

## GARDENING AT LATHROP

There are many gardeners at Lathrop, from those who like to putter in the existing beds around their townhouses to those who do intensive vegetable gardening in the Community Gardens. Others expand the planting areas on the sides and/or rear of their townhouse and add perennials and, sometimes, shrubs. Lathrop has a Landscaping Policy available the Residents' Handbook (Policy section) and Lathrop Land website (click on Landscaping, then Policy.) New gardeners should read the policy before digging.

We at Lathrop place a strong emphasis on gardening with native plants that enhance the environment for native birds and insects (needed for birds to flourish). Many residents have enhanced their basic Lathrop plantings by adding native perennials between the existing shrubs and under trees near their houses. There is a Native Plant Committee composed of residents who can help folks choose appropriate native plants for their gardens and help them find sources of such plants. New members of that committee are always welcome, you don't have to be a native plant expert to join. There are Native Plant Nurseries in the area and many existing gardeners are happy to share offspring plants from their gardens. The Lathrop Land and the Lathrop/Kendal North Residents websites give detailed lists of plants known to be successful on our campuses. We understand and have shared the desire to bring your favorite plants with you. This is fine except when they are known to be invasive in the landscape.

The Committee promotes projects to help us all learn about native plants:

We host plant and seed exchanges. These give gardeners with an abundance of native plants an opportunity to share cuttings, plants, and seeds with the rest of us.

We plan to sponsor Pop-up visits to resident's gardens hosted by the gardeners.

And we have compiled several lists. All can be found on the Lathrop/Kendal North Residents' Website: <https://lathropres.org/> on the Land Conservation Committee website <https://lathropland.wordpress.com/> or on the Native Plant Shelf in each campus library (see Cottage Garden Notebook):

### *Books and Websites About Native Plants*

*On the Native Plant Shelf* (a list of books and materials in the library on each campus)

### *Recommended Native Plants for Lathrop Cottage Garden*

For more information about the committee, the documents, or about using native plants in gardens, send an email to: [land.steering@gmail.com](mailto:land.steering@gmail.com) - please put "For the Native Plant Committee" in the Subject Line.