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For Clean Water & Lakeshore Habitat

TOP TEN NATIVE SHORELINE PLANTS FOR BURNETT COUNTY

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Interested in beautifying your property and helping your lake? Grow native plants! Why plant native plants? Because native plants are suited to the local climate and soils, and local wildlife - from birds to butterflies - depend upon native plants for their survival. This short list of native plants will help make your planting project a success.

PLANTING TIPS

SOIL: The sandy soils of Burnett County make plant establishment a challenge. The selected top ten plants are suited for the harsh conditions. Choose plants that are suited to your site, follow the county's soil condition recommendations.

PLANTING: Planting early (mid-May to mid-June) and late (mid-August to mid-September) in the growing season adds to planting success. Follow the light recommendations to choose the best planting location.

WATERING: Follow the moisture recommendations for the plants in this book. The most important advice for plant survival is WATER, WATER, WATER!





SWAMP MILKWEED

Asclepias incarnata

SOIL: wet to moist

LIGHT - sun to part shade

HEIGHT - 2 – 6 feet

BLOOM - June to September, Blue flowers

PLANTING - Plant along the lake edge

BEST FEATURE - Sandpipers, cardinals

and juncos eat the seeds. Due to its

high nectar content, bees and

butterflies visit blue vervain.

Best of all, it blooms all summer.

SOIL: wet to moist

LIGHT - sun to part shade

HEIGHT - 3 – 4 feet

BLOOM - June to August, pink flowers

PLANTING - Plant along the lake edge

BEST FEATURE - attracts monarch butterflies and provides food for their caterpillars. Wood thrushes and many birds use the fibers from old stems to build a nest.

BLUE VERVAIN

Verbena hastata





CHOKECHERRY

Prunus virginiana

SOIL - moist to dry

LIGHT - sun to part shade

HEIGHT - 3 – 8 feet (shorter with less moisture)

BEST FEATURE - super stabilizer for shorelines – roots as deep as plants are tall. Provides great cover for sparrows and juncos. Leopard frogs forage for insects in stands of big bluestem up to a mile away from water.

SOIL - moist to dry

LIGHT - sun to part shade

HEIGHT - up to 20 feet

BLOOM - May to June, white flowers and red berries in clusters

BEST FEATURE - incredible aroma of spring flowers. Ruffed grouse and many other birds and mammals (chipmunks, fox, bears) love the berries. Often, a dozen or more birds can be seen feeding actively on ripe cherries in a single shrub.

BIG BLUESTEM

Andropogon gerardii





BERGAMOT

Monarda fistulosa

SOIL - moist to dry

LIGHT - sun to part shade

HEIGHT - 2 - 4 feet

BLOOM - July to August, Lavender flowers

PLANTING - plant along the lake edge

BEST FEATURE - spreads to fill large-areas
– makes a great mint tea. A nectar source for monarch butterflies, bees and hummingbirds.



SOIL TIP: Plants that prefer soil conditions wet and moist work well along the lake edge.



BLACK-EYED SUSAN

Rudbeckia hirta

SOIL - dry to medium

LIGHT - sun to part shade

HEIGHT - 1 – 3 feet

BLOOM - June to October, yellow flowers

BEST FEATURE - blooms shortly after planting
– will spread from seed. Provides protection and food for a variety of song birds. Nectar for bees, butterflies, and other insects.

SOIL - dry to medium

LIGHT - full to part shade

HEIGHT - 2 – 4 feet

BLOOM - June, white flowers and berries

PLANTING - plant along lake edge

BEST FEATURE - deer don't seem to like this shrub, while they devour others.

SNOWBERRY

Symphoricarpos albus





BIG LEAF ASTER

Aster macrophyllus

SOIL - dry to medium

LIGHT - full to part shade

HEIGHT - _ to 1_ feet

BLOOM - August to October, lavender flowers

BEST FEATURE - nice forest ground-cover that blooms late in summer. It provides cover and nesting places for ground nesting birds like the wood thrush.

SOIL - dry to medium
LIGHT - full sun to full shade
HEIGHT - 6 to 8 inches
BEST FEATURE - provides a soft, low forest understory to stabilize sandy soils.

PENNSYLVANIA SEDGE

Carex pennsylvanica





COLUMBINE

Aquilegia canadensis

SOIL - dry to medium

LIGHT - full to part shade

HEIGHT - 2 – 3 feet

BLOOM - May to June, pink flowers

BEST FEATURE - hummingbirds visit this delicate woodland flower in early summer.

MORE INFORMATION

Find more Burnett County native plants in the Shoreland Buffer Restoration Guide for Landowners at www.burnettcounty.com

Get free expert landscaping advice about using these and other native plants for clean water and healthy shorelines by visiting www.burnettcounty.com or calling 715.349.2186 to arrange a visit.

Photos from the University of Wisconsin herbarium web site www.botany.wisc.edu/herbarium, Burnett County photo collection and Amy Cronk