

# May 11 vegetable plant sale

Fresh organic vegetable and herb seedlings will be among the variety of plants available during the Annual McDonald Farm Plant Sale and Open House on Saturday, May 11 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A wide variety of organic vegetable and herb seedlings along with native plants will be available for purchase from The Conservation Foundation's Green Earth Harvest. Gardeners will find many varieties of tomatoes, hot and sweet peppers, eggplant, summer squash, cucumbers and herbs, and decorative herb boxes and salad planters which make perfect Mother's Day gifts.



Gardeners also will find finished compost available for purchase to create optimal growing conditions in their gardens.

The Open House offers activities for future gardeners in the Children's Garden with master gardeners on hand to answer questions. A tour of the Farm's natural and historic areas is at 9 a.m., tours of the organic farming operation will take place at 10 a.m. and noon, and a wildflower walk begins at 11 a.m. Registration is suggested for these tours; sign up for one or more online at Eventbrite.

A limited selection of native trees, shrubs, some spring ephemerals and selected staff favorites at discounted prices also will be available while supplies last. Birds and butterflies rely on many of these native plant species to complete their life cycle, including imperiled pollinators, and humans rely on pollinators to grow food.

Not only are native plants beautiful, low maintenance, and good for wildlife, planting native species can earn a Conservation@Home certification in recognition of these earth-friendly practices.

A wider variety of native plants can be preordered for pickup during the Plant Sale and Open House. Preorders are being taken online now from Natural Communities Native Plants. All pre-orders must be made no later than 11:59 p.m. Sunday, April 21. Alternative pickup arrangements at Natural Communities in Batavia can be arranged.

The plant sale is offered by The Conservation Foundation's Green Earth Harvest and Conservation@Home programs, and Natural Communities Native Plants.

McDonald Farm is located at 10S404 Knoch Knolls Rd., Naperville 60565. For more information, go to [theconservationfoundation.org](http://theconservationfoundation.org) under "Events".

The Conservation Foundation is one of the region's oldest and largest not-for-profit land and watershed conservation organizations, with more than 4,000 members. Founded in 1972, TCF has helped preserve more than 35,000 acres of open space, restored and cleaned miles of rivers and streams, and educated thousands of kids by engaging them in nature and the outdoors.

TCF's mission is to improve the health of our communities by preserving and restoring natural areas and open space, protecting rivers and watersheds, and promoting stewardship of our environment.

Work is focused in DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will Counties to preserve and restore nature in your neighborhood. Find out more at [theconservationfoundation.org](http://theconservationfoundation.org).

**PHOTO:** Tomatoes, hot and sweet peppers, cucumbers, and herbs are among the vegetables available at the McDonald Farm Plant Sale and Open House on Saturday, May 11.