

Lakeshore Native Plants

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Site*	Exposure**	Flower Color	Season of Interest
<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	blue giant hyssop	2-4'	um/ud	S, PS	lavender-blue	July-August
<i>Allium stellatum</i>	prairie wild onion	1-2'	um/ud	S, PS	pink	July-August
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	big bluestem	2-5'	um/ud	S, PS	purple	August-November
<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	Canada anemone	1-2'	w/um	S, PS	white	May-July
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	columbine	1-3'	um/ud	S, PS, Sh	red/yellow	May-July
<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>	wild sarsaparilla	1-2'	um/ud	PS, Sh	greenish-white	May-June
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	marsh milkweed	3-4'	w/um	S	pink	June-August
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	harebell	0.5-1.5'	um/ud	S, PS	blue	June-September
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	red-osier dogwood	6-12'	w/um/ud	S, PS, Sh	white	May-June; red twigs in winter
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	fireweed	2-6'	w/um	S, PS	magenta	June-August
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Joe-Pye weed	3-6'	w/um	S, PS	pink	July-September
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	wild strawberry	6-12"	um/ud	S, PS	white	April-June
<i>Galium boreale</i>	northern bedstraw	1-2.5'	um/ud	S, PS	white	June-July
<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	alumroot	1-3'	um/ud	S, PS, Sh	green	June
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	blue flag iris	2-3'	w/um	S, PS	blue-violet	June-July
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	wild bergamot	2-4'	um/ud	S, PS	lilac	July-August
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	chokecherry	30'	um/ud	S, PS, Sh	white	May; red fall color
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	black-eyed Susan	3-4'	um/ud	S, PS	golden	July-August
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	greenheaded coneflower	4-9'	w/um	S, PS	yellow	July-August
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	bloodroot	8-10"	um	PS, Sh	white	April-May
<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>	false Solomon's seal	1-3'	um	PS, Sh	cream	May-June
<i>Solidago rigida</i>	stiff goldenrod	1-5'	um/ud	S, PS	yellow	August-October
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian grass	2-6'	w/um	S, PS	copper/yellow	August-November
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	prairie cordgrass	3-6'	w/um/ud	S	gold fall color	September-November
<i>Stachys palustris</i>	hedge nettle	1-3'	w/um	S, PS	purple	June-August
<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>	tall meadow rue	3-6'	w	S, PS	cream	June
<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	large-flowered bellwort	1-1.5'	um	Sh	yellow	May
<i>Uvularia sessilifolia</i>	wild oats	0.5-1'	um/ud	Sh	pale yellow	May
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	blue vervain	2-5'	w/um	S	blue	July-September
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's root	3-5'	w/um	S, PS	white	July-August
<i>Viola canadensis</i>	Canada violet	0.5-1'	um	PS, Sh	white	May-June
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	golden Alexander	1-3'	w/um	S, PS	yellow	May-June

* w = wet; um = upland moist (neither wet nor dry); ud = upland dry

** S = Full Sun, PS = Part Shade, Sh = Shade



l to r: This lakeshore features oxeye, fireweed, and Joe-Pye weed. Eupatorium (Joe-Pye weed) is a tall, tough native for wet sites. The edge of a pond planted with blue vervain and Joe-Pye weed. Red osier dogwood 'Cardinal' and 'Isanti' are U of M introductions that tolerate wet sites.

Plants on this list will re-establish native plant buffers where the native shoreland vegetation has been altered. Suitable for any zone in Minnesota, these were selected based on their ability to establish readily from seed, spread from rhizomes, tolerate seasonal flooding, fruit in fall, self-sow, stabilize bank and soil, attract bees/butterflies/ hummingbirds/moths, as well as provide beautiful foliage and color throughout the seasons. Most importantly, this natural buffer will help to maintain the quality of the lake.

Compiled by Diane Plath, Beltrami County Master Gardener, who has a lakeshore home and whose passion is 'lakescaping' or lakeshore restoration. Her shoreline is natural, yet she continues to enhance the area with these plants. She encourages all lakeshore owners to do the same in order to protect the water quality, to stabilize shorelines, and to increase wildlife habitat. As Diane says, "If we don't take care of our lakes, who will?"

Master Gardeners tour a lakeshore restoration planting in central Minnesota. Patience is required in establishment of native plants, since the first few years are needed to establish a strong root system.



For More Information on Lakeshore Native Plants

Lakeshore planting and restoration is an important environmental issue in Minnesota and across the US. There are several print references available from University of Minnesota Extension at www.extension.umn.edu, including:

- 👉 Native Plants for Sustainable Landscapes: Establishment and Management of Lakeshores and Gardens (07447)
- 👉 Shoreland Design (Sustainable Urban Landscape Information Series)
- 👉 Shoreland Plant Identification and Selection (Sustainable Urban Landscape Information Series)

The *Minnesota Shoreland Management Resource Guide*, workshops, demonstration sites, local programs and *Protecting Our Waters, Shoreland Best Management Practices* are featured at the Shoreland Education site: wrc.umn.edu/outreach/shore/.