

Plant Selection

A CRITICAL
STEP IN CREATING
A SUCCESSFUL
LANDSCAPE

Selecting plants that fit the moisture and light conditions of a location is a critical part to a successful landscape. (see Landscape Design, pg 2) The following lists offer some suggestions for plants that fit various conditions. These lists are by no means all-inclusive. Homeowners should consult books, magazine articles, and web sites. County extension services and master gardeners are also good resources.

The plant materials below are listed by their italicized botanical names (genus, species and cultivar, if applicable) followed by the common name. Whenever possible, use the botanical name when purchasing a plant, as it is the most accurate and will ensure you are buying the right species.

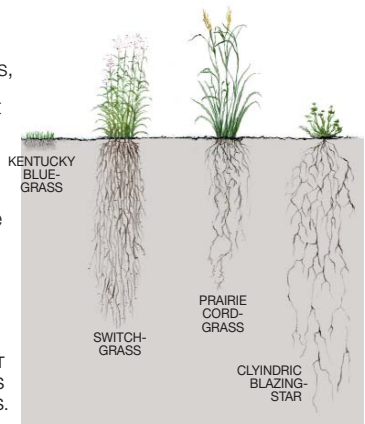
NATIVE vs. NON-NATIVE SPECIES:

Native plants are defined as plants originating in a particular location, such as Minnesota or the North Central United States. Non-native species have been brought into an area and naturalized. The Norway maple is a good example of a tree that has been naturalized in Minnesota, yet originated in Europe. Native species may be hardier, less invasive and less prone to disease and insect problems. However, there are many non-native species that have become adapted to climate as well as resistant to pests and diseases, which make good choices.

Native vs non-native species, con't next page



Some native plants develop deeper root structures, allowing for better water infiltration. A deeper root structure also provides stabilization along lake or stream banks which help us to improve the quality of our lakes, streams and wetlands. Native prairie plants often times develop roots that penetrate to a depth 2-3 times that of the plant's height.



A NATIVE PLANT THAT IS 2 FT TALL, LIKELY HAS A ROOT STRUCTURE AT LEAST 6 FT DEEP. TYPICAL LAWN GRASS HAS A ROOT STRUCTURE THAT REACHES ONLY 4-6 INCHES.

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TREES & SHRUBS

Choosing a shrub that physically fits into a location is important. Pay attention to its mature size as noted on the plant information tag. You may also want to double check with the nursery staff as sometimes cultural influences such as light, moisture, soil condition and pruning will have an effect on the mature size a shrub can reach.

Deciduous Trees & Shrubs under 25 feet tall

- Acer spicatum*Mountain Maple
- Amelanchier laevis*Allegheny Serviceberry
- Amelanchier canadensis*Serviceberry (clump form)
- Amelanchier x grandiflora* 'Autumn Brilliance' . . .Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry
- Carpinus caroliniana*Blue Beech
- Chionanthus virginicus*White Fringe Tree
- Crataegus crus-galli inermis*Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn
- Cornus sericea*Pagoda Dogwood
- Cornus alternifolia*Redosier Dogwood
- Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora'Pee Gee Hydrangea Tree
- Prunus americana*Wild Plum
- Syringa reticulata amurensis japonica*Japanese Tree Lilac
- Viburnum lentago*Nannyberry
- Viburnum dentatum*Arrowwood Viburnum
- Viburnum trilobum*American High Bush Cranberry

Evergreen Trees & Shrubs under 25 feet tall

- Juniperus scopularum*Rocky Mountain Juniper
- Juniperus virginiana*Eastern Red Cedar
(height can be taller than 25 ft.)
- Thuja occidentalis* 'Techny'Techny Arborvitae

SHRUBS THREE TO FOUR FEET TALL

Deciduous shrubs for SUNNY & DRY Areas

- Amorpha canescens*Lead Plant
Ceanothus americanusNew Jersey Tea
Diervilla loniceraDwarf Bush Honeysuckle
Physocarpus opulifolius 'Dart's Gold'Dart's Gold
 (height can be > 3-4 ft)
Prunus pumilaDwarf Sandcherry
Rosa arkansanaPrairie Rose
Symphoricarpos orbiculatusCoralberry
Vaccinium angustifoliumLowbush Blueberry
 Note: Requires acidic soil for best results.

Evergreen shrubs for SUNNY & DRY Areas

- Juniperus communis depressa*Oldfield Common Juniper
Juniperus horizontalisCreeping Juniper

Deciduous shrubs for SUNNY & MOIST Areas

- Aronia melanocarpa*Black Chokeberry
 (height can be > 3-4 ft)
Ilex verticillata cultivarsWinterberry
 (height can be > 3-4 ft)
 Note: Requires male and female plants for berries
Salix purpurea 'Nana'Purpleosier Willow
Symphoricarpos albusSnowberry

Deciduous shrubs for SHADY & DRY Areas

- Amelanchier stolonifera*Running Serviceberry
Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle'Annabelle Hydrangea
Symphoricarpos orbiculatusCoralberry
Ribes alpinumAlpine Currant

Deciduous shrubs for SHADY & MOIST Areas

- Clethra alnifolia cultivars*Summersweet
Dirca palustrisLeatherwood
Ledum groenlandicumLabrador Tea
Symphoricarpos albusSnowberry

Evergreen shrubs for SHADY & MOIST Areas

- Tuja occidentalis* 'Hertz Midget'Hertz Midget
Tsuga canadensis 'Gracilis'Gracilis Hemlock
Tsuga canadensis 'Coles Prostrate'Coles Prostrate Hemlock

GROUND COVERS

Ground covers are plants that spread rapidly and grow close to the soil level. They are good choices for areas that need erosion control and/or are difficult sites for other types of plants. Ground covers can also replace turf grass in areas that are difficult to maintain, eliminating the need to mow. It is important to note that some can be very invasive – a characteristic that may or may not be desirable in a ground cover.

Ground Covers for SHADY Areas

- Asarum canadensis*Wild Ginger
Aster macrophyllusBig Leaf Aster
Cornus canadensisBunch Berry
Note: Needs acid soil
Galium odoratumSweet Woodruff
Hosta species and cultivarsHosta or Plantain Lily
Lamium strumariumLamium
Mitchella repensPartridgeberry
Note: Needs acid soil

Ground Covers for SUNNY Areas

- Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*Bearberry
Note: A broadleaf evergreen; prefers acid soil
Gaultheria procumbensWintergreen
Note: A broadleaf evergreen; prefers acid soil, grows in partial shade
SedumSedum
Waldsteinia fragarioidesBarren Strawberry
Note: A broadleaf evergreen

ORNAMENTAL & NATIVE GRASSES

There has been a surge of interest in the use of ornamental and native prairie grasses in home landscapes and it's easy to see why. They are easy to care for, have almost no disease or pest problems, have low nutrient requirements and grow quickly. Grasses can also add winter interest to landscapes with their persistent seed heads, varied colors, and textured leaves and stems.

Grasses for SHADY & DRY Areas

<i>Bromus ciliatus</i>	.....	Fringed Brome
<i>Bromus kalmii</i>	.....	Kalm's Brome
<i>Carex pennsylvanica</i>	.....	Pennsylvania Sedge
<i>Carex sprengellii</i>	.....	Long Beaked Sedge
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	.....	Tufted Hairgrass
<i>Elymus hystrix</i>	.....	Bottlebrush Grass
<i>Hakonechloa macra</i>	.....	Hakonechloagrass
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	.....	Woodrush
<i>Luzula parviflora</i>	.....	Greater Woodrush

Grasses for WATER GARDENS & MOIST Areas

<i>Acorus calamus</i>	.....	Sweet Flag
<i>Calamagrostis acutiflora</i>	.....	Feather Reed Grass
<i>Carex crinita</i>	.....	Fringed Sedge
<i>Carex comosa</i>	.....	Bottlebrush Sedge
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	.....	Fox Sedge
<i>Hierochloa odorata</i>	.....	Sweet Grass
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	.....	Soft Rush
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	.....	Moorgrass
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	.....	Switchgrass
<i>Note: Aggressive</i>		
<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	.....	Woolgrass
<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	.....	Dark Green Bulrush
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	.....	Cordgrass

Grasses, continued next page

GRASSES for EROSION CONTROL *(may be invasive)*

Calamagrostis canadensisCanada Bluejoint Grass

Hierochloa odorataSweet Grass

Panicum virgatumSwitchgrass
Note: Aggressive

Spartina pectinataCordgrass
Note: Performs best in moist soils in full sun; invasive especially in sandy soils.

Grasses for SUNNY & DRY Areas

(Also excellent choices for erosion control)

Andropogon gerardiiBig Blue Stem

Bouteloua curtipendulaSideoats Grama

Bouteloua gracilisBlue Grama

Koeleria brevisBlue Hairgrass

Koeleria macranthaJunegrass

Schizachyrium scopariumLittle Blue Stem Grass

Sorghastrum nutansIndiangrass

Sporobolus heterolepisPrairie Dropseed Grass

Grasses for SHADY & MOIST Areas

(Also excellent choices for erosion control)

Bromus ciliatusFringed Brome

Carex stipataAwl Fruited Sedge

Carex comosaBottlebrush Sedge

Elymus hystrixBottlebrush Grass

Glyceria striataFowl Manna Grass

Juncus effususSoft Rush

Deschampsia caespitosaTufted Hairgrass

Luzula parvifloraGreater Woodrush



Schizachyrium scoparium
Little Blue Stem Grass

NATIVE WILDFLOWERS

Planting tough, vigorous perennial wildflowers can make for an attractive, fairly low-maintenance garden. They add color and attract birds and butterflies.

Wildflowers for SHADY & DRY Areas

<i>Anemone cylindrica</i>	.....	Thimbleweed
<i>Aster macrophyllum</i>	.....	Big Leaf Aster
<i>Astragalus canadense</i>	.....	Canada Milk Vetch
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	.....	Harebells
<i>Galium boreale</i>	.....	Northern Bedstraw
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	.....	Wild Geranium
<i>Helianthus strumosus</i>	.....	Woodland Sunflower
<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	.....	Alum Root
<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	.....	Jacob's Ladder
<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>	.....	Early Meadow Rue

Wildflowers for WATER GARDENS & MOIST Areas

<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	.....	Canada Anemone
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	.....	Swamp Milkweed
<i>Aster umbellatus</i>	.....	Flat-Topped Aster
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	.....	Marsh Marigold
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	.....	Turtlehead
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	.....	Joe Pye
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	.....	Sneezeweed
<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	.....	Prairie Blazingstar
<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	.....	Monkeyflower
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	.....	Virginia Mountain Mint

Wildflowers, continued next page

Wildflowers for SUNNY & DRY Areas

<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	.Anise Hyssop
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	.Butterflyweed
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	.Purple Prairie Clover
<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	.Narrow-Leaf Coneflower
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	.Wild Lupine
<i>Penstemon grandiflorus</i>	.Large Flowered Beardtongue
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	.Yellow Coneflower
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	.Black Eyed Susan
<i>Solidago rigida</i>	.Stiff Goldenrod
<i>Tradescantia bracteata</i>	.Spiderwort

Wildflowers for SHADY & MOIST Areas

<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	.Maidenhair Fern
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	.Wild Columbine
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	.Jack-in-the-Pulpit
<i>Aster umbellatus</i>	.Flat-Topped Aster
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	.Marsh Marigold
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	.Cardinal Flower
<i>Lobelia silphilitica</i>	.Great Blue Lobelia
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	.Ostrich Fern
<i>Osmunda spp</i>	.Ferns
<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	.Zig Zag Goldenrod



Rudbeckia hirta
Black Eyed Susan

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO VIEW PLANT PHOTOS:

– Visit the University of Minnesota Extension Service’s Sustainable Urban Landscape Information Series at www.sustland.umn.edu