

Native Vegetation for Shorelines

Picking out native trees, shrubs and flowers for your shoreline can be daunting. This list provides a short list of plants that are relatively easy to find at a nursery and will do well in northern Michigan. Generally, trees and shrubs will hold the shoreline better than flowers but take longer to get established and can obstruct views. A good compromise is to plant several deciduous trees and low growing shrubs, intermixed with flowering plants.

SHORELINE SHRUBS - They like moisture and are not too tall if planted on a bank

Buttonbush - *Cephalanthus occidentalis* 5-12'

Red-Osier or Silky Dogwood - *Cornus sericea/stolonifera* or *C. amomum* 6-9'

Shrubby cinquefoil - *Dasiphora fruticosa* 2-4'

Ninebark - *Physocarpus opulifolius* 6-10'

Swamp Rose - *Rosa palustris* 4-6'

Meadowsweet - *Spiraea alba* 2-5'

American Highbush Cranberry* - *Viburnum trilobum* or *V. opulus* var. *americanum* 6-10'

* Make sure the highbush cranberry you are buying is the American variety. A highly invasive European variety is often found in the horticulture trade (*Viburnum opulus* var. *opulus*).

SHORELINE FLOWERS - They like sun and moisture

Swamp Milkweed - *Asclepias incarnata*

Turtlehead - *Chelone glabra*

Boneset - *Eupatorium perfoliatum*

Joe-Pye Weed - *Eutrochium maculatum*

Blue Flag Iris or Northern Blue Flag Iris - *Iris virginica* or *I. versicolor*

Marsh Blazing Star - *Liatris spicata*

Cardinal Flower - *Lobelia cardinalis*

Great Blue Lobelia - *Lobelia siphilitica*

Michigan Lily - *Lilium michiganense*

Blue Vervain - *Verbena hastata*

SHORELINE GRASSES & SEDGES

Big Bluestem - *Andropogon gerardii*

Blue-Joint Grass - *Calamagrostis canadensis*

Bristly Sedge - *Carex comosa*

Porcupine Sedge - *Carex hystericina*

Tussock Sedge - *Carex stricta*

Brown Fox Sedge - *Carex vulpinoidea*

Green Bulrush - *Scripus atrovirens*

UPLAND ZONE - Higher up on the bank, these flowers can tolerate drier soils and sun

Lead Plant - *Amorpha canescens*

Butterfly Milkweed - *Asclepias tuberosa*

New England Aster - *Aster novae-angliae* or *Symphotrichum novae-angliae*

Lance-leaf Coreopsis - *Coreopsis lanceolata*

Purple Coneflower - *Echinacea purpurea*

Rough Blazing Star - *Liatris aspera*

Bee Balm - *Monarda fistulosa*

Yellow Coneflower - *Ratibida pinnata*

Goldenrod (multiple species) - *Solidago* spp.

TREES - Any Michigan native tree suitable for your sun and soil conditions

Northern White Cedar, Paper Birch, Yellow Birch, Sugar Red or Silver Maple, Red Oak, Bur Oak, White Pine, Hop Hornbeam, Serviceberry, Alternate Leaved Dogwood, Redbud, and Paw Paw, for example.

SOURCES OF TREES, SHRUBS AND FLOWERS

- Zimmerman Landscaping - Traverse City
- Four Seasons Nursery - Traverse City
- Black Cap Nursery - Onkema
- Greystone Gardens - Honor
- Birdsfoot Native Nursery - South Boardman
- Bright Lane Gardens - Lake Ann
- Prairie Nursery Catalog - Wisconsin - they have a great selection, ships on your schedule and the catalog is a wealth of information.