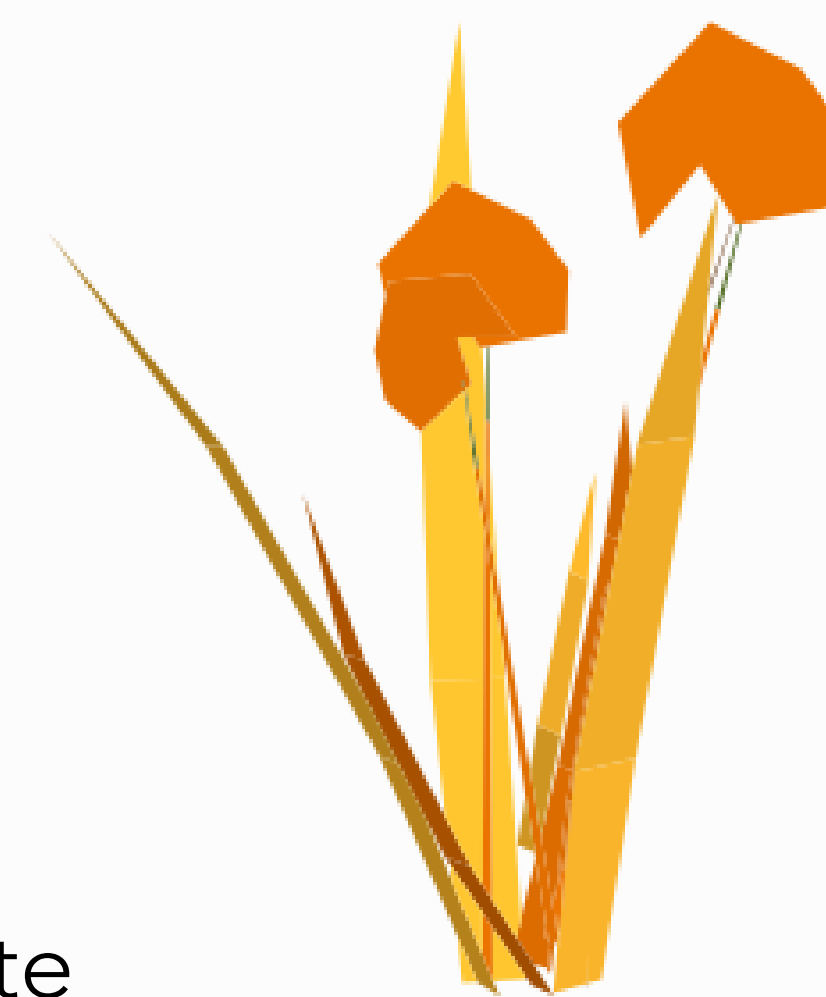


Using these Native Design Templates

Evaluate Your Site

- These designs are intended to help you visualize plant arrangement according to size, texture and other plant properties.
- Observe the conditions in your yard: light, soil texture, moisture and existing vegetation.
- Pick a plan that comes closest to your needs, for example, if you have a large shade tree in your yard, follow the Uptown Understory planting plan.
- The suggested total number of plants is based on the measurements of an average yard and approximate plant sizes, but take your own measurements and estimate how many plants you need accordingly.



Select A Plant From Each Section

- There are multiple plant options for each element in the design. Native plants are not as commercially available, so be patient and open to substitutions. Check out NPI's Where to Find Native Plants Page (Located under the Resources Tab) to find local suppliers.
- Customize the design to fit your preference. Each design lays out the types of plants that create a cohesive design, but it is up to you which species reflects your aesthetic.
- Use resources such as www.wildflower.org and www.lnps.org to research the suggested plants or consult a local horticulturist.

Site Preparation

- The success of any garden starts with the preparation. Be sure to thoroughly remove all weeds by hand, sheet mulching, solarizing or use of herbicides (read instructions carefully and wear proper PPE).
- Weed and turf removal can be time consuming, but it is the most important prep work you can do for your garden to prevent your plants being outcompeted.
- Install quality edging in any places where your garden will meet turfgrass to prevent hours of weeding later on. Edging and other hardscapes, such as beds and pathways can add "cues to care" that show your neighbors there is design and intention behind your unconventional landscape.



Get Growing!

- Fall and winter are ideal times to install a garden so plants have time to send down deep roots before flowering in the spring.
- In Louisiana, if you are attentive to watering and weeding you can plant almost anytime of year!
- A small amount of slow-release fertilizer will help plants get established in their new home. Pine straw mulch will keep moisture in and weeds out as plants fill in.
- To continue growing your garden and your plant knowledge, become a member of NPI-GNO and help us continue to increase awareness and availability of native plants in the New Orleans region!

