DEER LAKE CONSERVANCY

Native Plants for Habitat and Water Quality

Native plants are the backbone of a healthy lake and shoreline. Their deep roots and protective stems help to slow runoff and prevent erosion. They provide structure and food for creatures that live near the water including pollinators.

Thanks for trying out native plants along your Deer Lake shoreline. Please select a plant that suits your site.

Instructions for planting native plants are similar to those for planting perennials with less fertilizer or soil amendment needed.

1. **Clear a small area for your plant.** Remove lawn grass because it will compete for space, light, and nutrients.

2. **Plant as soon as possible and in the cool hours of the day.** Store your plant in the shade if you can't get it planted right away.

3. **Dig a small hole and plant your plant. Mulch the bare soil** with straw, pine needles or composted leaves.

4. **You can add a small amount of organic, phosphorus-free or low-phosphorus soil amendment.** Plant Tone© and Milorganite© are two examples. The second number on the label indicates the percentage of phosphorus. For a 6-0-6 NPK ratio, place a teaspoon in each plant hole. Avoid over-applying, as excess nutrients will encourage weed growth.

5. **Water immediately after planting.** Plan to water daily for the first few weeks or until the plants are well established. If plants wilt or droop, a repeated watering during the day may be necessary. Once plants are established, water only if prolonged dry periods occur.

Interested in planting a larger area of native plants near the lake? Contact Cheryl Clemens: dlcdirector@dlcwi.org to schedule a free visit.

SELECTED NATIVE PLANTS FOR DEER LAKE

	Flowers	Height	Moisture	Light	Description
WET OR MOIST SUNNY SITES					
Asclepias incarnata Swamp Milkweed	Lavender June to Aug	36-48"	M, MW, W	full sun to part shade	Showy plant of moist to wet habitats. Host plant for monarch butterflies, very good nectar source for butterflies and hummingbirds. Great for lake edges.
Iris versicolor Northern Blue Flag Iris	Blue June to July	24-36"	M, MW, W	full to part sun	Common on lake margins throughout northern WI and MN. Very attractive, forming large clumps. Some consider this to be synonymous with *Iris virginica.*
Lobelia cardinalis Cardinal Flower	Red July to Oct	36-48"	MW, W	full sun to part shade	Showy spikes of red flowers are the best for attracting hummingbirds. Suited to moist soils particularly along waterways. Native through most of WI.
Lobelia siphilitica Great Blue Lobelia	Blue July to Oct	20-30"	M, MW, W	full sun to part shade	Widely adapted to wet and moist soils. Vivid blue and white-striped flowers in terminal spikes. Compact and well suited to perennial gardens.
Liatris pychnostachya Thick Spike Blazing Star	Purple July to Sept	36-60"	M, MW, W	full to part sun	Dense purple spikes. Good for moist and wet restoration sites. Very showy, good butterfly plant. Ranges throughout prairie regions of MN and WI.
DRY OR MEDIUM SUNNY SITES					
Schizachyrium scoparium Little Bluestem	Amber July to Sept	18-36"	D, MD, M	full sun to part shade	Fabulous ornamental grass native to dry, sandy to mesic habitats throughout the region. Amber foliage maintains color through winter. Forms neat clumps.
Rudbeckia hirta Black Eyed Susan	Yellow June to Oct	24-36"	MD, M, MW	full to part sun	Very common short-lived perennial occurring in a wide range of habitats. Produces lots of color the first year.
Asclepias tuberosa Butterfly Weed	Orange June to Sept	12-24"	D, MD, M	full to part sun	A must for gardens, producing orange flowers in 3" clusters.Tolerates driest sandy soils. Host plant for monarch butterflies and nectar source for others.
DRY OR MEDIUM SHADY SITES					
Carex pennsylvanica Pennsylvania Sedge	Brown May	6-8"	D, MD, M	full sun to full shade	Outstanding, low, clump-forming graminoid with yellow-green foliage. Forms extensive stands in northwoods forests that are extremely attractive. A must for forest restorations in northern WI.
Aster macrophyllus Big Leaf Aster	Blue Aug to Oct	8-18"	D, MD, M, MW	full sun to shade	One of the most common groundcovers of northern forests. Broad heart-shaped leaves make a great, fast-growing groundcover for all but the wettest soil types.
Athyrium felix-femina Lady Fern		36"	M, MW	part to full shade	Semi-spreading lime green highly divided leaves make this a very useful ground cover for shady restorations and gardens.
Adiantum pedatum Maidenhair Fern		24"	MD, M, MW	part to full shade	Graceful stems with soft highly divided leaves in a U-shaped pattern. Slow-starting but eventually forms nice clumps. Moist to wet forests.
Fragaria virginiana Wild Strawberry	White May to June	6"	D, MD, M, MW	full sun to shade	Stoloniferous spreading groundcover bears delicious fruit. Found throughout MN and WI ranging from prairies to forests. Widely adapted to dry, moist or even wet soils.

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