

■ Practical Native Plants Landscaping USA Checklist

Planning & Region Match

Identify your eco-region (USDA/eco-zones maps).
Make a list of species suited to your climate.
Check availability at local nurseries or online catalogs.
Start with a small pilot bed.

Soil & Water Setup

Test soil texture and drainage.
Loosen compacted areas, add compost only if needed.
Shape shallow swales or berms to slow and sink rain.
Install drip irrigation with a timer and test pressure.

Easy Plant Choices for Starters

Choose 3 structural plants (tree/large shrub).
Add 2–3 medium perennials for mass.
Include 1–2 groundcovers to close soil gaps.
Plant in drifts of 3–5 for visual balance.

Wildlife & Pollinators

Plan a bloom calendar for the whole season.
Select host plants for caterpillars and butterflies.
Leave some stems over winter for nesting insects.
Provide a shallow water source and refresh weekly.

Maintenance & Common Mistakes

Water deeply but only 1–2 times per week after establishment.
Maintain mulch 2–3 inches, keep away from stems.
Gradually remove problematic exotic species.
Check drainage after storms and adjust grading.