TOP TEN
Native Shoreline Plants
For Burnett County

For Clean Water & Lakeshore Habitat
TOP TEN NATIVE SHORELINE PLANTS FOR BURNETT COUNTY

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:** 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*

- **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.
**CHOKECHERRY**

*Prunus virginiana*

**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*

**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.
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.

**SNOWBERRY**  
*Symphoricarpos albus*

- **SOIL**: Medium to DRY  
- **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.
**BIG LEAF ASTER**
*Aster macrophyllus*

- **SOIL**: dry to medium
- **LIGHT**: full to part shade
- **HEIGHT**: 1–2 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.

**PENNSYLVANIA SEDGE**
*Carex pennsylvanica*

- **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.
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