



# Native Plants Contribute Significantly more to the Local Ecoregion Food Web than Introduced, Invasive Plants

## Native Plants:

- Offer more nutrients to moths, bees, birds than introduced plants
  - Native plants provide 15-35x the caterpillar biomass vs. introduced plants (providing natural bird food!)
  - In order for insects to eat a plant, they need to be able to bypass that plant's defenses. Local insects have developed adaptations to eat the local plants in their region
- Are larval host plants, which support the reproduction of local wildlife
- Are Adapted to local / regional climate and bloom in sync with emerging insects, support specialist insects that require leaves or pollen to feed their young

**Introduced species provide on average 68% less food for insects than native plants—this includes multiple species of caterpillars and pollinators, including native bees—that are crucial to the survival of local food webs**

- Doug Tallamy

Plant Species Support of Local Food Web												
Species	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Non-native example: Autum Olive					Flowers				Fruit	Fruit		
<b>Natives</b>												
Virginia Rose	Fruit	Fruit	Fruit			Flowers	Flowers			Fruit	Fruit	Fruit
Blackhaw Viburnum					Flowers			Fruit	Fruit			
Bayberry					Flowers				Fruit	Fruit	Fruit	
Winterberry	Fruit	Fruit	Fruit		Flowers					Fruit	Fruit	Fruit
Flowering Dogwood				Flowers	Flowers				Fruit	Fruit		
Foxglove Beardtongue	Seeds	Seeds	Seeds			Flowers				Seeds	Seeds	Seeds
Black-eyed Susan	Seeds	Seeds	Seeds			Flowers	Flowers	Flowers	Flowers	Seeds	Seeds	Seeds
Goldenrods	Seeds	Seeds	Seeds						Flowers	Flowers	Seeds	Seeds
Asters	Seeds	Seeds	Seeds						Flowers	Flowers	Seeds	Seeds
Common Milkweed						Flowers	Flowers	Flowers	Seeds	Seeds	Seeds	Seeds

**Non-Native, Invasive Plants Reduce Insect Food which Reduces Bird Food = Broken Food Web**

Mike VanCleff, PhD, Invasive Strike Team, FoHVOS

## Non-Native (Introduced), Invasive Plants:

- Grow quickly, without predators, and therefore out-compete native plants for sunlight and soil nutrients
- Do not provide species specific pollen, nutrient accessibility or habitat, reducing the possibility for native species reproduction and continuity
  - Local insects can't bypass chemical defenses in introduced plants
- Provide nectar which provides calories for local wildlife but are not larval host plants, meaning they can't support the development of the next generation of wildlife

