

For Immediate Release

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The Conservation Foundation Announces Native Plant Sale

Save time, money and improve the environment with native plants

Naperville, Ill. (April 14, 2008) – Traditional lawn maintenance costs run the average American household \$700 per year, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates. But there is an eco-friendly way to beautify your yard, reduce the maintenance cost and the labor: Replace grass with native plants. To make it easy to explore native plant lawn and landscape options, The Conservation Foundation is hosting its second annual Native Plant Sale in partnership with Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries.

The Conservation Foundation's 2008 Native Plant Sale features a comprehensive list of more than 100 hardy, high quality common and specialty native plants, trees and shrubs with local genotypes. Shade, rain or butterfly garden packages are also available for order, and carry a variety of suitable native plant varieties to create an instant garden eco-system. Orders must be placed by Tuesday, May 6, and will be available for pick-up on Saturday, May 31.

From individual homeowners to larger agencies like park districts and forest preserves seeking plants for restoration projects, the Native Plant Sale caters to all order sizes. For large orders of 2,000 plants or more, quantity pricing is available. To obtain an order form prior to the May 6 deadline, visit www.theconservationfoundation.org, or contact Jill Johnson of The Conservation Foundation at jjohnson@theconservationfoundation.org or 630-428-4500, Ext. 20.

Native plants evolved naturally in specific North American regions and areas prior to the human introduction of plant life from distant places. Native plants have evolved and adapted to local conditions over thousands of years. They are vigorous and hardy to survive winter cold and summer heat without human assistance. Once established, native plants require no irrigation or fertilization and are resistant to most pests and diseases, ideal for today's interest in "low-maintenance" gardening and landscaping.

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The Conservation Foundation//Add One

Orders of fewer than 2,000 plants will be delivered to one of two specific locations on Saturday, May 31: The McDonald Farm (headquarters of The Conservation Foundation) at 10S404 Knoch Knolls Road, Naperville, Ill., or Headwaters Conservation Area at 42W525 Beith Road, Elburn, Ill. Specify pick-up location when ordering. Separate pick-up arrangements can be made for orders of more than 2,000 plants. A limited selection of native plants available on a cash and carry basis on May 31 at both . Proceeds from the Native Plant Sale will further The Conservation Foundation's environmental initiatives in northeastern Illinois.

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The Conservation Foundation is a nonprofit land and watershed protection organization. Established in 1972 by business and community leaders, the Foundation is dedicated to preserving open space and natural lands, protecting rivers and watersheds, and promoting stewardship of the environment in northeast Illinois. Working closely with citizens, elected officials, developers, land use planners, park district and forest preserves, the Foundation has contributed to the protection of more than 30,000 acres of open space lands in northeast Illinois. The Conservation Foundation has more than 4,500 donors and members, and is headquartered at the 60-acre McDonald Farm in Naperville, Ill. A program office is located at the historic Dickson-Murst Farm in Montgomery, Ill.

Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries was launched in the late 1970s as the genetically native seed source for the pioneering prairie and wetland restoration work of Applied Ecological Services (AES). AES is highly regarded for its native ecosystem restoration research and consulting throughout the Midwest; Taylor Creek is the primary source of native seed and plants. For more information on Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries and Applied Ecological Services, both headquartered in Brodhead, Wis., visit www.appliedeco.com.