

SENECA NATION OF INDIANS

POLICY ON USAGE OF INDIGENOUS PLANT SPECIES IN LANDSCAPING



The Seneca Nation of Indians (SNI) recognizes that continued planting of non-Native species at Seneca Nation Territories poses a significant threat to the ecosystems of SNI Territories, causing harm to the environment as well as to the health of those who reside on or visit Seneca lands; and

The Seneca Nation of Indians is committed to restoring, preserving, and maintaining local indigenous species in its Territories in order to protect the environment and remain true to the legacy of the ancestors and the gifts of Mother Earth; and following a presentation by the Food Is Our Medicine program and Planning Department staff, the Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the Nation and its members to adopt a Policy to ensure that new plantings in public spaces on Nation lands will be exclusively local indigenous species, and to encourage private Seneca land holders to choose indigenous species in their planting decisions.

Principles

- I. All future development(s) of public spaces on Seneca Nation territory, including lands made available to corporations directly or indirectly owned by the Nation, will incorporate landscaping designs limited to Native indigenous plants of the Seneca people and the Western New York State region.
- II. Native plant species will be indigenous to WNY to include the following Counties:
 1. Allegany
 2. Cattaraugus
 3. Chautauqua
 4. Erie
 5. Genesee
 6. Niagara
 7. Orleans
 8. Wyoming
- III. Native species are those plants locally indigenous to the Western New York region to include the above mentioned eight (8) counties prior to European settlement.
- IV. Many indigenous plant species are significant to the culture of the Seneca people and their revitalization on Seneca lands is an important aspect of the preservation of Seneca culture. Use of indigenous plants includes and is not limited to:
 - (1) **Edible** Plants
 - (a) Crops, roots, nuts, seeds, fruit, leaves

- (b) Beverages
- (c) Seasonings
- (d) Candy
- (2) Plants used for **Medicines**
 - (a) See attached list: *Indigenous Medicine Plants of the Iroquois*
- (3) Plants used to produce **Fiber and Dyes**
 - (a) Cordage
 - (b) Basketry
 - (c) Bedding, mats, rugs
 - (d) clothing
- (4) Plants used in **Ceremonies**
- (5) **Other**
 - (a) Hunting and fishing: bows, arrows, traps, lures, lines, rods, arrows, spears
 - (b) Tools, utensils, cordage, basketry, containers, toys
 - (c) Fuel
 - (d) Fragrance
 - (e) Musical instruments

V. It is imperative to maintain and periodically update an “Advisory Invasive Plant List,” also known as a “*No-Planting List*,” of banned non-Native, Eurasian, commercial varieties and cultivated landscape plants, invasive or potentially invasive species. Plants on the “*No-Planting List*” may not be incorporated in the landscaping of any public spaces and in or around any Seneca Nation public building located on Seneca Territories. Nation programs, including housing related programs, shall discourage individuals from incorporating such species in their landscaping programs.

VI. This Policy does not mandate the removal of any existing landscaping plans incorporating “*No-Planting*” listed species. The Seneca Nation, however, highly encourages the prompt removal of any of the following “highly invasive” or “very highly invasive” species (indicated by *) from Nation lands. An abbreviated no-planting list follows:

<i>Botanical Name</i>	Common Name
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple*
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore Maple*
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese Barberry*
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Oriental Bittersweet*
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn Olive*

<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Burning Bush/Winged Euonymus*
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese Honeysuckle*
<i>Lonicera maackii</i>	Amur Honeysuckle*
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary-grass*
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce
<i>Picea pungens</i>	Colorado Spruce
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Austrian Pine
<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	Kwanzan Cherry
<i>Prunus subhirtella</i>	Flowering Cherry
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas Fir
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black Locust*
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora Rose*
<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	Japanese Spirea
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Common Periwinkle

VII. This Policy also establishes an approved list of regional Native species and Native plants significant to the Haudenosaunee culture that shall be permitted to be purchased, propagated, planted, landscaped, or introduced on any and all Seneca Territories.

The “Advisory Invasive Plant List,” also known as the “*No-Planting List*,” and the “*Encouraged Plant List*” are to be considered works in progress.