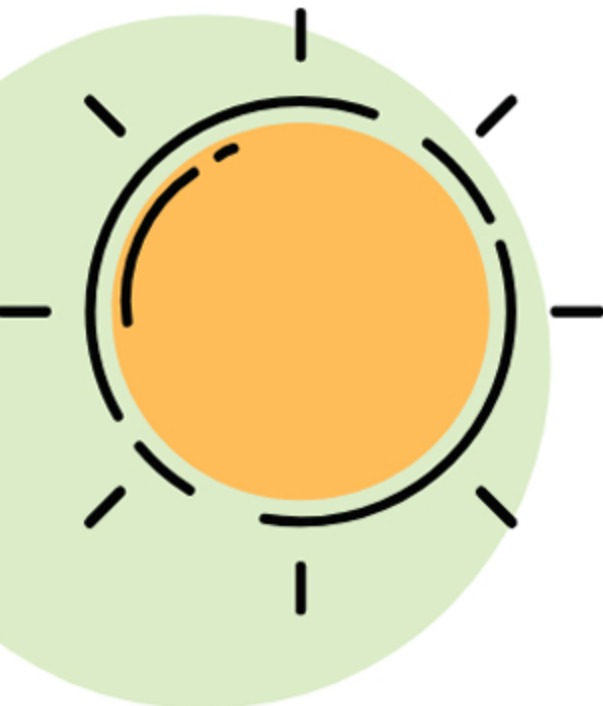




AMERICAN BEAUTIES  
**NATIVE  
PLANTS**

*Make  
your  
garden  
come  
alive!*

## THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIVE PLANTS

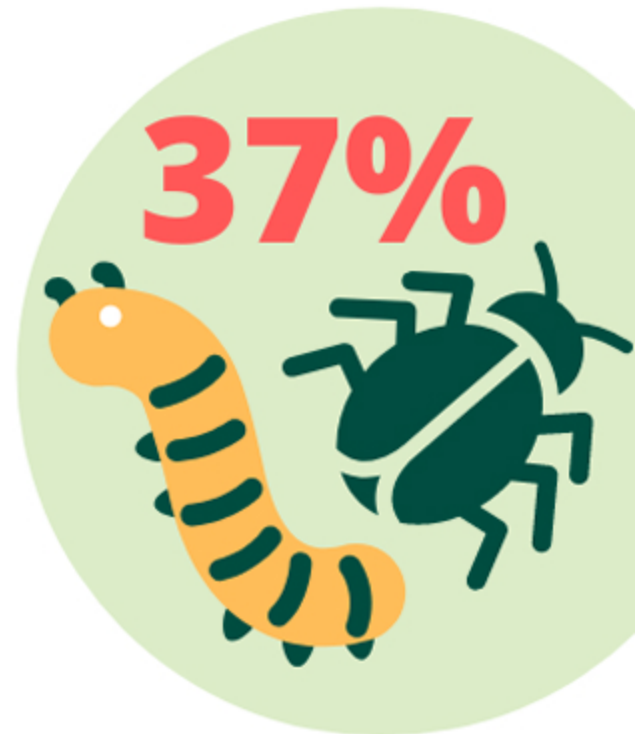


### NATIVE PLANTS CAPTURE THE ENERGY OF THE SUN

Life on earth depends on energy from the sun. Plants absorb this energy and convert it to plant tissue that is consumed by humans, animals and insects.

### INSECTS CONVERT PLANT TISSUE INTO INSECT TISSUE

Insects make up 37% of the animal kingdom worldwide. They have adapted over time regionally to depend on plants native to that area. In turn, other animal species rely on them as a food source. A balance between the plant and animal kingdom is required for a healthy ecosystem.



# BIRDS RELY ON INSECTS FOR FOOD

Animals that eat insects depend on their ability to access stored energy in plants. 96% of birds in North America eat and feed insects to their young. Non-native plants do not feed the same insect species that birds and animals rely on for food.



96%

## NATIVE PLANTS ADAPTED OVER TIME TO FEED INSECTS

Leaves, flowers, stems and pollen have evolved over time in their regions to suit the insects and pollinators that rely on them. They even bloom along migratory routes of butterflies to provide food as they pass through. Insect populations peak during nesting time for birds.



## IMPORTED PLANTS DETER NATIVE INSECT SPECIES

Studies have observed native plants can host dozens if not hundreds of insect, butterfly and moth species. While imported plants may only attract a handful. Every garden should have a few native trees, shrubs or perennials to maintain balance.

