



BE A PART OF PROTECTING THE LAND YOU LOVE



Spring is finally here! Now's the time for home gardening. You've heard native wildflowers, trees and shrubs are good for your garden and for the environment. Native plants are better adapted to our climate, require less watering and provide food for pollinators and wildlife. To get the most benefit from your native plants there are a number of points to consider. With a little homework before the garden work you can select the right plants for your gardening needs.

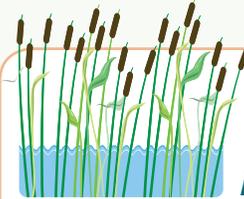
Finding native plants at your local nursery can be confusing. Are they native to Canada, Ontario or the Credit River watershed? Learning the scientific (latin) names in addition to the common names of plants can help you find the specific native plant that's right for your garden.

Many nurseries sell cultivated varieties of native plants. These cultivars often come from the cuttings of a single plant so their genetic diversity is low. This could mean reduced tolerance to stress and disease. Cultivation can also reduce the levels of pollen and nectar available to pollinators from these plants. The common names used for cultivars are often very similar to their native parents, so when selecting plants pay extra attention to their scientific names.

THINGS TO ASK YOUR LOCAL NURSERY:

1. Ask for native plants. Be sure to ask if they are native to Southern Ontario rather than Canada or North America.
2. Ask about the source of the plants. Give preference to plants grown from seed, ideally from a location close to where you live.
3. Tell nursery staff about your growing conditions; consider the sun exposure, soil type and moisture levels.
4. Ask about flower colour, plant height, leaf colour and time of flowering, and what insects or wildlife you hope to attract.
5. Consider how much maintenance you are prepared to take on. Make sure to inquire how the plant you're considering spreads.

A native or indigenous plant is a plant that grew in this area prior to the area being settled. At CVC, we promote using plants that are native to the Credit River watershed.



INSIDE STORY RESTORE A WETLAND

Forty-eight per cent of wetlands in the Credit River watershed have been lost or degraded since 1954. Learn how you can help reverse the trend.

CVC'S PRIVATE LANDOWNER AQUATIC PLANTING PROGRAM

Let us do the work for you



It's easy to enhance your pond with aquatic plants. Credit Valley Conservation offers low-cost aquatic planting services.

For more info, call 1-800-668-5557 x427

*Stock is limited.
Book your site visit today.*

WANT CLEANER WATER? RESTORE A WETLAND



Wetlands are nature's best multi-tasker. Wetlands improve water quality, control flooding, decrease erosion and drought, provide habitat for plants and animals, and provide recreational opportunities. They are vital to the health of our environment and communities. Unfortunately about 48 per cent of wetlands in the Credit River watershed have been lost or degraded since 1954 largely due to urban expansion. This results in losing wetland services, which governments must then duplicate through technology and built infrastructure (i.e. stormwater management infrastructure). Healthy wetlands provide environmental benefits worth \$187 million annually to the Credit River watershed.

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) conducted surveys to better understand the public's view on wetlands and more specifically rural landowner perceptions of managing wetlands and their own properties. Knowing what people think helps guide education campaigns as well as protection and restoration programs.

HERE'S WHAT WE FOUND:

- When presented with the facts, almost 95 per cent of households were either very concerned or somewhat concerned about the loss of wetlands.
- Households were willing to pay approximately \$229 - \$259 annually over the next five years to protect wetlands – a total value over \$221 million.
- Rural landowners with wetlands on their properties strongly appreciated wetlands' environmental functions.
- Farmers indicated they required financial compensation for wetland restoration to offset lost crop production or pasture land.
- Most non-farm landowners indicated they would not require annual payments if upfront wetland restoration costs were fully covered.

HOW CAN LANDOWNERS HELP?

- Get to know the wetlands on your property. Learn which plants and animals live there and identify any water quality concerns.
- Find out if your property had any wetlands historically, even if they are not currently visible.
- Restore wetlands on your property by planting trees and aquatic plants, removing invasive species and practicing nutrient management on farms to protect water quality.

CVC's Stewardship Coordinators can connect landowners with technical experts, provide recommendations and help source financial assistance.

Visit creditvalleyca.ca/yourlandandwater to contact your local Stewardship Coordinator.

We'd love to hear from you.

TWILIGHT TOUR SERIES



Join us this summer on a Twilight Tour to see stewardship projects around our watershed on both CVC and privately owned properties. Learn about CVC services and expertise to help you take on similar projects.

Pre-registration is required at creditvalleyca.ca/events

Tour topics include:

- Invasive Plant Removal Projects
 - Stream Restoration & Tree Planting Projects
 - Pollination of Native Plants
- Tours run through July and August.



from the *Expert*

CVC Director of Planning, Gary Murphy on CVC's role in reviewing aggregate applications.

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) has reviewed aggregate applications in the northern part of the watershed for many years. Here are CVC's current roles and responsibilities when reviewing aggregate applications.

Generally, aggregate proposals, for new operations or expansions, require municipal planning approvals. CVC is a commenting agency that provides an environmental perspective for municipalities on planning applications. CVC only acts as an advisor. We do not have any approval authority.

CVC would normally have regulatory authority over development proposals. Most people are familiar with obtaining permits from CVC for residential projects. However changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* in 1998 through the *Red Tape Reduction Act*

removed conservation authorities' power over aggregate permitting. This means CVC does not have a regulatory role in aggregate operations.

All aggregate proposals are different. Some are complex designs involving extraction below the water table while others propose damage to significant environmental features. CVC evaluates these complexities and determines whether to advise against them. The Rockfort Quarry in Caledon is an example of an aggregate operation CVC advised against. It was a new dolostone quarry, below the water table, with complex hydrogeological issues, proposing mining technology (grout curtain) not used before in this geological setting. It was opposed by the Town of Caledon and the Region of Peel on environmental grounds.

It is important to compare different types of aggregate proposals, their impacts above or below the water table, and planning histories to understand the position CVC takes on aggregate proposals.

DID YOU KNOW?



Our streams and lakes are under threat! Aquatic invasive species are invading our waterways. Over 185 non-native species have entered the Great Lakes basin. Once established, these aggressive species are difficult to remove and detrimental to our fishery. The best places to go fishing are usually the healthiest aquatic systems, so let's protect them.

ANGLERS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE AND SHOULD BE PROACTIVE BY:

- never dumping live bait in the water
- learning how to identify invasive baitfish species
- notifying the provincial **Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711** if you believe they have spread to a new location in Ontario

Recent introductions of round goby into the West Credit were preventable. Remember, you are ultimately responsible for the baitfish in your bucket. Take part in protecting the land and water you love.

Caring for your LAND & WATER

free workshops for landowners



Sat. July 12, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Watershed Learning Centre,
Terra Cotta Conservation Area

CREATE A

LANDOWNER ACTION PLAN

Attend this workshop, assess your property and take action to protect your land and water

Get your projects done with funding and technical assistance*

Projects include well abandonment, stream restoration, tree planting, invasive plant control, native plant gardening and more

Register by July 4, 2014 at creditvalleyca.ca/events

Landowners should own one acre or more of rural property in the Credit River watershed.

*Subject to available funding sources and eligibility requirements for grants.



MARGINAL LAND, MARGINAL DOLLARS?



Is it possible to generate a profit when farming marginal land with unsuitable drainage or poor soil? There are tools to help you determine your cost of production budget. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food has developed calculators for different crop types: www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/downtown.htm.

Punch in the numbers and you might be surprised by the result. Let's say you grow a grain corn crop using conventional tillage practices and you realistically expect a crop yield of 150 bu/ac and a corn selling price of \$5.25/bu. After variable expenses (seed, fertilizer, herbicide, drying, storage, trucking, etc.) and fixed expenses (depreciation, interest charges, etc.) you are likely to expect a return of \$242/ac for the year.

Now, let's assume that there is one acre of marginal farmland at the back of the field adjacent to a woodlot. This one acre of land typically produces 50 per cent of the yield achieved on the rest of the field. Adjusting

CVC Countryside Stewardship programs are available to residents and landowners within the Credit River watershed. Our neighbouring conservation authorities offer similar programs. We would be pleased to direct those who live outside the Credit River watershed to the appropriate agency.

crop yield down to 75 bu/ac and keeping the variable and fixed expenses and expected selling price constant, **you can expect to lose \$92/ac by growing a corn crop on this marginal land in an average year.**

So what can you do with marginal areas on the farm? You have a few choices:

1. Plant crops that have better yield potential for growing in these areas.
2. Improve productivity of these areas by using agronomic practices such as minimum or no-till systems to improve soil health and reduce erosion on steeply sloping lands.
3. Permanently retire these areas and plant them with native vegetation as part of a wetland, grassland or reforestation project.

All farms within the Credit River watershed have access to financial and technical assistance programs to help build, enhance and protect local habitat and natural resources. In some cases, trees, shrubs and grasses can be provided at no cost to you. Farmers in Wellington County may be eligible for a \$350/ac/yr payment for three years for retiring your marginal farmland and helping to protect the health of our countryside.

For more information on programs and services available to you, contact Mark Eastman, Program Coordinator, Agricultural Extension at 905-670-1615 x 430 or meastman@creditvalleyca.ca.

COMING EVENTS

Register at: creditvalleyca.ca/events

Events free of charge unless otherwise noted.

Fairy Lake Tree Planting Event

Sat. June 14, 9 a.m. – noon
Fairy Lake, Acton

Caring for Your Land and Water workshop

Sat. July 12, 9 a.m. – noon
Watershed Learning Center
Terra Cotta Conservation Area

Check Your Watershed Day

Sat. July 19, 1 – 4 p.m.
Meet at Terra Cotta Conservation Area

Upper Credit CA Stream Restoration

Sat. August 9, 9 a.m. – noon
Upper Credit Conservation Area

TWILIGHT TOUR SUMMER SERIES

Invasive Plant Removal Projects

Thurs. July 10, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Ken Whillans Resource Management Area, Caledon

Stream Restoration & Tree Planting Projects

Tues. July 22, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
Private Property, Hillsburgh
This property has no 911 address.
Please visit creditvalleyca.ca/events for detailed directions.

Pollination of Native Plants

Wed. August 13, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
Whole Village Farm, Caledon

Funding in support of Credit Valley Conservation and all workshops and events listed here was generously provided by our regional and municipal partners.



CVC was established in 1954 with a mandate to protect natural resources in the Credit River watershed. We have been working for 60 years with our partner municipalities and stakeholders to protect and enhance our land and water for present and future generations.