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Review of *The Midwestern Native Garden: Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and Plants, An Illustrated Guide*. By Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz.

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**The Midwestern Native Garden: Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and Plants, An Illustrated Guide.** By Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2011. xv + 268 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$26.95 paper.

Native plants are important for maintaining biodiversity and supporting birds, mammals, and insects in a particular region. The interaction of plants with other organisms is what makes up food webs, and a shift in one will result in change in the other, change that is often detrimental to both. Invasive plant species, which include many nonnative types, can alter ecosystems with lasting effects on hydrology, nutrient cycling, and habitat. Similar to other regions, the Central Plains is increasingly threatened by the establishment of invasive plant species. The reintroduction of native plant species not only in large natural areas, but also in smaller settings such as home gardens, small pastures, and urban centers, will be critical in combating the advancement of invasive plant species.

In *The Midwestern Native Garden*, Adelman and Schwartz set forth a simple and timely strategy for reducing invasive plant species: plant natives, thereby helping to restore critical ecosystem function in a range of settings. The book is ideal for plant enthusiasts, home gardeners, and anyone who manages landscapes in rural and urban areas of the Central Plains and neighboring regions. The authors have put together a list of nonnative and potentially invasive plants currently available at retail outlets and unknowingly used for display in private and public settings. For each nonnative plant, at least three to four native alternatives are suggested, along with written and pictorial information on plant characteristics and beneficial insects. Other key features that make the book especially useful are its notes, glossary, and bibliography sections, as well as a detailed index.

Adelman and Schwartz present information on plants along with less extensive material on other organisms in an easy-to-read manner appropriate for a beginning gardener or the college-level instructor. The book's main sections follow the

seasons, beginning with spring and ending with winter, thereby providing a broad framework in which to classify each nonnative plant species and potential native alternative. While focused on nonnative plants in gardens and urban landscapes, its list of alternatives spans a wider geographic range and should have broad appeal among individuals managing everything from school grounds and parks to rangelands and riparian areas, the latter two common in the Central Plains.

Readers will appreciate the lengthy introductions to each section, interspersed as they are with quotes from historical figures and early pioneers viewing the landscape for the very first time. In emphasizing the importance of using native plants, *The Midwestern Native Garden* will engage gardeners, landscape professionals, and land managers alike.

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