

BLUESTEM NURSERY IS STEPPING UP ITS EFFORTS TO GROW AND SELL MORE VARIETIES OF NATIVE PLANTS. TWO GOOD REASONS TO LANDSCAPE WITH NATIVE PLANTS: 1) TO HELP PRESERVE SPECIES THAT ARE PART OF OUR NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE; AND 2) TO CULTIVATE PLANTS THAT HAVE ADAPTED TO LOCAL CONDITIONS. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, ENTOMOLOGY PROFESSOR DOUGLAS W. TALLAMY'S EYE-OPENING BOOK "BRINGING NATURE HOME" MADE US APPRECIATE THE ROLE OF NATIVE PLANTS IN PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY. HOW WE MANAGE AND PLANT OUR LANDSCAPES IN THE COMING YEARS CAN HAVE LONG-TERM POSITIVE IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

NORTH AMERICA CONTAINS A WIDE VARIETY OF ECO-REGIONS. ANY GIVEN REGION CONTAINS AN ASSEMBLAGE OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS THAT ADAPTED, OVER VAST EONS OF TIME, TO BOTH THE LIVING AND NON-LIVING COMPONENTS WITHIN THAT ECOSYSTEM. BEFORE THE CONTINENT WAS SETTLED AND TRANSFORMED BY EUROPEANS, A WHOLESOME BALANCE EXISTED BETWEEN LAND, PLANTS AND ANIMALS. BUT ONGOING DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES TO PUT IMMENSE STRESSES ON INDIGENOUS PLANTS AND ANIMALS.

TALLAMY'S BOOK DESCRIBES IN DETAIL HOW CLOSELY LINKED THE BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS, AND OTHER ANIMALS ARE TO THE PLANTS THAT SUSTAIN THEM. NUMEROUS EXAMPLES ILLUSTRATE THE DETRIMENTAL IMPACTS OF REPLACING NATIVE PLANT POPULATIONS WITH SPECIES INTRODUCED FROM OTHER CONTINENTS, AS WELL AS SPECIES TRANSPLANTED FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE CONTINENT. FOR EXAMPLE, BLUE SPRUCE (PICEA PUNGENS), A MAGNIFICENT SPECIES THAT MAY HAVE A VITAL ECOLOGICAL NICHE IN COLORADO (WHERE IT'S NATIVE), IS JUST AS BEAUTIFUL IN CONNECTICUT, BUT IT IS OUT-OF-SYNC WITH THE FOOD WEBS IN THE EASTERN U.S. (WHERE IT'S NOT NATIVE). PRESENTLY, GARDEN CENTERS AND NURSERIES TEND TO MARKET AND SELL A LOT MORE INTRODUCED PLANTS THAN NATIVE ONES, PERPETUATING THE DISRUPTION OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS.

FIELD RESEARCH BY TALLAMY AND HIS STUDENTS REVEALS THAT CATERPILLARS ARE NOT THE 'EATING MACHINES' WE MAY SOMETIMES IMAGINE . . . AT LEAST, NOT IN THE SENSE THAT THEY DEVOUR EVERY GREEN LEAF THAT'S AVAILABLE. SURPRISINGLY, CATERPILLARS HAVE VERY LIMITED FOOD PREFERENCES THAT A PARTICULAR SPECIES FINDS PALATABLE, NON-

TOXIC AND DIGESTIBLE. IF YOU TAKE AWAY THE PLANTS THAT ONE OR MORE SPECIES DEPENDS ON FOR FOOD, IN MOST CASES THEY WON'T CONSUME THE PLANTS THAT YOU REPLACE THEM WITH. AS A RESULT, THOSE CATERPILLARS DISAPPEAR FROM THE LOCAL FOOD WEB AND THE RIPPLE EFFECTS SPREAD TO MANY OTHER ORGANISMS. THIS PROCESS OF ROOTING OUT NATIVE SPECIES AND REPLACING THEM WITH INTRODUCED ONES HAS BEEN OCCURRING ON SUCH A WIDESPREAD SCALE THAT WE ARE QUICKLY RUNNING OUT OF SUITABLE HABITAT FOR MANY OF OUR BELOVED ANIMAL SPECIES.

THE PRECEDING STATEMENTS MAY SEEM OVERLY DRAMATIC, BUT CONSIDER THIS: 96% OF BIRD SPECIES ON THIS CONTINENT USE INSECTS AND OTHER ARTHROPODS AS FOOD TO RAISE THEIR BROODS OF CHICKS (I.E., NOT COUNTING BIRDS THAT RELY ON FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC ORGANISMS TO FEED THEIR OFFSPRING). OTHER ANIMALS WE TEND TO TAKE FOR GRANTED -- SUCH AS BATS AND OTHER SMALL MAMMALS, REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS AND FISH -- ALSO DEPEND HEAVILY ON INSECTS AND OTHER ARTHROPODS TO KEEP THEIR SPECIES FROM SLIPPING INTO EXTINCTION.

SEVERAL EXAMPLES FROM TALLAMY'S BOOK ILLUSTRATE THE CONTRAST BETWEEN USING INTRODUCED PLANTS VS. NATIVE PLANTS:

(1) NORWAY MAPLE HAS BEEN THE MOST COMMONLY PLANTED SHADE TREE ON THE CONTINENT, BUT IT ORIGINATED IN EUROPE. EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE HAVE PLANTED THEM HERE FOR MORE THAN 300 YEARS, OUR NATIVE INSECTS HAVEN'T ACQUIRED A TASTE FOR THEIR LEAVES. IN NOTEWORTHY CONTRAST, NATIVE SPECIES OF MAPLES SUPPORT THE LARVAE OF AT LEAST 285 SPECIES OF LEPIDOPTERA (BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS). SIMILARLY, THE 97 SPECIES OF WILLOWS THAT ARE NATIVE TO NORTH AMERICA ARE DOCUMENTED FOOD SOURCES FOR A WHOPPING 456 SPECIES OF LEPIDOPTERA!

(2) BETWEEN 1995-2006 MORE THAN 10-MILLION ACRES OF RANGELAND FORMERLY VEGETATED WITH NATIVE GRASSES HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE INTRODUCED CRESTED WHEATGRASS. STUDIES OF THIS CHANGE ON GRASSLAND-DEPENDENT BIRDS REVEAL THAT BIRD NESTLINGS REARED WITHIN NATIVE PRAIRIE HABITAT AREAS GREW MORE QUICKLY, WERE HEALTHIER AND WERE MORE LIKELY TO SURVIVE THAN FLEDGELINGS IN CRESTED WHEATGRASS AREAS. STUDIES WITHIN OTHER TYPES OF ECOSYSTEMS PRODUCED SIMILAR RESULTS; THEY INDICATE THAT NATIVE PLANT HABITATS ARE CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING A GREATER TOTAL

BIOMASS OF BENEFICIAL INSECTS. HAVING MORE OF THIS TYPE OF HIGH ENERGY FOOD AVAILABLE IMPROVES THE ODDS THAT MORE FLEDGLING BIRDS SURVIVE TO ADULTHOOD.

IN ADDITION, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE STUDIES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CORROBORATE THAT NATIVE PLANTS, GROWING IN PLACES LIKE THEIR NATURAL HABITATS, ARE THE BEST-ADAPTED SPECIES TO THE PHYSICAL CONDITIONS WITHIN THAT AREA. SUCH LANDSCAPING IS, BY NATURE, SUSTAINABLE.

BUT WHERE CAN WE GO TO FIND 'NATURAL' ENVIRONMENTS? TALLAMY'S BOOK DISPELS ANOTHER COMMONLY HELD BELIEF: THAT OUR NATURAL HERITAGE IS PRESERVED WITHIN PARKLANDS. IT MAY BE TRUE THAT PUBLIC AWARENESS GREW CONSIDERABLY OVER THE PAST CENTURY ABOUT HOW MUCH OF NORTH AMERICA'S ORIGINAL LANDSCAPE WAS BEING ALTERED AND LOST. THAT REALIZATION LED TO THE CREATION OF MANY PARKS, REFUGES AND PRESERVES. BUT THOSE EFFORTS ONLY SLOWED DOWN THE INEXORABLE MARCH OF HABITAT LOSS. A LOT OF THAT SO-CALLED 'PROTECTED' PUBLIC LAND IS CURRENTLY BEING OVERRUN, WEAKENED AND DESTROYED BY PLANTS, DISEASES AND INSECTS BORNE HERE FROM OTHER LANDS.

DEVELOPED LAND REPRESENTS AN EVEN GREATER LOSS OF NATIVE VEGETATIVE COVER AND, THEREFORE, ITS NATURAL BIODIVERSITY. TO OFFER JUST ONE EXAMPLE: THE GROUND SURFACE WITHIN THE UNITED STATES THAT HAS BEEN CONVERTED INTO LAWNS IS LARGER IN SQUARE MILES THAN THE ENTIRE STATE OF NEW YORK! HOWEVER, EXAMINED ECOLOGICALLY, LAWNS ARE A WASTELAND TO NATIVE ANIMALS, AND THEY HARBOR UNDESIRABLE SPECIES.

ULTIMATELY, TALLAMY'S BOOK MAKES CLEAR THAT THE FATE OF BIODIVERSITY DEPENDS ON WHAT WE DO WITH OUR OWN YARDS. WE HOPE THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL LOOK BACK ON THE CURRENT ERA AND RECOGNIZE THAT AVERAGE, WORKDAY CITIZENS STEPPED UP AND TOOK RESPONSIBILITY. BY REPLACING LAWNS AND OTHER AREAS WITH PLANTS NATIVE TO YOUR REGION, YOU CAN CREATE FUNCTIONING OASES THAT PRESERVE INDIGENOUS BUTTERFLIES, MOTHS, BIRDS, AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES, FISH AND MAMMALS. HOPEFULLY, THEN, OUR GRANDCHILDREN'S GRANDCHILDREN WILL SOME DAY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME TO KNOW AND ENJOY THESE WONDERS OF NATURE.

-- JIM AND FRANK BROCKMEYER --

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ABBREVIATIONS USED ON LIST:

(N) = NATIVE PLANT

(R) = RAIN GARDEN PLANT

GRASSES, SEDGES, AND RUSHES

ACHNATHERUM CALAMAGROSTIS

ACHNATHERUM HYMENOIDES (N)

ALOPECURUS PRATENSIS 'AUREOVARIEGATUS'

ANDROPOGON GERARDII (N,R)

ANDROPOGON GERARDII 'BISON' (N,R)

ARRHENATHERUM BULBOSUM 'VARIEGATUM'

BOUTELOUA CURTIPENDULA (N)

BOUTELOUA GRACILIS (N)

BUCHLOE DACTYLOIDES (N)

CALAMAGROSTIS X ACUTIFLORA 'KARL FOERSTER'

CALAMAGROSTIS ACUTIFLORA 'AVALANCHE'

CALAMAGROSTIS ACUTIFLORA 'OVERDAM'

CALAMAGROSTIS CANADENSIS (N,R) --NEW--

CALAMAGROSTIS EPIGEJOS

CALAMAGROSTIS STRICTA (N,R)

CAREX CARYOPHYLLEA 'BEATLEMANIA'

CAREX CARYOPHYLLEA 'THE BEATLES'

CAREX DAVALLIANA (R)

CAREX DIPSACEA (R)

CAREX FLACCA (R)

CAREX FLAGELLIFERA

CAREX FLAGELLIFERA 'KIWI'

CAREX GRAYI (N,R)

CAREX MUSKINGUMENSIS (N,R)

CAREX MUSKINGUMENSIS 'ICE FOUNTAINS' (N,R)

CAREX MUSKINGUMENSIS 'LITTLE MIDGE' (N)

CAREX MUSKINGUMENSIS 'OEHME' (N,R)

CAREX PENDULA

CAREX PENNSYLVANICA (N)

CAREX RIPARIA 'VARIEGATA' (N,R)

CAREX ROSEA (N) --NEW--

CHASMANTHIUM LATIFOLIUM

DESCHAMPSIA CESPITOSA (N)

DESCHAMPSIA CESPITOSA 'GOLDTAU' (N)

D. CESPITOSA 'PIXIE FOUNTAIN' (N) --NEW--

ELYMUS CINEREUS (N,R)

ELYMUS MAGELLANICUS

FESTUCA ARIZONICA (N)

FESTUCA CINEREA 'FRUEHLINGSBLAU'

FESTUCA GIGANTEA

FESTUCA GLAUCA 'BOULDER BLUE'

FESTUCA GLAUCA 'ELIJAH BLUE'

FESTUCA GLAUCA 'SELECT'

FESTUCA IDAHOENSIS 'JOSEPH' (N)

FESTUCA IDAHOENSIS 'SISKIYOU BLUE' (N)

FESTUCA MAIREI (R)

FESTUCA OVINA (N)

FESTUCA PULCHELLA --NEW--

FESTUCA VALESIIACA 'NEFER'

HELICTOTRICHON SEMPERVIRENS

IMPERATA CYLINDRICA 'RUBRA' (CANADA ONLY)

JUNCUS EFFUSUS 'SPIRALIS' (N)

JUNCUS INFLEXUS 'LOVESICK BLUES' (N,R)

KOELERIA GLAUCA

KOELERIA PYRAMIDATA (N)

KOEL. VALLESIANA 'MOUNTAIN BREEZE' --NEW--

LUZULA NIVEA

LUZULA SYLVATICA

MISCANTHUS 'GIGANTEUS'

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'ADAGIO'

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'BLUTENWUNDER'

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'GOLIATH'

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'GRACILLIMUS'

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'GRAZIELLA'

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'MALEPARTUS'

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'MORNING LIGHT'

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'OBERON'

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS VAR. PURPURASCENS

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'ROTSILBER'

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'SILBERFEDER'

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'STARDUST'

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'STRICTUS'

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'TITIAN'

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'VARIEGATUS'

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'YAKU JIMA'

MOLINIA ARUNDINACEA

MOLINIA CAERULEA

MOLINIA CAERULEA 'STRAHLENQUELLE'

MOLINIA CAERULEA 'VARIEGATA'

PANICUM AMARUM 'DEWEY BLUE' (N,R)

PANICUM VIRGATUM (N,R)

PANICUM VIRGATUM 'DACOTAH' (N,R)

PANICUM VIRGATUM 'HANSE HERMS' (N,R)

PANICUM VIRGATUM 'HEAVY METAL' (N,R)

PANICUM VIRGATUM 'NORTHWIND' (N,R)

PANICUM VIRGATUM 'PRAIRIE SKY' (N,R)

PANICUM VIRGATUM 'ROTSTRAHLBUSCH' (N,R)

PANICUM VIRGATUM 'SHENANDOAH' (N,R)

PANICUM VIRGATUM 'SQUAW' (N,R)

PANICUM VIRGATUM 'SUNBURST' (N,R)

PENNISETUM ALOPECUROIDES

PENNISETUM ALOPECUROIDES 'HAMELN'

PENNISETUM ORIENTALE

PHALARIS ARUNDINACEA 'FEESEY' (R)

POA CHAIXII --NEW--

POA GLAUCA 'BLUE HILLS' (N)

SACCHARUM RAVENNAE (CANADA ONLY)

SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM (N)

SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM 'ALDOUS' (N)

SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM 'BLAZE' (N)

SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM 'ITASCA' (N)

SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM 'THE BLUES' (N)

SCIRPUS ATROVIRENS (N,R)

SESLERIA ARGENTEA --NEW--

SESLERIA AUTUMNALIS

SESLERIA CAERULEA

SESLERIA HEUFLERIANA

SESLERIA SADLERANA

SORGHASTRUM NUTANS (N,R)

SORGHASTRUM NUTANS 'INDIAN STEEL' (N,R)

SPOROBOLUS AIROIDES (N)

SPOROBOLUS HETEROLEPIS (N)

SPOROBOLUS WRIGHTII (N) --NEW--

STIPA BRACHYTRICHA (R)

WILLOWS

SALIX ALBA 'BRITZENSIS' (N)

SALIX ALBA 'CHERMESINA' (N)

SALIX ALBA 'SERICEA' (N)

SALIX ALBA 'VITELLINA' (N)

SALIX 'AMERICANA'

SALIX 'AQUATICA GIGANTEA KORSO'

SALIX CAPREA 'KILMARNOCK' (N)

SALIX CAPREA 'SELECT' (N)

SALIX CHAENOMELOIDES

SALIX CINEREA 'TRICOLOR' (R)

SALIX DASYCLADOS

SALIX ELAEAGNOS 'ANGUSTIFOLIA'

SALIX EXIGUA (N)

SALIX X 'FLAME' (RED-STEMMED) (R)

SALIX X 'FLAME' (YELLOW-STEMMED) (R)

SALIX FRAGILIS 'BELGIUM RED' (N)

SALIX FRAGILIS 'BULLATA' (N)

SALIX GRACILISTYLA 'MELANOSTACHYS'

SALIX HAGENSIS

SALIX INTEGRALIA 'HAKURO-NISHIKI'

SALIX INTERIOR (N)

SALIX KORIYANAGI 'RUBYKINS'

SALIX MATSUDANA 'TORTUOSA' (U.S. ONLY)

SALIX MATSUDANA 'GOLDEN CURLS' (FORMERLY LISTED AS BABYLONICA VAR. PEKINENSIS)

SALIX MIYABEANA

SALIX MYRSINIFOLIA

SALIX NAKAMURANA VAR. YEZOALPINA

SALIX PENDULINA 'ELEGANTISSIMA' (N)

SALIX PENTANDRA

SALIX PETIOLARIS (N)

SALIX PURPUREA #187 (N)

SALIX PURPUREA 'EUGENII' (N)

SALIX PURPUREA 'GREEN DICKS' (N)

SALIX PURPUREA 'IRETTE' (N)

SALIX PURPUREA SSP. LAMBERTIANA (N)

SALIX PURPUREA 'NANA' (N)

SALIX PURPUREA 'PENDULA' (N,R)

SALIX PURPUREA 'STREAMCO' (N)

SALIX RIGIDA 'AMERICAN MCKAY' (N)

SALIX RUBENS 'HUTCHINSONS YELLOW'

SALIX SEPULCRALIS 'ERYTHROFLEXUOSA'

SALIX SMITHIANA

SALIX TRIANDRA 'BLACK MAUL'

SALIX TRIANDRA 'NOIR DE VILLANE'

SALIX UDENSIS 'SEKKA'

SALIX VIMINALIS

SALIX VIMINALIS 'SUPERBA'

SALIX WOLFII

PERENNIALS

ANNTENNARIA PLANTAGINIFOLIA (N) --NEW--

COREOPSIS TRIPTERIS (N,R)

EUPATORIUM CANNABINUM (N,R)

INULA RACEMOSA 'SONNENSPEER'

KALIMERIS INCISA

PATRINIA SCABIOSIFOLIA

PERSICARIA POLYMORPHA

PYCNANTHEMUM MUTICUM (N,R)

SEDUM ALBUM (N)

SEDUM ELLACOMBIANUM (N)

SEDUM FLORIFERUM 'WEIHENSTEPHANER GOLD'

SEDUM GLAUCOPHYLLUM (N)

SEDUM RUPESTRE 'ANGELINA'

SEDUM RUPESTRE 'BLUE SPRUCE'

SEDUM SEXANGULARE (N)

SEDUM SPURIUM 'FULDAGLUT' (N)

SEDUM SPURIUM 'VOODOO' (N)

VALERIANA OFFICINALIS (R)

NOTES: TO VIEW MAPS THAT DISPLAY THE NATURAL RANGES OF BLUESTEM NURSERY'S NATIVE PLANTS, REFER TO WWW.BLUESTEM.CA.

TO FIND OUT WHETHER OR NOT A PLANT THAT WE DON'T CARRY IS NATIVE TO YOUR AREA, REFER TO THE MAPS ON: [HTTP://PLANTS.USDA.GOV](http://PLANTS.USDA.GOV).

ENVIRO-TURF

BLUESTEM'S LAWN SEED MIX

A UNIQUE AND OUTSTANDING MIXTURE OF TOUGH, TURF-FORMING FESCUES; FORMULATED TO PROVIDE AN EASY-TO-MAINTAIN, BEAUTIFULLY GREEN LAWN THROUGHOUT THE GROWING SEASON.

ENVIRO-TURF LAWNS ARE SPECIAL BECAUSE THEY REQUIRE LESS MOWING, WATERING, AND FERTILIZING THAN LAWNS STARTED WITH OTHER BRANDS OF COMMERCIAL GRASS SEED MIXES.