

**Resources / Links from “Your Nature-Friendly Garden Throughout the Year” webinar hosted by Halton Region Master Gardeners, May 21, 2021 via zoom. page 1 of 3**

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If you read just one thing, read this. It’s short and comprehensive. “Becoming an ecological gardener” article in Connecticut Gardener magazine, by Kim Eierman  
<http://monarchawardshamilton.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Becoming-An-Ecological-Gardener.pdf>

Another more comprehensive read for the curious and skeptical: “The Basics of Ecological Landscaping” from the Ecological Landscape Alliance  
<https://www.ecolandscaping.org/10/developing-healthy-landscapes/ecological-landscaping-101/the-basics-of-ecological-landscaping/>

E. O. Wilson’s classic article “Little Things that Run the World”. Still so very relevant.  
[https://faculty.washington.edu/timbillo/Readings%20and%20documents/ABRIDGED%20READINGS%20for%20PERU/Wilson\\_1987\\_Little\\_things\\_that\\_run.pdf](https://faculty.washington.edu/timbillo/Readings%20and%20documents/ABRIDGED%20READINGS%20for%20PERU/Wilson_1987_Little_things_that_run.pdf)

This free online booklet looks at species decline and what gardeners can do: “A Flower Patch for the Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee” (Sheila Colla & Lorraine Johnson)  
[https://foecanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/FoE\\_FlowerPatchForRustyPatched.pdf](https://foecanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/FoE_FlowerPatchForRustyPatched.pdf)

The Hamilton Monarch Awards Scoring Rubric is a detailed “how to” for ecological gardeners. Very comprehensive.  
<http://monarchawardshamilton.org/rubric.html>

A bit of a rant but you may like this: Give Your Garden Time, Not Money  
<https://www.thepointhamilton.com/2019/05/07/give-your-garden-time-not-money/>

What to do about compacted soil  
[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/what\\_to\\_do\\_about\\_compacted\\_soil](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/what_to_do_about_compacted_soil)

Why we leave organic matter on site:  
<https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/recycling-dead>

Natural and managed soil structure: On the fragile scaffolding for soil functioning - Scientific Figure on ResearchGate. Nerdy but fascinating:  
[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/A-sketch-of-natural-and-managed-soil-structure-characteristics-a-Natural-soil\\_fig1\\_348048378](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/A-sketch-of-natural-and-managed-soil-structure-characteristics-a-Natural-soil_fig1_348048378) [accessed 10 May, 2021]

Soil texture (more nerdy but informative stuff with lots of good graphics)  
[http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/soilhealth\\_bonding\\_aggregation](http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/soilhealth_bonding_aggregation)

Soil food web  
[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/soils/health/biology/?cid=nrcs142p2\\_053868](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/soils/health/biology/?cid=nrcs142p2_053868)

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Stability. By: Elsa E. Cleland (Section of Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution, University of California at San Diego) © 2011 Nature Education

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<https://www.nature.com/scitable/knowledge/library/biodiversity-and-ecosystem-stability-17059965/>

A nice summary of Doug Tallamy’s work in an interview with Margaret Roach:

<https://awaytogarden.com/how-conservation-starts-in-your-yard-doug-tallamy-on-natures-best-hope/>

Information on turfgrass species and lawn seeding:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/establishing\\_a\\_new\\_lawn\\_using\\_seed\\_e2910](https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/establishing_a_new_lawn_using_seed_e2910)

Native Flowering Plants for beneficial insects. This is from Michigan but there’s no equivalent in Canadian resources that I can find. Most of the plants are also native to Ontario.

[https://pollinators.msu.edu/sites/\\_pollinators/assets/File/Native-flowering-plants-that-attract-beneficials.pdf](https://pollinators.msu.edu/sites/_pollinators/assets/File/Native-flowering-plants-that-attract-beneficials.pdf)

Invasive Species in Ontario: <https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/invasive-plants/species/>

Credit Valley Conservation’s resource list on invasive species. Check the “Priority List of Invasive Species”. You’ll be surprised at the garden favourites that are wreaking havoc in our forests and conservation areas.

<https://cvc.ca/your-land-water/tree-planting-and-habitat-restoration-services/invasive-species/resources/>

Conserving Water in your Yard and Garden. This is a holistic approach.

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9125.pdf>

Benefits of Brush Piles <https://choosenatives.org/articles/brush-pile-build-wild-friends/>

Grasscycling:

<https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/sarasota/natural-resources/waste-reduction/composting/what-is-composting/what-can-be-composted/grass-cycling/>

Healthy Lawn, Healthy Environment:

<https://swap.stanford.edu/20131013012434/http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/Publications/lawncaire.pdf>

Leaf Composting and Leaf Mold

<http://albany.cce.cornell.edu/resources/compost-leaf-composting>

<https://clarkcountycomposts.org/mcr-news/leaf-it-to-the-decomposers-turning-your-leaves-into-garden-gold>

<https://www.quickcrop.co.uk/blog/collecting-autumn-leaves/>

Planting to attract Seed-Eating Birds (includes plant list)

<https://laidbackgardener.blog/2019/09/02/planting-to-attract-seed-eating-birds/>

When you prune it, don't paint it:

<https://www.purduelandscapereport.org/article/when-you-prune-it-dont-paint-it/>

Road salt in winter

<https://greenventure.ca/lets-talk-about-road-salt/>

Zeolites

<https://www.princeton.edu/~ota/disk2/1985/8512/851210.PDF>

Winter Sowing

The first and probably still the best: <http://www.wintersown.org/>

Finding seeds of native plants... contact:

- Conservation Halton
- North American Native Plant Society (they have a seed exchange and a table at the annual Guelph Organic Conference)
- Ontario Rock Garden Society annual Seed Exchange often has native plants
- Wildflower Farm north of Toronto carries native plant seeds
- join your local environmental advocacy group and make connections with native plant enthusiasts

**Authors to read:**

Doug Tallamy. Any and all of his three books. Many YouTube videos as well

Heather Holm: *Pollinators of Native Plants*

Benjamin Vogt: *A New Garden Ethic* (don't make this your first one :-)

E.O. Wilson: *Half Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life*

An Ecology Reading List for Self-Isolating Environmentalists (all the classics)

<https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/an-ecology-reading-list-for-self-isolating-environmentalists/>