for the future of America's native herbs
- Certificate suitable for framing
- Regular communication on native herbs from the Native Herb Conservation Committee
- Information on rare species in your area
- A list of partner organizations and citizen science opportunities
- Facebook page dedicated to GreenBridges™

To qualify your garden for GreenBridges™

- 1) Complete an application* describing your garden and garden practices
- 2) Payment of a one-time fee with a discount for HSA members

* Available at herbsociety.org

If you'd like to participate, mail application and payment to:

GreenBridges™
The Herb Society of America
9019 Kirtland Chardon Road
Kirtland, OH 44094

For more information about joining, our programs or resources, contact us at: 440-256-0514 or visit: www.herbsociety.org

Grow