

NATIVE PLANTS OF DELTA COUNTY MI

Native plants are indigenous to a particular habitat within a specific region. They are adapted to local conditions and have natural defenses to diseases and insect pests. Importantly, they provide habitat and food for butterflies, hummingbirds, songbirds, and beneficial insects. When planting, match the plants with their native conditions as much as possible. Once established, they will not require supplemental watering and those listed as *upland dry* and *dry prairie* can withstand extended periods of drought.

THE PLANTS ON THIS LIST ARE ONES THAT HAVE BEEN PROPAGATED BY THE BAY COLLEGE GREENHOUSE FROM SEEDS COLLECTED LOCALLY BY DR. BRIAN BLACK

PERRENIALS and ANNUALS

Red Baneberry (*Actaea rubra*)

woodland *attracts birds* *deer resistant*

Bright red berries set against deep green foliage make this a showpiece of a woodland shade garden. Growing in bushy clumps 1-2 feet high, it bears elegant white flower globes in June and then red berries enjoyed by birds in the fall.



Western Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)

dry prairie *butterfly nectar source* *butterfly larval host*

Individual, erect, cottony stems grow 1-3 ft. tall and are often clumped together creating a bushy appearance. Narrow leaves are gray-green to woolly-white. Globular flowers in late summer are long-enduring, white, dry bracts arranged around a yellow center. The pure white flower is commonly used in dried flower arrangements. Grows in full sun to part shade in dry sandy soil. Naturally occurring in dry prairies, open woods, and roadsides. Provides food for Painted lady and Skipper butterflies and is a larval host. [source: western UP]



Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

butterfly larval host *attracts hummingbirds*

Produces striking red/yellow blossoms in May-July growing 1-3 feet tall. May not bloom until second year. This short lived perennial will self-seed in disturbed soils and will grow in full sun to partial shade and in soils of moderate moisture. Provides nectar for birds and is a host for butterfly larvae. Naturally occurring in mixed or deciduous wood borders, thickets, and riverbanks. Zero natural enemies.[source: Escanaba]



Swamp Milkweed or Pink Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

wetland *attracts pollinators* *monarch butterfly host*

Magnificent milkweed species that produces clusters of pink blossoms that are pleasantly fragrant. At the end of the summer, the seedpods split and release numerous seeds with long silky white hairs that catch the wind and allow the seeds to spread. A favorite of native bees and wasps, it is a valuable food source for the Monarch butterfly caterpillar. Growing to heights of 3' to 5', this plant blooms from early to late summer. One of the few milkweeds that prefers wet soils, it does best in full to partial sunlight.



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Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

attracts pollinators monarch butterfly host

This is a robust plant that can grow from 3 feet to more than 6 feet tall during the growing season. Flower clusters form the second year mostly where the leaves join the stems and are shades of dusty rose from June –Aug. They have a delightful, flowery fragrance. The gray-green seedpods are pointed and warty. The thick, white, Latex-like sap in the plant may irritate some people's skin, but it serves as food for a number of insects that feed on it, and has the ability of being poisonous and unattractive to predators. It is a valuable food source for the Monarch butterfly caterpillar. Seeds are released to the wind when the pods turn tan and split open. [source: Escanaba]



Butterfly Weed or Pleurisy Root (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

upland dry attracts pollinators monarch butterfly host

This stunning orange blooming wildflower puts on a show from July to late August. Flowering in the second year, it attracts butterflies and colorful native bees and wasps. A favored food source of the Monarch butterfly caterpillar, this species lacks the milky sap common to other milkweed species. It does have the signature milkweed seed pods with seed that have large silky tufts of hair that help the wind disperse the seed. Butterfly Weed will reach about 2-3 feet in height and prefers dry soils in full to partial sunlight. Naturally occurring in woodland openings and dry pine and oak barrens.



White Sage or Western Mugwort (*Artemisia ludoviciana*)

dry prairie

This plant grows in sunny dry areas, spreading quickly to form large colonies. Shrub-like stalks are from 1 to 3 feet tall with clusters of small yellowish flowers. Leaves are silvery green to whitish with fine hairs and are aromatic when crushed. Cut stalks can be used for fragrant wreaths and floral arrangements. This is a good choice for a low-maintenance, knee to waist high groundcover that can even take mowing. Drought tolerant. Larval host for the American Painted Lady butterfly. [Source: Bay Campus]



Tickseed Sunflower (*Bidens aristosa*)

wetland attract native bees

Annual grows 3-6 feet tall on leafy, branched stems bearing several yellow, daisy-like flower heads. The prickly seeds are known as beggars-ticks and stick to animals and clothing in the autumn. Native habitat is wet meadows, roadside ditches, abandoned fields. [source: Escanaba]



Nodding Bur-Marigold (*Bidens cernua*)

wetland

Likes part shade or shun growing to 6-36 inches tall. Flowers are bright yellow 1-2 inches across from August to October. Seeds have barbs that attach to clothing. Commonly found on the banks of ponds and lakes and may form large colonies. [Source: Western UP]



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Harebell or Bluebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)

dry prairie attracts hummingbirds deer resistant

This a very hardy plant often found growing in the barest of soils on rock outcrops as well as in sandy prairies and open woods. It blooms all season long from June to September. Several small nodding flowers top each of several stems. Plant reaches height of 1-2 feet and spacing is 6 inches. [source: UP]



White Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)

wetland

Grows 2 – 4 feet tall in part shade and sun along shore and in wet meadows. The flowers form in densely packed spikes in the upper part of the plant. Individual flowers are 1 to 1.5 inches long with a 2-lobed hood-like upper lip and a 3 lobed lower lip. The unusual flowers and capsule seed pods give the plant its name.



Sand Coreopsis or Lance-leaf Coreopsis or Tickseed (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)

dry prairie nectar for butterflies deer resistant

This attractive plant produces bright yellow 1-2 inch daisy-like flowers that grow on stalks 1-2 feet tall. Flowering from June to August and filling in the second year. Grows in full sun but tolerates light shade and dry soil. It does well cultivated in gardens or naturalized in fields with a fall mowing recommended. Naturally occurring in dry poor soils such as open sandy banks, grasslands, bluffs, woodlands. Not liked by deer or other browsers. [source: Escanaba River]



Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

upland dry attracts pollinators seed eating birds

This attractive iconic coneflower species, is a 3' to 5' tall plant that blooms mid to late summer, several weeks later than *Echinacea pallida*. It features showy, 2" to 4" diameter blooms that consist of a cone of reddish-brown disc florets and drooping, purple ray florets. These blooms are favorite nectar sources for butterflies, and in the fall, the seeds attract birds. The foliage is dark green and broadly ovate with few hairs. It prefers full to partial sunlight in areas with medium to dry soils.



Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum* or *Eutrochium*)

wet prairie

Hairy, erect white stems grow up to 5 feet tall. White flowers are crowded into clumps blooming in August - October. Likes sun and moist soil in fields or along shorelines.

[source: Escanaba]



Joe-Pye Weed or Purple Boneset (*Eupatorium* or *Eutrochium*)

wet prairie attracts pollinators, butterflies, and birds

Large clusters of bright pink flowers in August and September are butterfly magnets. They grow on thick stems 4-6 feet tall. Plant in full sun in moist rich garden soil. Naturally occurring in sand or loam in marshy areas, along stream banks, and on pond edges. [source: Escanaba]



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Large-Leaved or Big-Leaved Aster (*Eurybia macrophylla*) (formerly *Aster macrophyllus*)

dry woodland attracts pollinators, butterflies deer resistant

Perfect plant for shady areas. Drought tolerant it thrives in both dry sand and heavy clay soils. Large heart-shaped leaves on 1-2 foot tall plants are abundant in forests. Small pale violet flowers bloom sparsely in clusters during August and September. Spreads by rhizomes to form a groundcover. Great for stabilizing shaded hillsides and slopes. Larval host for the Pearl Crescent Butterfly. [source: Delta County]



Wild Geranium or Spotted Cranesbill (*Geranium maculatum*)

moist woodland attracts bees larval host

Medium size plant 1-2 foot tall has pink to lavender flowers in May and June. Foliage remains attractive all season long. Prefers shade and partial shade in rich damp soil. Expands slowly to form a nice clump. Host plant for several moths. Found in moist sites along streams, ponds, and swamps. [source: Western UP]



Common Sneezeweed or Bitterweed (*Helenium autumnale*)

wet prairie

This plant prefers full-to-partial sun and blooms in the fall. It has yellow, wedge-shaped ray flowers. The base of each lance-shaped leaf extends down the erect stem, making the plant's stem appear to be winged like the shaft of an arrow. Growing 3'-5' tall, the plant gets its name from the fact that the dried flower heads and seeds induce sneezing. Grows in a variety of soils of medium moisture. Does not tolerate drought. Spreading by seed, this rapid grower can become invasive. [source:Ford River]



Woodland Sunflower (*Helianthus strumosus*)

dry uplands attracts pollinators seed eating birds deer resistant

Grows in full sun to shade in dry sandy soil. Has bright yellow daisy-like flowers from August to October on 2 to 5 foot stems. Goldfinches, mourning doves, and other birds love the seeds. Attracts native bees. Naturally occurring in woodlands and open areas. [source: Bay Campus]



Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*)

dry prairie

In late summer, bright yellow flowers grow on dense foliage to 4-9 feet tall. Drought tolerant plants spread rapidly by rhizomes and seeds. If left undisturbed they can take over large areas crowding out other plants. The foliage and tubers may be eaten by browsing and grazing animals. Historically, the tubers were cultivated as a food crop by Native Americans and European colonists. They have a taste similar to artichokes and can be sliced raw in a salad or cooked like potatoes or rutabagas. [source: Escanaba]



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Smooth Oxeye or Heliopsis Sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)

dry prairie attracts pollinators

One of the many native sunflowers, this one has yellow blossoms from July – Oct. on stems 3-5 feet tall forming clumps 2 to 4 feet in diameter. It is a vigorous, upright perennial considered one of the best hardy plants for a wildflower garden. It grows in full or partial sun and in poor to average soils of dry to moderate moisture. Blooming can be extended by removing spent flowers. Birds utilize the seed as a food source and stems provide winter cover for beneficial insects. Livestock and deer may graze on this plant. Can become invasive. Naturally occurring in prairies, open woods, edges of fields and thickets. [source: Petosky]



Great St. Johnswort (*Hypericum pyramidatum* or *Hypericum ascyron*)

wetland

Golden yellow flowers are 2 to 2 ½ inches across. Grows in sun in moist to wet soil. Naturally occurring along shores and wet meadows. [source: Escanaba]



Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*)

wetland attracts hummingbirds

These plants grow from rhizomes and form nice patches of deep blue flowers in June and July. Excellent for naturalizing around ponds, lakeshores, and low wet areas, it can also be potted and sunk into ponds and water gardens. Grows in full sun to partial shade in sand, loam, and clay soils. Plant height is 2-3 feet tall and spacing is 1 foot.



Rough Blazingstar (*Liatris aspera*)

dry prairie butterfly nectar hummingbirds

This popular and attractive plant grows 2'-4' tall when planted in medium to dry, sunny, well-drained soil. It blooms in its second or third year forming individual tufts of small purple flowers that are about 1 inch across. A star among the late-season bloomers of August and September, it attracts butterflies and pollinators. This tough drought tolerant plant has almost no natural enemies including deer. Naturally occurring in sandy plains, clearings, and jack pine woodlands. [source: Rapid River]



Dense Blazingstar (*Liatris spicata*)

moist prairie butterfly nectar hummingbirds

Bold purple flower stalks bloom late in the season in August and September attracting butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Birds feed on the seeds in fall. Grass-like foliage from which one or more stalks will grow, commonly reaching 4 feet in height. It is highly adaptable and easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soils. Do not over water as bulbs are prone to rotting. Naturally occurring in moist wood openings, moist prairies, and marsh edges.



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Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

moist prairie attracts pollinators hummingbirds

Eye catching vibrant red bell shaped flowers are loved by hummingbirds. Each plant grows to 2 to 5 feet tall with one floral spike at the top of the main stem. Green leaves are up to 6 inches long. It grows in full to partial sun, in rich loamy saturated soils. Naturally found in wet meadow, ponds, and shores. Important nectar source for hummingbirds and swallowtail butterflies. Short lived, requires replanting every few years.



Blue Lobelia or Great Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)

wetland attracts bees and butterflies hummingbirds

This great garden plant has blue to purple flowers in spikes up to 4 ft tall. Plants fill in well in second year of growth, and bloom throughout August - September. Self seeds in ideal locations. Grows in full sun to partial sun and in average to very wet soils. Naturally occurring in ditches, wet meadows, swamps, shore lines. Forms colonies. Stunning combination with the Cardinal Flower. Attracts many bees including yellow-faced bees, sweat bees, small carpenter bees, and bumble bees. [source: Bark River]



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Starry False Solomon's Seal or Starry Solomon's Plume
(*Maianthemum stellatum* or *Smilacina stellata*)

woodland

White blossoms in May and June are spike shaped with up to 20 flowers on 1-2 foot high plants. Berries replace the flowers and are initially green with purple stripes, ripening to solid reddish-purple. This tough plant thrives in dry sandy soil in the shade. Its favorite natural habitat is oak woodlands at the edge of sand dunes. Creeping slowly by underground rhizomes, it is excellent for stabilizing sandy soils under oaks and pines.



Monkey Flower (*Mimulus ringens*)

wet prairie attracts pollinators hummingbirds

This is an attractive wetland wildflower with many 1 inch long violet-purple flowers on stalks 1-3 feet tall. It grows in moist to wet sand, loam, and clay soils and in water up to 3 inches deep. Blooming from mid-summer to early fall, it prefers full sun but also grows in shaded conditions. Naturally occurring along shores and swamps. Larval host plant and nectar source for Common Buckeye and Baltimore Checkerspot Butterflies. [source: Escanaba River]



Wild Bergamot or Beebalm (*Monarda fistulosa*)

attracts pollinators hummingbirds deer resistant

This popular and showy perennial has clusters of large fragrant pinkish lavender flowers that look like raged pompoms, on erect 2-5 foot stems bloom from July-Sept. Grows in sun to light shade in dry to moist soil. Does not like standing water. Tolerates a wide range of soils from acid to lime, rich to poor, and sand to clay. Propagate by root division and seeds. Divide every three years to maintain vigor and to contain. It is the mint family and the aromatic leaves are used to make a mint tea that has medicinal properties. Special value to bumble bees, and hawk moths are frequent visitors. Naturally occurring in dry open woods and fields, wet meadows, and moist sand. [source: Pioneer Park]



Spotted Bee Balm or Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*)

upland dry attracts pollinators deer resistant

A member of the mint family, this sand-loving species grows 1'-2' tall in full sun. Pale yellow flowers with maroon spots are less visible than the white to pale pink leaves that surround them. Flowering in the second year, plants remain small in stature and branched out by the third growing season. A large number did not overwinter from their second to third season of growth. Plants bloomed throughout August attracting a multitude of butterflies and bees to its rich nectar. Deer resistant, this plant is great for sandy, dry areas. Naturally occurring in areas such as dunes, fields, and often found along railroads and roadsides. [source: Bay Campus]



Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta* L. var. *pulcherrima*)

prairie dry attracts pollinators butterfly larval host deer resistant

A garden favorite, this plant produces showy yellow flower heads up to 3" wide with a dark purplish-brown disk in the center in late summer and fall. Growing 1'-3' high, each stem is covered with fine hairs. It prefers dry-to-moist soils and full-to-partial sun. This is a short lived biennial forming a rosette of leaves the first year, followed by flowers the second year. Self seeds from dark brown seed cones which are also a food source for birds. Provides nectar for bees and butterflies. It is a larval host for the Gorgone Checkerspot and the Bordered Patch butterflies. Highly deer resistant. In the right conditions it can become aggressive without enough competition. [source: Ford River]



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Green-headed Coneflower or Cutleaf Coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*)

wet prairie attracts pollinators seeds for birds

Bright yellow flowers with an unusual green center, bloom on tall, upright stems in September usually the first year they are planted. Dense foliage is gray-green on plants 5-8 feet high. Grows best in full sun but tolerates light shade. Naturally found growing along streams and edges of woods in sand, loam, and clay soils. Special value to native bees. [source: Ford River]



Alaska Blue-Eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium littorale*)

wetland

A member of the iris family this plant grows from rhizomes. Blue and violet flowers bloom in late spring and early summer. [source: Escanaba]



Canada Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)

prairie

Plants grow almost anywhere especially in sun along roads, fields, and open woods. They have large yellow plume shaped blooms from July to October on stems up to 5 feet tall. Plants spread aggressively crowding out other plants and forming large colonies. Loved by finches. [source: Delta Co.]



Yellow Wood Poppy or Celadine Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*)

woodland

This 12-14 inch perennial with gray-green, lobed and toothed leaves is known for its large, poppy-like, yellow flowers. The stalks are leafy and the flowers are produced in clusters. Grows in part shade to shade in moist, rich, acidic soils. Withers in a drought. Far less aggressive than the introduced European species this makes a good garden plant. Self-seeding. Chipmunks eat the seeds.



New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*)

moist prairie attracts pollinators butterfly larval host birds

This attractive plant is a late bloomer with vibrant purple and pale violet blossoms with golden yellow centers in September to October. It features branching clusters of stalked flowers at the top of each 3-5 foot stem. Grows in full sun to partial shade and in dry to wet locations. May not bloom until the second year. Provides important late-season nectar for pollinators and is a larval host for butterflies. Naturally occurring in moist fields, swamps and shore lines.



Flat-topped White Aster (*Symphotrichum umbellata*)

moist prairie attracts pollinators seed eating birds

Numerous branching, short-stalked white daisy-type flowers top this plant. Blooms August to October on plants 1 – 4 feet tall. Likes dry to average sandy or rocky soil in part shade and sun. Found in open woods, savanna, grassy bluffs. [source: Escanaba River]



Arrowleaf Aster (*Symphotrichum urophyllum*)

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dry prairie *attracts pollinators* *seed eating birds*

Clusters of short-stalked, white daisy-type flowers appear on 1 – 4 foot stems from August to October. The leaves are heart shaped becoming narrower the lower they are on the stem. Grows in part shade and sun in dry to average sandy or rocky soil. Found in open woods, savanna, and grassy bluffs. [source: Bay College]



Wood-Poppy or Celandine Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*)

moist woodland

Michigan's only native yellow-flowered poppy grows 2 to 3 feet tall and blooms May –July. Thrives in rich, moist soils where it spreads quickly by seed. Often found growing on shady slopes and occasionally in fields or shaded dunes in loam or sand.



Blue Verbena or Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*)

attracts pollinators

Two to five inch long spikes of purple-blue flowers appear on 3-5 foot stems from July-Sept. Flowers open on spikes from bottom to top for a long bloom period. Prodigious self-seeder. Grows in full and partial sun in average to wet soils. Naturally occurring in wet meadows but will also thrive in dry soils even beach sand. Leaves make a medicinal tea. Is of special value to native bees and butterflies.



GRASSES

Canada Wild Rye (*Elymus Canadensis*)

prairie

Short-lived 2-5 foot tall bunch grass with a bluish tint. It has attractive seedheads resembling cultivated rye, that turn straw colored in late summer -fall. Grows in full sun to partial shade in a broad range of soils, including bare sand, gravel, clay subsoil. Excellent to use for revegetation of disturbed soils. It can serve as a native nurse crop for prairie seedlings. [source: Portage Point]



Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

birds *deer resistant*

Excellent for winter wildlife, Switchgrass is the best native grass for creating dense cover for wildlife habitat. Its stiff stems stand up over winter better than all other grasses. Grows in full sun in almost any soil, from three to six feet tall. Blooms in August and September. Seed heads form in late summer and are eaten by small birds in winter. Turns gold in fall. [source: Bay College]



Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

prairie *birds*

This ornamental grass thrives in poor or rocky soil where it forms an upright column. In rich soil however it becomes floppy. Grows in full sun to 3 feet tall. In fall, the grass turns reddish-gold with fluffy white seed clusters. It persists all winter even in wind. [source: Rapid River]



SHRUBS

Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)

wetland berries for birds

Very glossy upper leaf surfaces and vibrant fall color make this a landscape shrub. It is also an excellent wildlife shrub, spreading by suckers to form thickets that provide cover for a variety of birds. It grows in full sun to partial shade in a variety of soils. Showy white flowers bloom on red twigs for a few weeks in May-July. The blackish purple fruits that form in summer are enjoyed by birds and may be used to make jams and jellies. Native to bogs, swamps, and forest openings. [Escanaba River]



Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

nectar for butterflies butterfly larval host berries for birds

This large, tough shrub grows best in moist soils and full sun but tolerates both shade and drier soils. Branch tips will root upon touching the ground. Plants also spread by underground suckers and often form dense thickets. Useful for erosion control on stream banks. This shrub has clusters of small white flowers in the spring and the red twigs make it attractive in the winter season. White fruits stay on the plant through winter. This is a wildlife friendly plant hosting Spring Azure butterfly larvae, and providing winter food for birds including wild turkey. Mature height is 3-9 feet.



Bush Honeysuckle or Northern Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*)

dry upland attracts butterflies and bees berries for song birds

This small mound-shaped shrub will spread to form thickets over time making it a good choice for hedgerows or shrub borders. It is drought tolerant and adapts easily to poor, rocky soils. The June- July flowers resemble those of a true honeysuckle, occurring in clusters of tiny, short stalked flowers. Flower color is initially pale yellow becoming orange to red with age. They bloom at the tip of one year old branch stems which are 1 to 3 feet high and are green or reddish brown. Old bark turns brown to gray. Dense, dark green foliage turns yellow-orange, then red to purple in the autumn. Emerging leaves in spring are a bronzy color. Larval host for the Fawn Sphinx Moth. [Bay College Campus]



Winterberry or Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*)

wetland attracts bees berries for birds

This is a native holly that grows into a multi stemmed woody shrub 5-20 feet tall which may spread from suckers. There are small white flowers in June and July. Male and female flowers are on separate plants. The bright red berries stand out when fruiting, especially in winter and are a food source for birds and small mammals. Natural habitat is moist to wet woods, thickets, bogs, swamps, swales, stream banks, shorelines in part shade and sun.



Common Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)

nectar for butterflies and birds berries for birds

This rugged shrub grows in the toughest conditions in sun or shade and in medium to wet soils. The pink-white flowers in May and June are a good source of nectar for birds and butterflies. Provides cover for nesting birds. In September and October, the rose-red fruit is eaten by several species of birds. The leaves turn a yellow and



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bronze color in the fall. The bark is unique and peels off in layers adding winter interest. Mature height is 6-9 feet.

Wild Rose (*Rosa Blanda*)

dry upland attracts birds and native bees

The most common native rose grows in part shade and sun on woody stems 4-7 feet in height. New stems lack prickles. Pink flowers with yellow stamens are 2-3 inches across bloom in June and July. Berry like fruits (rose hips) turn bright red in late summer. Provides cover for nesting birds. Thickets may form from spreading rhizomes. Naturally occurring in jack pine savanna, woodland edges, lakeshores, and sandy bluffs.



Pasture Rose (*Rosa Carolina*)

dry upland attracts birds and native bees

Fragrant pink flowers grow on thorny stems in June and July. Rose hips turn to bright red as they ripen. The Menominee once ate the hips to treat indigestion. Grows best in full sun. Suckering shrub grows 1-6 feet tall in medium to dry soil. Drought tolerant. Naturally occurring in open sandy woods, thickets, and disturbed areas. Provides cover for nesting birds.



Steeplebush or Hardhack (*Spiraea tomentosa*)

wetland attracts pollinators and birds

This 2 to 4 foot shrub prefers full sun and wet soil. Deep pink flower clusters bloom from the top down in late summer. Seed pods split open at the top and the seeds fall to the ground over the winter months. Tends to grow in colonies. Makes good cut flowers. [Source: Bay College]



White Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*)

wetland attracts pollinators

Fragrant, airy white flower clusters bloom through out August at the end of branches from 2-4 ft tall. Grows in full to partial sun and in average to very wet soils. This shrub grows tall but remains narrow in stature when mature, and first bloomed in its third year of growth. It looks best when planted in mass. A good choice for naturalizing in moist, open sites. Naturally occurring in marshes, edges of streams, swamps, and borders of moist woods.



Highbush Cranberry or American Cranberry Bush (*Viburnum trilobum*)

wetland berries for Cedar Waxwing and other birds

This large and hardy deciduous shrub grows about 3 feet per year, attaining a height of 8-15 feet. Annual pruning just after spring flowering will maintain the desired size. Its dense, rounded form makes it a popular choice for a screening hedge. Plant 2-3 feet apart for a solid screen. Easily grown in average, moist, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Prefers consistent moisture. Dark green leaves turn an attractive purplish red in September, alongside drooping clusters of bright red berries. The fruit is excellent for jams and jellies. Three inch wide clusters of small white flowers bloom in May and June. Larval host for the Spring Azure butterfly. Native to moist woods, lake margins, thickets and moist low places.



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TREES

Showy Mountain Ash or Northern Mountain Ash (*Sorbus decora*)

wet upland *fruit for birds*

This small tree grows from 10 to 40 feet tall and may have multiple trunks. It is naturally occurring on bluffs, in upland and swamp forests and is common on the rocky shore of Lake Superior. Clusters of small white flowers bloom in June and July. Bright red berry-like fruit matures in late summer and persists through winter. Leaves are alternate, 6 to 10 inches long with 11 to 17 leaflets and turn red in the fall.



Vines

Virgin's Bower Clematis (*Clematis virginiana*)

woodlands *attracts pollinators*

Growing in sun to part shade this plant is widely adaptable to most garden soils. It becomes a vigorous 6 to 20 foot vine that will cover fences and wires in foliage. Lacking tendrils, the leaf stalks twine around surrounding vegetation and structures for support. The lower stems become woody. Unscented clusters of small white blooms open in July and August. The feathery fruit and the seedpods are interesting in winter. Seed is distributed by wind. It provides excellent habitat for insects and birds. Naturally occurring in moist woods, fencerows, and along shorelines.



Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

woodlands *birds*

This vigorous grower tends to be high-climbing (up to 90 feet) making it an option for covering fences and walls. It has aerial roots and tendrils with up to 10 tiny branches which develop adhesive pads at the ends for attaching. Older bark is gray-brown and stems can reach nearly 3 inches in diameter. Flower clusters appear in June-July. Grows in part shade and sun in average to moist soil. Boasts favorite berries of at least 35 species of birds including thrushes, woodpeckers, vireos, and warblers. Native to deciduous woods, thickets, and bluffs. [Escanaba]



Native Plants: Online Resources

Native Plants and Ecosystem Services MSU

<http://www.canr.msu.edu/nativeplants/>

Great Lakes Region Pollinator Plants Xerces Society

<http://www.xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/>

Minnesota Wildflowers: a field guide

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/>

Prairie Nursery Wisconsin

<http://www.prairienursery.com/>