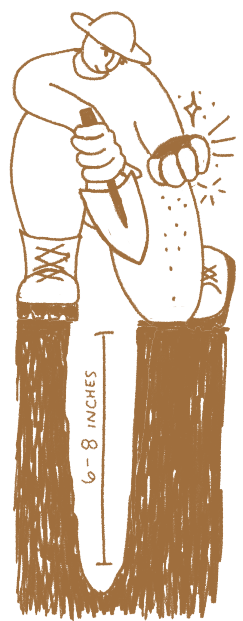


YOU CAN CREATE HABITAT ANYWHERE!

STEP 1: EXAMINE THE SOIL



Different plants have evolved to thrive in different soils.

How much moisture the soil holds impacts how much water and nutrients plants can absorb.

At the planting site, dig a hole 6-8 inches deep and take a look.

Sandy soil has a gritty texture.

Clay or silty soil can be squeezed into a clump when damp and is fine/floury when dry.

When creating habitat, we have to think in terms of groups of plants and animals that have co-evolved together in particular physical environments:

MEADOWS	FULL SUN DRY	add habitat where growing a lawn is challenging or where lawn isn't utilized
FOREST EDGE	PARTIAL SUN SEMI-MOIST	add layers with shrubs and groundcovers
FORESTS	FULL SHADE MOIST	leave fallen leaves when possible

Recreating these natural communities (a.k.a., habitat) invites the biodiversity we aim to support.

DRY	Does the soil dry out quickly during dry periods? Is frequent watering needed? Dry soils can include both sandy and well-drained or dried out hard clay.
MOIST/ WET	Does water puddle on top of the soil during the spring or heavy rain periods? Wet soils tend to have more clay and are poorly drained.
MEDIUM	Is the soil somewhere in the middle? Loam rarely needs watering in the dry periods and seldom puddles during heavy rain.

HOW TO LEARN YOUR SITE

THE FIRST STEP TO REWILD YOUR LAWN, OR GREENBELT, OR GARDENS

STEP 2: TRACK THE LIGHT

Light can change dramatically over the course of a day, through the seasons, and across a site.

To measure sunlight, keep a written record, take photos throughout the day and season or use a sun-tracking app.

SUNNY	6HRS+ SUN/DAY (like an open meadow)
PART SHADE	≈ 4HRS SUN/DAY (like a forest edge)
FULL SHADE	< 4HRS SUN/DAY (like a deep forest)

ART BY CHRISTINE TYLER HILL | @TENDERWARRIORCO
Grow Wild is a project of Burlington Wildways

Find plant guides and other resources at **GROWWILDVT.ORG**

FOAM FLOWER	BLUE FLAG IRIS	GIANT HUSKOP
DRY TO MOIST SOIL	MEDIUM MOIST SOIL	DRY SOIL
SHAD	FULL SUN	FULL SUN

You're on your way to creating a resilient, abundant, and thriving ecosystem for yourself and for insects and wildlife!

STEP 3: MAP YOUR SITE

It can help to map out your site observations. Mark the light conditions, soil conditions, slopes, water access, buildings, existing vegetation, and other variables.

Once you know your site conditions, you can confidently select plants that are well-suited for your site, which means they're more likely to thrive, will require less maintenance, and will provide more ecological value to wildlife.