Fertilizer and Native Plants

There can be exceptions. If you are particularly interested in a native plant, but your garden does not meet its growing requirements, fertilizer might help. However, it is better to select the right plant for your location and soil conditions, and then apply the right fertilizer if necessary. You can consult a soil test to determine if additional nutrients are needed. Keep in mind that some native plants may not benefit from fertilizer, so always follow the local recommendations.

For blueberries, pine needles can work as a natural fertilizer. Otherwise, natural fertilizers are best. You can also use compost or straw as organic matter that is good for the soil. But again, read and apply it according to your specific soil and plant needs.

We can help keep our land and waterways clean! Our efforts help reduce pollution via storm runoff. By planting natives and reducing fertilizer use, we can make a positive impact on the environment and our local water systems.

Remember, even when using fertilizers in other areas of your yard, to read and apply them according to the manufacturer’s instructions and your soil test results. Natural fertilizers are best, and for blueberries, pine needles can work as a natural fertilizer. Otherwise, natural fertilizers are best. We can help keep our land and waterways clean!

For more tips and tricks, visit our website at www.delawareriver.org or check out our social media pages for more information or register for our next event! For the native plant gardener, these tests should be more informative than prescriptive. Take note of things like acidity and existing nutrient content. Then try to find plants that will do well under those conditions. Take the results with a grain of salt.

Hamamelis virginiana

Hamamelis virginiana, is a shrub native to the eastern United States. It is a member of the Witch Hazel family and is known for its beautiful flowers that bloom in late fall and early winter. The flowers are yellow and bloom in clusters, making a beautiful display. The tree is deciduous, shedding its leaves in the fall, and is hardy in USDA zones 4 to 8. This shrub is a great addition to any garden, providing late season nectar for pollinators. They are larger understory plants that do best in a moist, shaded environment. They can grow up to 12 feet tall and wide, with a rounded shape. Hamamelis virginiana provides late season nectar for pollinators and is also a great plant for wildlife. It is host to over 62 species of caterpillars and is a favorite of birds. The flowers have a pleasant fragrance and are a good source of nectar for bees and butterflies. They are easy to grow and require little care. They prefer full sun to partial shade and are hardy in USDA zones 4 to 8.