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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](http://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](http://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](http://www.botany.wisc.edu/herbarium), Burnett County photo collection and Amy Cronk