

Section 3:

PLANT LIST



Landscaping For Water Quality in Michigan – Plant Lists

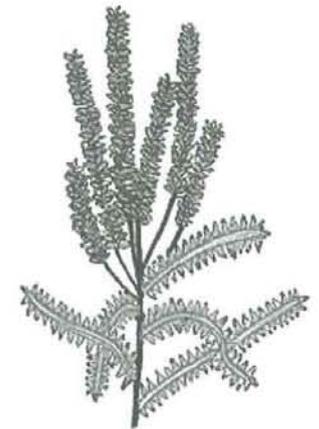
Before utilizing this third section, it is suggested that you read about the concepts in, *An Overview*, and plan your design using one or more of the ideas in the second section, *Designing Your Garden and Sample Designs*.

What Plants do I use for MY Garden?

The specific plants you choose to use is entirely a personal choice. In this booklet we offer a variety of plants from which to choose. The plants listed are by no means the complete list of plants you can consider. You will see that the majority of the species listed are native to Michigan, defined here as: “Plants that were found in this region prior to European settlement”.

Native species are well suited to the local quirks of nature and many provide the functions desired to have a successful water quality garden. Use of native species also provides food and habitat for native animals and can cultivate a better appreciation for Michigan’s past. Some will argue that the use of genetically pure native species is the preferred choice. However, it can also be argued that many species of plants that are not native to Michigan also provide excellent water quality benefits. The specific functions to look for in a plant species is ultimately more important than whether or not the plant is native to Michigan.

Those with deep root systems, ability to filter or absorb pollutants, have little or no need for fertilization or sprinkling and are nearly maintenance free are the ones to choose.



Be flexible when choosing your plants. You will probably design your landscape with a few specific plants in mind, but when you go to the nursery to buy them, you may have to substitute. Work with the nursery to reach a solution that will give you the effect you desire.

As a note of caution, when selecting any species ask questions of your nursery to ensure your choices are not invasive species that could spread

beyond your garden and cause environmental damage. In addition, some species may be on endangered or threatened species lists. Please verify that your choices are appropriate for the intended use.

The plants in this booklet are divided into several categories. Each species will have specific characteristics listed, and in addition, short comments to help you make your decisions. This listing is in no way comprehensive. There are many other species that are suitable for water quality gardens that were not included in this list. You can consult with your local native plant nursery for more native suggestions, discuss your needs with your nursery or explore the resource list suggested at the end of this booklet.



A quick note about the categories:

Plant Names

Because there is no standardization of common names of plants, look for the plant tags at the time of purchase. The tags will list the scientific name and the plant characteristics. This is helpful in both securing the exact plant you seek as well to identify good substitutions, if necessary.

Plant Height

Influences such as water availability, sun exposure and proximity to other plants can affect plant height. In addition, you can physically limit plant height through pruning. Many of the shrubs can be utilized as trees if desired.

Exposure (Sun)

The symbols used are: ○ = full sun, ◐ = partial sun, ● = shade.

Native ()*

A star (*) in this column indicates that the species is native to Michigan.



Wildflowers

PLANT NAMES		Height (ft)	Bloom Time
Botanical	Common		
<i>Achillea filipendula</i>	Moonshine Yarrow	2-4	June-Sept
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	1-4	June-Sept
<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Sweet Flag	2-5	May-Jul
<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>	Baneberry	1-3	May-Jun
<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Lady's Mantle	1-2	May-Aug
<i>Alisma subcordatum</i>	Water Plantain	2-3	June-Sept
<i>Allium cernuum</i>	Nodding Onion	1-2	May-Aug
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Lead Plant	2-3	May-Aug
<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	Canada Anemone	1-2	May-July
<i>Anemonella thalictroides</i>	Rue Anemone	0.5-1	April-June
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Columbine	2-3	May-Jul
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	1-2	April-June
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Wild Ginger	0.5-1	April-May
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Marsh Milkweed	1-2	Jun-Sept
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common Milkweed	1-6	May-Aug
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed	1-3	Jun-Aug
<i>Aster laevis</i>	Smooth Aster	2-4	Aug-Oct
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	3-6	Aug-Oct
<i>Aster umbellatus</i>	Tall Flat Top White Aster	3-7	Aug- Sept
<i>Astilbe arendsii</i>	Pink Astilbe	3-5	June-July
<i>Belamcanda chinensis</i>	Blackberry Lily	1-2	Aug-Sept
<i>Calla palustris</i>	Wild Calla	0.5-2	June-July
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold (Cowslip)	0.5-2	March-May
<i>Campanula americana</i>	Tall Bellflower	2-6	Jul-Oct

Flower Color	Water Needs	Sun	*	Notes
Yellow	Med	☉		Resistant to deer; aromatic leaves; use in dried flower arrangements.
White	Med-Dry	☉	*	Can be aggressive; drought tolerant.
Yellow	Wet	☉	*	Wildlife benefits; medicinal uses.
White	Med	☉	*	Flowers followed by white berries; attractive shade plant.
Yellow	Med	☉		Interesting as a groundcover; dried flower arrangement use; clump-forming.
White	Wet	☉		Must be kept in moist to flooded areas; waterfowl food source; fast grower.
Pink	Med-Dry	☉	*	Best in sandy soils; clump-forming; attractive garden plant.
Purple	Med-Dry	☉	*	Attracts butterflies; spike flowers; drought tolerant; longlived.
White	Med-Wet	☉	*	Spreads aggressively; delicate 1-2" flower, deep green leaves.
White	Med	☉	*	Long-lasting spring blooms; MI native in southern-lower peninsula; groundcover.
Red	Med	☉	*	Deer deterrent; attracts hummingbirds; best in partial shade gardens.
Purple	Med-Wet	☉	*	Interesting shade plant; bright red fall fruit; easily grown from seed.
Red	Med-Wet	☉	*	Medicinal uses; satiny, deep-green, heartshaped leaves; groundcover.
Pink	Med-Wet	☉	*	Deep root; clump-forming; attract butterflies; attractive garden plant.
Pink	Med-Dry	☉	*	Medicinal purposes; attract butterflies; poisonous when ingested; sandy areas.
Orange	Med-Dry	☉	*	Gorgeous bed plant; attracts butterflies; medicinal uses; poisonous if ingested; can be aggressive.
Variety	Med-Dry	☉	*	Grows well in sand; blooms late; attracts butterflies.
Purple	Med	☉	*	Medicinal uses; attracts butterflies; rabbit deterrent; prefers sand.
White	Med-Wet	☉	*	Attracts butterflies and birds; wonderful garden plant.
Pink	Med-Wet	☉	*	Gorgeous floral spike; dark green foliage; great addition to shade beds.
Orange	Med	☉		Delicate flowers followed by black berry seeds; drought tolerant.
White	Wet	☉	*	Best in calm water; beautiful for water gardens.
Yellow	Wet	☉	*	Attracts butterflies; soft, spongy roots - best along stream banks; early flower.
Blue	Med	☉	*	Fabulous star shaped flowers; easily grown.

Wildflowers - continued

PLANT NAMES		Height (ft)	Bloom Time
Botanical	Common		
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell	1-1.5	July-Sept
<i>Cassia hebecarpa</i>	Wild Senna	4-6	Jul-Aug
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Turtlehead	1-3	July-Oct
<i>Claytonia virginica</i>	Spring Beauty	0.5	March-May
<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	Tall Coreopsis	3-6	July-Sept
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Moonbeam Coreopsis	1-3	June-Sept
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	Monkeyflower; Purple Prairie Clover	1-3	May-Sept
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower	1-3	June-Aug
<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	Fireweed	2-6	Jun-Aug
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake Master	2-6	June-Sept
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Joe-Pye Weed	4-6	Jul-Sept
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Boneset	4-6	Aug-Oct
<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Purple Joe-Pye Weed	5-7	Aug-Sept
<i>Eupatorium rugosum</i>	White Snakeroot	1-5	July-Oct
<i>Filipendula rubra</i>	Queen of the Prairie	6-8	Jul-Aug
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Wild Strawberry	0.5	April-June
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	Bottle Gentian	1-2	Aug - Oct
<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Blanket Flower	1-2.5	May-Sept
<i>Geranium himalayense</i>	Johnson's Blue Geranium	1-2	May-June
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Wild Geranium	1-2	April-May
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed	2-5	July-Oct

Flower Color	Water Needs	Sun	*	Notes
Blue	Med-Dry	☀	*	Attracts butterflies; fond of sandy soil; gorgeous garden plant.
Yellow	Med-Wet	☀	*	Attracts birds; clay-loving; brilliant color addition to any native garden.
Variety	Med-Wet	☀	*	Unique flower; prefers a compost mulch.
Pink	Med	☀	*	Clump forming spring ground cover dies back completely in summer); can be aggressive; early bloom.
Yellow	Med-Dry	☀	*	Tolerant to heat, humidity and drought; a colorful addition to a bed.
Yellow	Med-Dry	☀		Delicate foliage; low maintenance; drought tolerant; tolerates poor soils.
Purple	Med	☀		Extripated in Michigan - only grandfathered stock or non-native specimens are available; Wildlife benefits; medicinal uses; very attractive.
Purple	Med-Dry	☀		Extripated in Michigan - only grandfathered stock or non-native specimens are available are available; Medicinal uses; popular flower garden plant; easy to grow. Also available in "alba" or white variety.
Pink	Med-Wet	☀	*	Attracts butterflies; striking flower; medicinal uses; aggressive in wet areas; prefers disturbed ground.
White	Wet-Dry	☀		Threatened species in Michigan - requires MDNR permit or grandfathered stock to sell/trade; attractive plant; used in prairie restoration; beneficial to wildlife.
Pale Pink	Med-Wet	☀	*	Flower clusters up to 6" across; attracts butterflies.
White	Med-Wet	☀	*	Tolerant of sandy and clay soils; clump-forming; fuzzy cluster blossoms.
Pink	Med	☀	*	Clump-forming; fragrant; attract butterflies; attractive addition for a garden.
White	Dry	☀	*	Beautiful cut flower; poisonous if ingested.
Pink	Med-Wet	☀	*	Threatened species in Michigan - requires MDNR permit or grandfathered stock to sell/trade; striking addition to the garden; use in clay soils; fragrant.
White	Med-Dry	☀	*	Ground cover; beneficial to wildlife; edible fruit.
Purple	Med-Wet	☀	*	Blooms never fully open, hence bottle-like appearance.
Red & Yellow	Med-Dry	☀		Daisy-like red blossoms with yellow rims; forms dense colonies. Very easily grown from seed.
Blue	Med	☀		Easily grown; also called Cranesbill; clump-forming.
Pink	Med	☀	*	Clump-forming; great addition to shade beds.
Yellow	Med-Wet	☀	*	Avoid fertilizer; bright yellow daisy-like flowers.

Wildflowers - continued

PLANT NAMES		Height (ft)	Bloom Time
Botanical	Common		
<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>	Tall Sunflower	3-12	July-Oct
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Oxeye or False Sunflower	2-5	June-Sept
<i>Hemerocallis "Happy Returns"</i>	Happy Returns Daylily	0.5-2	May-Aug
<i>Hepatica americana</i>	Round-Lobed Hepatica	0.5-1	April-May
<i>Hosta fortunei</i>	Golden-Edged Hosta	1-2	June-Aug
<i>Hosta plantaginea</i>	August Lily Hosta	2	Aug
<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i>	Virginia Waterleaf	1-3	May-Aug
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag (Wild Iris)	2-3	May-July
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Rough Blazing Star	2-5	Aug-Sept
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Dense or Marsh Blazing Star	1-3	July-Sept
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	2-6	July-Oct
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia	1-4	July-Sept
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Lupine	1-2	May-June
<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	Monkeyflower	1-3	June-Sept
<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Partridgeberry	<1	April-July
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot, Bee Balm	2-4	June-Sept
<i>Monarda punctata</i>	Horsemint	1-3	Jul-Sep
<i>Nymphaea tuberosa</i>	White Water Lily	1-5	Jul-Aug
<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	Common Evening Primrose	2-5	June-Oct
<i>Peltandra virginica</i>	Arrow Arum	1-2	May-July
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove Beard Tongue	3-4	May-June
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	Hairy Beard Tongue	1-3	May-July
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Woodland Phlox	1-3	April-June

Flower Color	Water Needs	Sun	*	Notes
Yellow	Med-Wet	☉	*	Tall, bright addition to a partial shade garden; 4" wide flower head.
Yellow	Med-Dry	☉	*	Easily grown; native to the Eastern U.S.; grows well in clay.
Yellow	Med	☉		Heat tolerant; long flower season; gorgeous addition to any bed.
Blue-Pink-White	Med-Dry	☉	*	Delicate 1" star shaped flower; great groundcover in shade beds.
Purple	Med	☉		Beautiful foliage; great addition to shade gardens; mass for groundcover.
White	Med	☉		Shiny foliage; fragrant flowers; great planted close together as groundcover.
White	Med-Wet	☉	*	Medicinal properties.
Blue	Med-Wet	☉	*	Gorgeous perennial; attracts butterflies; does well in shallow water.
Purple	Med-Dry	☉	*	Drought tolerant; attracts butterflies; blooms late in season.
Purple	Med	☉	*	Drought tolerant; used in cut flower arrangements; feathery plume attracts butterflies.
Red	Med-Wet	☉	*	Gorgeous bright red stalk attracts humming birds and butterflies; prefers part shade. Save seedlings to replant this short-lived perennial.
Blue	Med-Wet	☉	*	Easily grown; attracts hummingbirds; grows well in a variety of soils.
Variety	Med-Dry	☉	*	Attracts rare Karner Blue butterfly; attractive flower and foliage.
Purple	Med-Wet	☉	*	Great for wet areas; interesting flower shape.
Pink	Med-Dry	☉	*	Produces red fruit; medicinal uses; food source for wildlife; groundcover.
Pink / lavender	Med-Dry	☉	*	Aromatic; attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds; medicinal uses; can be aggressive.
Yellow	Med-Dry	☉	*	Attractive to hummingbirds; likes sandy soil.
White	Wet	☉	*	Beautiful aquatic plant; tuber; floating leaves and flower; beneficial to wildlife.
Yellow	Med	☉	*	Medium bright flowers, open in evening; used in dried flower arrangements; attracts hummingbirds; can be aggressive.
Yellow	Wet	☉	*	Salt tolerant; variable pH tolerant; can grow in water; used in buffer zones; beneficial to wildlife.
White	Med-Dry	☉	*	Ornamental; beautiful flower and foliage; attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds.
Purple	Med-Dry	☉	*	Versatile plant; low grower; early summer bloomer; likes sandy soil.
Blue	Med	☉	*	Can be aggressive; gorgeous 1 1/2" flower; caution - not <i>Phlox paniculata</i> which is invasive.

Wildflowers - continued

PLANT NAMES		Height (ft)	Bloom Time
Botanical	Common		
<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Prairie or Downy Phlox	1-1.5	April-June
<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	May Apple	1-2	April-May
<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	True Solomon Seal	1-3	May-June
<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	Pickeralweed	2-4	May-Oct
<i>Potentilla simplex</i>	Common Cinquefoil	0.5-1.5	April-June
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Yellow Coneflower	3-5	Jul-Sep
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-Eyed Susan	1-3	Jun-Sep
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Cut-Leaved Coneflower	3-10	Aug-Sept
<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	Three-Lobed Coneflower	2-5	July-Oct
<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	Arrowhead	1-4	July-Sept
<i>Salvia X superb</i>	May Night Salvia	1-1.5	Apr - Jun
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot	0.5-1	March-April
<i>Saururus cernuus</i>	Lizard's Tail	1-2	June-Sept
<i>Sedum "Autumn Joy"</i>	Autumn Joy Sedum	1-2	September
<i>Sedum "Vera Jameson"</i>	Purple Leaf Sedum	1	Aug-Sept
<i>Silphium integrifolium</i>	Rosinweed	3-6	Jul-Sep
<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	Compass Plant	3-10	June-Sept
<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	Cup Plant	4-8	Jul-Sep
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	Blue-Eyed Grass	0.5-2	May-July
<i>Sium suave</i>	Water Parsnip	2-6	July-Sept
<i>Stachys lanata</i>	Lamb's Ear	0.5-2	June-July
<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>	Celandine Poppy	1-2	May-June

Flower Color	Water Needs	Sun	*	Notes
Pink	Med-Dry	☉☁	*	Early flowering prairie plant; ornamental plant.
White	Med	☁	*	Medicinal uses; dormant in summer; early bloomer; produces a yellow fruit.
White	Med-Wet	☁	*	Bell-shaped flowers; black berries in fall; beneficial to wildlife.
Blue	Wet	☁	*	Provide wave buffering along shorelines; wildlife benefits; grows in water.
Yellow	Dry	☉☁	*	Groundcover; dainty flower; attracts butterflies; early bloomer.
Yellow	Med-Dry	☉	*	Long, drooping petals; Wildlife benefits; strong competitor; long lived; attracts butterflies; prefers sandy or clay soils; tall stem may need support.
Yellow	Med-Dry	☁	*	Erosion control plant; wildlife benefits; biennial; does well in sandy soils.
Yellow	Med-Wet	☁	*	Easily grown; great for wet areas; grows well in a variety of soils; leggy.
Yellow	Med	☁	*	Attracts butterflies; great for cut flower arrangements; long blooming season.
White	Wet	☁	*	Aquatic plant; edible; wildlife food source; great for water gardens.
Deep Blue	Med	☁	*	Very showy; wrinkled foliage; best in poor soil.
White	Med	☁	*	Needs rich soil in shade; red sap from roots-poisonous; large striking flower.
White	Wet	☉☁	*	Great for water gardens; fragrant; aggressive in optimum conditions.
Pink	Med-Dry	☁	*	Also called Stonecrop; succulent; drought tolerant; not tolerant of clay.
Pink	Med-Dry	☉	*	Ornamental foliage; succulent; drought resistant; clump-forming.
Yellow	Med	☉	*	Threatened species in Michigan - requires MDNR permit or grandfathered stock to sell/trade; wildlife food source; attract butterflies.
Yellow	Med-Dry	☉	*	Threatened species in Michigan-requires MDNR permit or grandfathered stock to sell/trade; tremendous taproot; grows well in clay.
Yellow	Med-Wet	☁	*	Threatened species in Michigan - requires MDNR permit or grandfathered stock to sell/trade; attracts hummingbirds and butterflies; beneficial to birds.
Deep Blue	Med	☁	*	Low growing; clump-forming; grass-like foliage.
White	Wet	☁	*	Aquatic plant; showy in bloom.
Purple	Med-Dry	☉☁	*	Furry leaves; drought resistant; can be aggressive; attracts hummingbirds.
Yellow	Med-Wet	☁	*	Requires consistently moist soil; blooms repeatedly.

Wildflowers - continued

PLANT NAMES		Height (ft)	Bloom Time
Botanical	Common		
<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>	Purple Meadow Rue	3-6	Jun-Jul
<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>	Early Meadow Rue	1-2	April-June
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Foamflower	1-2	May-June
<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	Spiderwort	2-4	June-July
<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	White Trillium	1-2	May-June
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue Vervain	3-6	Jul-Sep
<i>Verbena stricta</i>	Hoary Vervain	2-4	July-Sept
<i>Vernonia missurica</i>	Missouri Ironweed	3-10	Aug-Oct
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's Root	2-6	June-Sept
<i>Viola papilionacea</i>	Common Blue Violet	<1	Apr - Jul
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders	1-3	Apr-Jun

Grasses, Sedges, Rushes

PLANT NAMES		Height (ft)
Botanical	Common	
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Blue Stem	3-8
<i>Carex comosa</i>	Bristly Sedge	2-5
<i>Carex grayi</i>	Gray's Sedge	2-3
<i>Carex hystericina</i>	Porcupine Sedge	1-2
<i>Carex lacustris</i>	Lake Sedge	2-5
<i>Carex stricta</i>	Tussock Sedge	1-3
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada Wild Rye	2-5
<i>Elymus riparius</i>	Riverbank Wild Rye	1-4
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia Wild Rye	3-5

Flower Color	Water Needs	Sun	*	Notes
White	Med-Wet	☉☼	*	Attractive foliage and flowers; early summer bloom; may need staking.
Green	Med	☉☼☼	*	Female to seed.
White	Med	☼	*	Spike of tiny flowers; attractive foliage turning bronze in autumn.
Blue	Med-Dry	☉☼	*	Aggressive; each tri-petalled blossom lasts one day.
White	Med-Dry	☼☼	*	Long lived; medicinal uses; white flower turns pink with age.
Blue	Med-Wet	☉	*	Attracts butterflies; wonderful for cut flower arrangements; can be aggressive.
Blue	Med-Dry	☉	*	Attracts butterflies; great for cut flower arrangements; drought resistant.
Purple	Med	☉☼	*	Easily grown; attracts butterflies; aggressive; late summer blooms.
Pink	Med	☉☼☼	*	Small dense flower, on tall spike; great for cut flower arrangements.
Deep Blue	Med-Wet	☼☼	*	Prefers moist conditions; shade plant.
Yellow	Wet	☉☼	*	Can be aggressive; interesting addition to gardens.

	Water Needs	Sun	*	Notes
	Med-Dry	☉☼	*	Erosion control use; preferred by livestock; beneficial to birds.
	Med-Wet	☉☼	*	Waterfowl food source; long-lived.
	Med-Wet	☉☼	*	Ornamental grass; interesting flower form; easily grown.
	Wet	☉☼	*	Long-lived; clump-forming; tufted.
	Wet	☉☼	*	Can grow in shallow standing water; adds color to waters edge.
	Wet	☉☼	*	Forms bluish-green tussocks; attracts butterflies; aquatic grass.
	Med-Dry	☉☼	*	Cool season, clump-forming ornamental grass; wheat/rye like spikes that remain well into winter; excellent ground cover for dry, sunny slopes.
	Med-Wet	☉☼☼	*	Slightly nodding, long, wide, wheat like spikes; beneficial to butterflies.
	Med-Wet	☉☼☼	*	Mixes well with Bottle Brush grass and tall woodland flowers; excellent for wooded openings and forest edges.

Grasses, Sedges, Rushes - continued

PLANT NAMES		Height (ft)
Botanical	Common	
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	Water Horsetail	1-3
<i>Hystrix patula</i>	Bottle Brush Grass	2-3
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Corkscrew Rush	1-2
<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	Roadside Rush	1-2
<i>Juncus torreyi</i>	Torrey's Rush	1-3
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	3-6
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem	2-4
<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	Bulrush	3-5
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian Grass	3-4
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Prairie Cord Grass	4-6

Ferns

PLANT NAMES		Height (ft)
Botanical	Common	
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Maidenhair Fern	1-2
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern	1-3
<i>Dryopteris celsa</i>	Log Fern	3-4
<i>Dryopteris goldiana</i>	Goldie Fern	3-5
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich Fern	3-5
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern	3-4
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon Fern	2-3
<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	Interrupted Fern	3-4
<i>Osumunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern	2-4
<i>Polystrichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern	1-2
<i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i>	New York Fern	1-2

	Water Needs	Sun	*	Notes
	Wet	☉		Fast spreading; bank stabilizer; have hollow, jointed stems.
	Med-Dry	☉	*	Ornamental grass; bristly flower heads resemble a bottle brush.
	Wet	☉	*	Easily grown in wet soils, including standing water; corkscrew stems can be cut and used in floral arrangements.
	Med	☉	*	Tolerates droughts; tolerates compacted soil; may be used as a groundcover.
	Med-Wet	☉	*	Tolerates droughts; has interesting "seed balls" at tips of stems.
	Med-Wet	☉	*	Clump-forming ornamental grass; erosion control; establishes readily from seed.
	Med-Dry	☉	*	Ornamental grass; distinctive "blue" coloration at the base of the stems; attractive reddish brown fall color.
	Wet	☉	*	Soil stabilizer; tolerates floods or drought for short periods; can be invasive.
	Med-Dry	☉	*	Showy; clump-forming; often used in wind erosion control; tolerates a moderate amount of salt; may become invasive if not maintained.
	Med-Wet	☉	*	Aquatic grass that grows well in regular drained soil; good fall yellow color; great plumes; can be aggressive.

	Water Needs	Sun	*	Notes
	Med-Wet	☉	*	Clump-forming; ornamental fern; good for borders.
	Med	☉	*	Attractive in shade beds.
	Med-Wet	☉		Threatened species in Michigan - requires MDNR permit or grandfathered stock to sell/trade; dark green fronds with contrasting dark stripes.
	Med	☉	*	Large fern; attractive in shady garden borders.
	Med-Wet	☉	*	Excellent landscape fern; large in size.
	Med-Wet	☉	*	Aggressive in optimum conditions; bright green color; drought and frost sensitive.
	Med-Wet	☉	*	Excellent for wet areas; yellow in autumn.
	Med-Wet	☉	*	Easily grown; use in borders and along streams.
	Med-Wet	☉	*	Clump-forming; yellow in autumn; needs wet areas.
	Med-Dry	☉	*	Grows in fountain-like clumps; utilized for erosion control.
	Med	☉		Hardy; easy to grow; aggressive.

Vines

PLANT NAMES		Height (ft)	Bloom Time
Botanical	Common		
<i>Amphicarpa bracteata</i>	Hog Peanut	2-8	Aug-Sept
<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	American Bittersweet	1-20	May-June
<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	Virgins' Bower	10-20	July-Sept
<i>Menispermum canadense</i>	Moonseed	8-10	May-July
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper	1-60	May-June

Shrubs

PLANT NAMES		Height (ft)	GROWTH RATE
Botanical	Common		
<i>Alnus rugosa</i>	Speckled Alder	15-25	Med
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Serviceberry	25	Med
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea	3-4	Slow
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry	25	Med
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	5-12	Med
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	7	Med
<i>Cornus foemina</i>	Gray Dogwood	6-15	Med
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Red-Osier Dogwood	6-9	Med
<i>Corylus americana</i>	Hazelnut	3-13	Med
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Annabelle Hydrangea	3-6	Fast
<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>	Creeping Juniper	1-2	Med-Fast
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	3-16	Slow
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Eastern Ninebark	3-10	Slow
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry	20-30	Fast

Flower Color	Water Needs	Sun	*	Notes
Pink	Med	☀	*	Pea-like flowers; delicate twining vine.
Yellow	Med-Dry	☀	*	Needs support; attractive fruit; poisonous fruit; aids in erosion control; wildlife food source; aggressive.
White	Med	☀	*	Aggressive; fragrant; needs support.
White	Med-Wet	☀	*	Medicinal uses; poisonous if ingested; form black berries.
Green	Med-Dry	☀☀	*	Useful in erosion control and watershed protection; beneficial to wildlife; ornamental vine; salt tolerant.

Flower color	Water Needs	Sun	*	Notes
Brown	Med	☀	*	Soil stabilizer; acid to neutral conditions; fixes nitrogen.
	Med-Dry	☀	*	Excellent landscape plant with dark green foliage.
White	Dry	☀	*	Taprooted, do not try to transplant; drought tolerant.
	Med-Dry	☀	*	Easily transplanted; can grow in dry soils; withstands grime of cities.
White	Med-Wet	☀	*	Used for wetland restoration; exceptional wildlife benefits; best in wet conditions.
White	Wet	☀	*	Used for field windbreaks and wildlife borders; used for streambank protection; bright red stems fall, winter and spring.
White	Med-Wet	☀	*	Utilized by several birds; not typically stocked in nurseries.
White	Wet	☀	*	Streambank protection; habitat improvement; slope stabilization; plant in masses.
Brown	Med-Dry	☀	*	Beneficial to a variety of wildlife; medicinal uses; ornamental shrub.
White	Med	☀	*	Best in partial shade; clump-forming; deciduous shrub; medicinal uses.
	Med	☀	*	Adaptable; withstands hot, dry situations; produces dark blue berries; ornamental evergreen shrub.
Yellow	Med-Wet	☀	*	Beneficial to wildlife; in partial shade leaves turn bright yellow in autumn.
White	Med	☀	*	Ornamental shrub; beneficial to wildlife; used for erosion control on banks.
White	Med	☀	*	Can grow in acidic to alkaline soils; ornamental small tree or shrub.

Shrubs - continued

PLANT NAMES		Height (ft)	GROWTH RATE
Botanical	Common		
<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	Hop Tree	20	Slow
<i>Ribes americana</i>	Wild Black Currant	3-5	Med
<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Carolina Rose	3-6	Med
<i>Rosa palustris</i>	Swamp Rose	3-7	Med
<i>Salix candida</i>	Sageleaf Willow	3-6	Fast
<i>Salix interior</i>	Sandbar Willow	6-20	Med-Fast
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	American Elderberry	6-26	Fast
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Red-Berried Elder	8-20	Fast
<i>Spiraea alba</i>	Meadowsweet	2-5	Med
<i>Spiraea bumalda</i>	Anthony Waterer Spirea	2-3	Fast
<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	American Bladdernut	10-15	Fast
<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>	Large Cranberry	2-6	Slow
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Maple-Leaf Viburnum	2-6	Slow
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrow Wood	3-10	Med
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry	14-16	Slow
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Blackhaw	12-15	Slow
<i>Viburnum opulus (var. americanum)</i>	Highbush Cranberry	6-10	Med

Trees

PLANT NAMES		Height ft@ 20 years	GROWTH RATE
Botanical	Common		
Evergreen Trees			
<i>Abies balsamea</i>	Balsam Fir	40-90	Slow
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Red Cedar	25	Slow
<i>Picea glauca</i>	White Spruce	100	Slow
<i>Picea mariana</i>	Black Spruce	100	Slow

Flower color	Water Needs	Sun	*	Notes
	Wet	☉	*	Shade tolerant; seeds and foliage have an unpleasant odor.
Yellow	Med-Wet	☉	*	Can be invasive; wildlife food source; ornamental shrub.
Pink	Wet-Dry	☉	*	Better resistance to disease than most hybrid roses.
Pink	Med-Wet	☉	*	Attractive throughout the year; food source for wildlife.
Green	Wet	☉	*	Used for erosion control and restoration practices.
Brown	Med-Wet	☉	*	Short-lived; forms colonies; does well in flooded areas.
White	Med-Wet	☉	*	Edible fruit; medicinal uses; beneficial to wildlife; blue berry.
White	Med-Wet	☉	*	Red berries; raw fruits are toxic.
White	Wet	☉	*	Fragrant; good in low spots or boggy areas.
White	Med	☉		Showy autumn foliage; ornamental value; showy flowers.
White	Med-Dry	☉	*	Easily grown; seed capsules used in dried flower arrangements.
Pink	Med-Wet	☉	*	Grow in acidic soils; leaves become purple in winter.
White	Wet-Dry	☉	*	Reddish-purple fall color; black fruit; develops large colonies; beneficial to wildlife; acidic soil tolerant.
White	Med	☉	*	Medicinal uses; bird food source.
White	Med	☉	*	Good seasonal displays; food source for wildlife.
White	Med-Dry	☉	*	Special Concern plant in Michigan; Attracts birds; adaptable.
White	Med-Wet	☉	*	Beneficial to wildlife; good windbreak; red fruit; ornamental shrub.

Flower color	Water Needs	Sun	*	Notes
	Med-Wet	☉	*	Readily transplanted; prefers acidic soils; tolerates a wide range of soils.
	Dry	☉	*	Used for windbreaks.
	Med	☉	*	Used for windbreaks; adaptable to a wide range of conditions.
	Med-Wet	☉	*	Interesting irregular form; tolerant of nutrient poor soils; prefers acidic soils.

Trees - continued

PLANT NAMES		Height ft@ 20 years	GROWTH RATE
Botanical	Common		
Evergreen Trees			
<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	Red Pine	50-80	Fast
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Eastern White Pine	150	Fast
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Northern White Cedar	40-50	Slow
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Eastern Hemlock	75	Slow
Deciduous Trees			
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	35	Med-Fast
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver Maple	45	Fast
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple	100	Slow
<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio Buckeye	40	Med
<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	Yellow Birch	25	Fast
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch	40	Fast
<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	Paper Birch	40	Fast
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	American Hornbeam	18	Slow
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut Hickory	30	Med-Slow
<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark Hickory	15	Fast
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud	16	Slow
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood	30	Med
<i>Crataegus mollis</i>	Downy Hawthorn	25	Med
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Beech	30	Slow
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White Ash	40	Med

Flower color	Water Needs	Sun	*	Notes
	Med-Dry	○	*	Prefers dry, sandy, acidic soils; found in low fertility areas; cold tolerant; susceptible to salt damage; used for windbreaks.
	Med-Dry	◐	*	Tolerates many soil types; intolerant of air pollutants; used for windbreaks.
	Med-Wet	◐	*	Prefers neutral soil; well adapted to find water and nutrients.
	Wet	●	*	Must plant in cool, moist conditions; creates beautiful screen; long-lived.
Red	Med	◐	*	Gorgeous red fall color; fragrant blossoms March into April; does not tolerate heavily polluted areas.
	Med	◐	*	Easily transplanted; one of the best trees for poor soils.
	Med	●	*	Best in slightly acidic soils; great shade providing tree; not for crowded and polluted conditions; used for maple syrup production.
	Med-Wet	◐●	*	Leaves shaped like hand; wonderful color spring-fall; attracts hummingbirds.
	Med	◐	*	Good lawn tree; providing relatively light shade; showy bark.
Yellow	Wet	○	*	Very attractive ornamental tree; very good for erosion control.
Yellow	Wet	◐	*	Striking coloration with white bark and yellow fall color; good riparian buffer.
Green	Med	◐●	*	Beautiful understory tree; difficult to transplant; tolerates periodic flooding; used in landscaping for its unique fruit and vibrant fall colors.
	Med-Wet	◐	*	Large tap-root makes transplanting difficult; flowers April-May; used for fruit and unique bark.
	Dry-Med	◐	*	Edible fruit; adaptable to a wide range of soils; bark has culinary use.
Purple	Dry	◐●	*	Flowers bloom in early spring; will grow taller in shade conditions.
White	Dry	◐	*	Excellent ornamental tree; striking display when in full bloom.
	Med	○	*	Small, wide spreading tree; silvery-grey bark, thicket of twigs and thorns; produces copious fruit.
	Med	◐●	*	Prefers acidic soils; handsome shade providing tree for large open areas.
	Wet	○	*	Attractive shade providing tree; pH adaptable; easily transplanted.

Trees - continued

PLANT NAMES		Height ft@ 20 years	GROWTH RATE
Botanical	Common		
Deciduous Trees			
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green Ash	35	Fast
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree	50	Fast
<i>Malus coronaria</i>	Sweet Crab Apple	20	Slow
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Gum	30	Med
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Ironwood	30	Med
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore	65	Fast
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Trembling Aspen	50	Fast
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry	40	Fast
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak	25	Slow
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak	30	Fast
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak	25	Slow
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak	35	Med
<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black Willow	50	Fast
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras	25	Slow
<i>Sorbus americana</i>	American Mountain Ash	30	Med
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood	60	Med

Flower color	Water Needs	Sun	*	Notes
	Med	☐☐	*	Widely used as shade providing tree; can be used as windbreak.
Yellow	Med	☐	*	Great ornamental tree; grows rapidly; pyramidal shaped; insect & disease resistant; unusual flowers; yellow fall color.
Pink	Med	☐☐	*	Native to lower Michigan only; ornamental tree; edible fruit.
	Med	☐☐☐	*	Provides erosion control; attractive dense autumn foliage.
	Med	☐☐☐		Shade tolerant; dark green foliage; attractive cluster of nuts.
	Wet	☐☐	*	Disease resistant; tolerant of air pollution; rehabilitates strip-mined soils.
	Med	☐☐		Beautiful clear-yellow fall color; smooth bark; spreads rapidly.
	Med	☐	*	Fast growing shade providing tree; leaves may be toxic.
	Med	☐☐	*	Excellent residential tree; large crown; dense foliage; red fall color.
	Wet	☐☐	*	Grows well in compacted soils; drought tolerant; tolerates flooding.
	Med	☐☐	*	Tolerant of air pollution; tolerant of compacted soil, sand, and alkaline soils; common shade providing tree; deep tap root facilitates water infiltration.
	Med	☐☐	*	Shade tolerant with space available; hardwood for furniture; easily transplanted; tolerant of air pollution and dry, acid soils.
	Wet	☐	*	Thrives in wet areas; weep branchers; discouraged for landscape use.
Yellow	Dry	☐	*	Vibrant spring flower; aromatic tree; striking fall color; attracts butterflies.
Whitw	Med	☐☐	*	Beautiful fall color; grows a stunted form in dry soils.
Yellow	Med	☐☐☐	*	Shade providing tree; soil-enriching.

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<http://www.open.org/~h2oshed/>

The Rouge River Watershed -The Rouge River Project

The Michigan Environmental Protection Agency

Rain Gardens of West Michigan
<http://www.raingardens.org>

Recommended Nurseries:

For a list of reputable nurseries and consultants, you can contact the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association - <http://www.nohlc.org/MNPPA.htm>