

Homegrown National Park

Doug Tallamy

Co-Founder, Homegrown National Park | NYT Bestselling Author
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The science is clear. The solution starts at home.

Dr. Doug Tallamy is a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has spent four decades studying how native plants and insects depend on each other — and what happens when that relationship breaks down.

His books, including *Bringing Nature Home* and the New York Times bestseller *Nature's Best Hope*, have changed how people think about the land around them. Doug's central insight is both simple and profound: the private land across the United States adds up to more acreage than all national parks combined. That land can either support wildlife or work against it. The choice belongs to the people who live there.

"Ecosystem services are the life support system of the planet — and they depend entirely on the native plant communities we've been removing."



What makes Doug's work distinct is where it points. Most conservation efforts focus on protecting what remains. Doug's research asks something larger: what do we lose when native habitats disappear, and can we restore what's been lost? His answer is grounded in decades of data. Native plant communities provide the ecosystem services that

no human infrastructure can replicate — clean water, flood control, pollination, natural pest regulation, climate stability. Strip them out and replace them with turf and ornamentals, and the system quietly fails. Restore them, and it quietly recovers.

Homegrown National Park — Doug's vision in action

A movement grounded in science and built for action

Co-founded with Michelle Alfandari, HNP translates Doug's research into straightforward actions anyone can take: planting native, removing invasives, and restoring the habitat that supports life where we live.

Keystone plants

Doug's research identified the keystone plant genera, an essential group of native plants that support the majority of insects, birds, and wildlife in any region. HNP's Keystone Plant Finder helps anyone discover which plants to grow where they live.

The Biodiversity Map

HNP's signature tool makes the movement visible. Pin your habitat, find local organizations, and see how your yard connects to a national network of native habitats. Plant native and see the impact in your own yard. On the map, see it across the whole country. 60,000+ people, 170,000+ acres of habitat, and 500+ organizations, mapped and growing.

Tools that support communities

HNP gives anyone a place to start: homeowners, renters, schools, businesses, and community groups. Quick start guides, neighborhood activities, and programs like the Mosquito Bucket Challenge and Extraordinary Caterpillar are designed to bring everyone into the movement, regardless of experience.

Doug's Speaking Topics:

Homegrown National Park · Nature's Best Hope · Keystone native plants · Restoring the little things that run the world · The Nature of Oaks · Are "alien" plants bad?

More About Doug:

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