

Native Plants of Northern Michigan

Native Plants for Shade Gardens

Woody Plants

Abies balsamea (balsam fir)
Amelanchier species (serviceberries, juneberries)
Cornus species (dogwoods)
Dirca palustris (leatherwood)
Hamamelis virginiana (witch hazel)
Lindera benzoin (spicebush)
Ostrya virginiana (ironwood)
Ptelea trifoliata (hoptree)
Tsuga canadensis (eastern hemlock)
Viburnum species (viburnums)

Ferns

Adiantum pedatum (maidenhair fern)
Athyrium filix-femina (lady fern)
Dryopteris marginalis (marginal shield fern)
Matteuccia struthiopteris (ostrich fern)
Osmunda species (ferns)
Polystichum acrostichoides (Christmas fern)

Flowers and Groundcovers

Actaea species (baneberries)
Allium tricoccum (wild leek)
Anemone species (anemones)
Anemonella thalictroides (rue anemone)
Aquilegia canadensis
 (Canada columbine)
Arisaema triphyllum (Jack-in-the-pulpit)
Asarum canadense (wild ginger)
Aster macrophyllus (large-leaved aster)
Carex species (woodland sedges)
Caulophyllum thalictroides (blue cohosh)

Claytonia virginica (spring beauty)
Dentaria laciniata (cut-leaved toothwort)
Dicentra cucullaria (Dutchman's breeches)
Erythronium species (trout lilies)
Hepatica species (hepaticas)
Isopyrum biternatum
 (false rue anemone)
Jeffersonia diphylla (twinleaf)
Lobelia cardinalis (cardinal flower)
Maianthemum canadense
 (Canada mayflower)
Mertensia virginica (Virginia bluebells)
Mitchella repens (partridgeberry)
Mitella diphylla (two-leaved miterwort)
Phlox divaricata (blue phlox)
Podophyllum peltatum (May apple)
Polemonium reptans (spreading Jacob's ladder)
Polygonatum species (Solomon's seals)
Sanguinaria canadensis (bloodroot)
Smilacina species
 (false Solomon's seals)
Solidago flexicaulis (zigzag goldenrod)
Stylophorum diphyllum
 (celandine poppy)
Thalictrum dioicum (early meadow rue)
Tiarella cordifolia (foamflower)
Trillium species (trilliums)
Uvularia species (bellworts)
Viola species (violets)

Nonnative Plants for Shade

Here are some shade plants not native to Michigan that combine nicely with the subtle beauty of native woodland plants and are not a threat to Michigan's native habitats.

Alchemilla mollis (lady's mantle)
Amsonia tabernaemontana (bluestar)
Asarum europaeum (European ginger)
Astilbe species and hybrids (astilbes)
Athyrium nipponicum 'Pictum'
 (Japanese painted fern)
Brunnera macrophylla (brunnera)
Corydalis lutea (yellow corydalis)
Dicentra species (bleeding hearts)
Epimedium species and hybrids
 (barrenworts)
Galium odoratum (sweet woodruff)
Helleborus niger (Christmas rose)
Helleborus orientalis (Lenten rose)
Heuchera species and hybrids
 (heucheras)
 ×*Heucherella* hybrids (heucherellas)
Hosta species and hybrids (hostas)
Lamium maculatum (lamium)
Ligularia species (ligularias)
Phlox stolonifera (creeping phlox)
Primula species (primroses)
Pulmonaria species (lungworts)
Trycercis species (toad lilies)



Trilliums

Native Plants to Attract Butterflies

Here are some native plants that are nectar sources as well as food for caterpillars. Many of these plants can be incorporated into large sunny gardens where you can plant drifts. If you want to include several of the less-showy nectar sources, you may want to set aside a special area of your landscape specifically for a butterfly habitat. "N" indicates it is a good adult nectar source; "L" indicates a larval food source.

Trees and Shrubs

Amorpha canescens (leadplant) N
Betula species (birches) L
Ceanothus americanus (New Jersey tea) N
Celtis occidentalis (hackberry) N
Cephalanthus occidentalis (buttonbush) N
Cornus species (dogwoods) N
Ledum groenlandicum (Labrador tea) N
Populus species (poplars) L
Prunus species (plums) N
Quercus species (oaks) L
Rhus typhina (staghorn sumac) N
Rosa species (wild roses) N
Salix species (willows) L
Sambucus species (elders) N
Spiraea alba (white meadowsweet) N
Symphoricarpos albus (snowberry) L
Viburnum species (viburnums) N

Herbaceous Plants

Agastache species (giant hyssops) N
Anaphalis margaritacea
(pearly everlasting) N
Antennaria species (pussytoes) N
Asclepias species (milkweeds, butterfly weed) N, L
Aster species (asters) N, L
Baptisia species (wild indigos) N
Carex species (sedges) L
Chelone species (turtleheads) N
Coreopsis species (coreopsis, tickseeds) N
Dalea purpurea (purple prairie clover) N
Echinacea purpurea
(purple coneflower) N
Eupatorium species (Joe-pye weeds) N
Fragaria virginiana (wild strawberry) N
Helianthus species (sunflowers) N
Heliopsis helianthoides (oxeye) N

Liatris species (blazing stars) N
Lupinus perennis (wild lupine) L, N
Monarda species (wild bergamot, bee balm) N
Penstemon species (beardtongues) L
Phlox species (phloxes) N
Pycnanthemum species (mountain mints) N
Ratibida pinnata (gray-headed cone-flower) N
Rudbeckia species
(black-eyed Susans) N, L
Schizachyrium scoparium
(little bluestem) L
Silphium species (compass plant, cup plant) N
Solidago species (goldenrods) N
Verbena species (vervains)
Viola species (violets) L
Zizia species (alexanders) L



Butterfly Weed



Spiderwort

Native Plants for Rock Gardens

Rock-garden plants tend to be low growing and tolerant of hot, dry conditions, but there are also plants that are suitable for shadier sites among rocks edging pathways and streams. Here are some native plants to use among rocks.

Plants for Sunny Spots

Allium cernuum (nodding wild onion)
Allium stellatum (prairie wild onion)
Anaphalis margaritacea (pearly everlasting)
Antennaria species (pussytoes)
Aquilegia canadensis (Canada columbine)
Asclepias tuberosa (butterfly weed)
Aster sericeus (silky aster)
Campanula rotundifolia (harebell)
Coreopsis species (coreopsis, tickseeds)
Dalea purpurea (purple prairie clover)
Dodecatheon meadia (prairie shooting star)
Eryngium yuccifolium (rattlesnake master)
Euphorbia corollata (flowering spurge)
Fragaria species (wild strawberries)
Geum triflorum (prairie smoke)
Heuchera species (alumroots)
Hypoxis hirsuta (stargrass)
Liatris punctata (spotted blazing star)
Opuntia humifusa (eastern prickly pear)
Penstemon species (beardtongues)
Phlox bifida (sand phlox)
Phlox pilosa (prairie phlox)
Physostegia virginiana (obedient plant)
Potentilla fruticosa (shrubby cinquefoil)
Potentilla tridentata (three-toothed cinquefoil)

Ruellia humilis (wild petunia)
Silene virginica (fire pink)
Sisyrinchium species (blue-eyed grasses)
Solidago nemoralis (gray goldenrod)
Tradescantia species (spiderworts)
Viola pedata (bird's-foot violet)
Waldsteinia fragarioides (barren strawberry)

Plants for Shady Spots

Adiantum pedatum (maidenhair fern)
Anemonella thalictroides (rue anemone)
Aquilegia canadensis (Canada columbine)
Asarum canadense (wild ginger)
Asplenium platyneuron (ebony spleenwort)
Carex pensylvanica (Pennsylvania sedge)
Cystopteris bulbifera (bulblet fern)
Dodecatheon meadia (prairie shooting star)
Dryopteris marginalis (marginal shield fern)
Gaultheria procumbens (wintergreen)
Hepatica species (hepaticas)
Mitchella repens (partridgeberry)
Phlox divaricata (blue phlox)
Polypodium virginianum (rock-cap fern)
Thalictrum dioicum (early meadow rue)
Uvularia species (bellworts)
Viola sororia (common blue violet)

Native Plants for Water Gardens

Pond Plants

Nymphaea odorata (American white water lily)

Shallow-Water Plants

For planting in water levels less than 14 inches:

Calla palustris (wild calla)
Carex stricta (tussock sedge)
Cephalanthus occidentalis (buttonbush)
Glyceria species (manna grasses)
Pontederia cordata (pickerelweed)
Sagittaria latifolia (broad-leaved arrowhead)

Plants for Moist-Soil Areas

Grasses

Calamagrostis canadensis (blue joint)
Deschampsia caespitosa (tufted hair grass)
Hierochloa odorata (sweet grass)
Panicum virgatum (switch grass)
Spartina pectinata (prairie cordgrass)

Flowers

Acorus calamus (sweet flag)
Anemone canadensis (Canada anemone)
Arisaema triphyllum (Jack-in-the-pulpit)
Asclepias incarnata (swamp milkweed)
Aster novae-angliae (New England aster)
Caltha palustris (marsh marigold)
Camassia scilloides (wild hyacinth)

Campanula americana (tall bellflower)
Chelone species (turtleheads)
Cornus canadensis (bunchberry)
Epilobium angustifolium (fireweed)
Equisetum hyemale (tall scouring rush)
Eupatorium species (Joe-pye weeds)
Filipendula rubra (queen-of-the-prairie)
Gentiana andrewsii (bottle gentian)
Helenium autumnale (autumn sneezeweed)
Hibiscus moscheutos (swamp rose mallow)
Iris species (blue flags)
Lilium michiganense (Michigan lily)
Lobelia cardinalis (cardinal flower)
Lobelia siphilitica (great blue lobelia)
Lysimachia ciliata (fringed loosestrife)
Mertensia virginica (Virginia bluebells)
Physostegia virginiana (obedient plant)
Pycnanthemum virginianum (Virginia mountain mint)
Senecio aureus (golden ragwort)
Silphium perfoliatum (cup plant)
Thalictrum dasycarpum (tall meadow rue)
Verbena hastata (blue vervain)
Vernonia missurica (Missouri ironweed)
Veronicastrum virginicum (Culver's root)
Viola sororia (common blue violet)

Ferns

Most ferns will do well in moist soil, but these are especially well suited to

planting along ponds and streams and in bogs.

Athyrium filix-femina (lady fern)
Cystopteris bulbifera (bulblet fern)
Gymnocarpium dryopteris (oak fern)
Matteuccia struthiopteris (ostrich fern)
Onoclea sensibilis (sensitive fern)
Osmunda species (ferns)
Thelypteris species (ferns)

Woody Plants

Acer rubrum (red maple)
Acer saccharinum (silver maple)
Alnus rugosa (speckled alder)
Aronia melanocarpa (black chokeberry)
Betula alleghaniensis (yellow birch)
Cephalanthus occidentalis (buttonbush)
Cornus racemosa (gray dogwood)
Cornus stolonifera (red-osier dogwood)
Fraxinus nigra (black ash)
Fraxinus pennsylvanica (green ash)
Ilex verticillata (winterberry)
Larix laricina (tamarack)
Ledum groenlandicum (Labrador tea)
Picea mariana (black spruce)
Quercus bicolor (swamp white oak)
Salix species (willows)
Sambucus canadensis (common elder)
Spiraea alba (white meadowsweet)
Thuja occidentalis (white cedar)
Viburnum trilobum (highbush cranberry)



Marsh Marigold

Front-Yard Native Plants

Most native plants will stay neat and tidy if properly pruned and groomed. However, some are easier to keep looking neat than others. Here are some easy-to-establish, attractive native plants that adapt well to more-formal landscape situations without a lot of attention. Keep in mind also that cultivars, when available, often look less wild than the species.

Herbaceous Plants for Sunny Sites

Allium cernuum (nodding wild onion)
Asclepias tuberosa (butterfly weed)
Aster laevis (smooth aster)
Aster novae-angliae cultivars (New England aster)
Boltonia asteroides (boltonia)
Camassia scilloides (wild hyacinth)
Cypripedium calceolus (yellow lady's-slipper)
Echinacea purpurea (purple coneflower)
Gentiana andrewsii (bottle gentian)
Geum triflorum (prairie smoke)
Helenium autumnale (autumn sneezeweed)
Heliopsis helianthoides (oxeye)
Heuchera americana (alumroot)
Liatris species (blazing stars)
Monarda species (wild bergamot, bee balm)
Panicum virgatum (switch grass)
Penstemon species (beardtongues)
Phlox pilosa (prairie phlox)
Physostegia virginiana (obedient plant)
Ratibida pinnata (gray-headed coneflower)
Rudbeckia species (black-eyed Susans)
Schizachyrium scoparium (little bluestem)
Sporobolus heterolepis (prairie dropseed)
Verbena stricta (hoary vervain)
Waldsteinia fragarioides (barren strawberry)
Zizia aptera (heart-leaved alexanders)

Herbaceous Plants for Shady Sites

Actaea species (baneberries)
Adiantum pedatum (maidenhair fern)
Aquilegia canadensis (wild columbine)
Arisaema triphyllum (jack-in-the-pulpit)
Asarum canadense (wild ginger)
Athyrium filix-femina (lady fern)
Claytonia virginica (spring beauty)
Dicentra cucullaria (Dutchman's breeches)
Erythronium species (trout lilies)
Geranium maculatum (wild geranium)
Hepatica species (hepaticas)
Isopyrum biternatum (false rue anemone)

Lobelia cardinalis (cardinal flower)
Maianthemum canadense (Canada mayflower)
Matteuccia struthiopteris (ostrich fern)
Mertensia virginica (Virginia bluebells)
Mitella diphylla (two-leaved miterwort)
Phlox divaricata (blue phlox)
Polemonium reptans (creeping Jacob's ladder)
Polygonatum biflorum (giant Solomon's seal)
Polystichum acrostichoides (Christmas fern)
Sanguinaria canadensis (bloodroot)
Smilacina racemosa (false Solomon's seal)
Solidago flexicaulis (zigzag goldenrod)
Thalictrum dioicum (early meadow rue)
Tiarella cordifolia (foamflower)
Trillium species (trilliums)
Uvularia grandiflora (large-flowered bellwort)

Woody Plants

Abies balsamea (balsam fir)
Acer rubrum (red maple)
Acer saccharum (sugar maple)
Amelanchier x grandiflora (apple serviceberry)
Carpinus caroliniana (blue beech)
Cercis canadensis (redbud)
Clematis virginiana (virgin's bower)
Cornus species (dogwoods)
Dirca palustris (leatherwood)
Gymnocladus dioica (Kentucky coffee tree)
Ilex verticillata (winterberry)
Lindera benzoin (spicebush)
Juniperus species (junipers)
Ostrya virginiana (ironwood)
Physocarpus opulifolius cultivars (ninebark)
Potentilla fruticosa cultivars (shrubby cinquefoil)
Prunus nigra 'Princess Kay' (Canadian plum)
Ptelea trifoliata (hoptree)
Quercus species (oaks)
Tilia americana (basswood)
Tsuga canadensis (eastern hemlock)
Viburnum species (viburnums)

Plant list from: *Landscaping with Native Plants of Michigan* by Lynn M. Steiner



For more information about native plants visit our
website at www.watershedcouncil.org