A SELECTION OF NATIVE PLANT SPECIES FOR USE IN RIPARIAN BUFFERS
AND ADJACENT UPLANDS IN CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

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CHAUTAUQUA WATERSHED CONSERVANCY

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Introduction to the Plant List

This list provided herein is intended to guide homeowners and other parties interested in the health of our watersheds in selecting native plantings for the landscapes they manage. Plants were selected for inclusion in the list because they are native to the region, appropriate for landscaping, and are available commercially.

The list is organized in categories distinguished by different plant types: trees, shrubs, vines, perennial forbs and sub-shrubs, annuals, and grasses and sedges. Within each of these categories, individual species are listed with those requiring the most water first, progressing to those that require less and less water. In selecting a plant, you may find the column with the plant’s Wetland Indicator Status (WIS) useful. WIS is assigned to plants for each region of the United States and is used to designate the ability of different species to tolerate and thrive in hydric (moist) conditions. The WIS is obtained from the 1996 National List of Plant Species That Occur in Wetlands (Reed 1997) for our region and each category of WIS is defined below. The facultative indicators are sometimes assigned a positive or negative sign. A positive (+) sign indicates a strong tendency toward wetland conditions, whereas a negative (-) sign indicates less of an association with wetlands. The figure below illustrates the relative position of plant species within each WIS category from a lakeshore or streamside.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wetland Indicator Status</th>
<th>Wetland Type</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OBL</td>
<td>Obligate Wetland</td>
<td>Occurs almost always (estimated probability 99%) under natural conditions in wetlands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACW</td>
<td>Facultative Wetland</td>
<td>Usually occurs in wetlands (estimated probability 67%-99%), but occasionally found in non-wetlands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAC</td>
<td>Facultative</td>
<td>Equally likely to occur in wetlands or non-wetlands (estimated probability 34%-66%).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACU</td>
<td>Facultative Upland</td>
<td>Usually occurs in non-wetlands (estimated probability 67%-99%), but occasionally found on wetlands (estimated probability 1%-33%).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPL</td>
<td>Obligate Upland</td>
<td>May occur in wetlands in another region, but occurs almost always (estimated probability 99%) under natural conditions in non-wetlands in this region. If a species does not occur in wetlands in any region, it is not on the National List.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NI</td>
<td>No indicator</td>
<td>Insufficient information was available to determine an indicator status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Not Listed</td>
<td>The species was not listed for the region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common name</td>
<td>Latin name</td>
<td>Size and shape</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>swamp white oak</strong></td>
<td><em>Quercus bicolor</em></td>
<td>FACW+</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>black willow</strong></td>
<td><em>Salix nigra</em></td>
<td>FACW+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>river birch</strong></td>
<td><em>Betula nigra</em></td>
<td>FACW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>green ash</strong></td>
<td><em>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</em></td>
<td>FACW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>pussy willow</strong></td>
<td><em>Salix discolor</em></td>
<td>FACW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common name</td>
<td>Latin name</td>
<td>WIS*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>American sycamore</strong></td>
<td><em>Platanus occidentalis</em></td>
<td>FAC-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Box elder</strong></td>
<td><em>Acer negundo</em> var. negundo</td>
<td>FAC+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Red maple</strong></td>
<td><em>Acer rubrum</em> var. rubrum</td>
<td>FAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Black ash</strong></td>
<td><em>Fraxinus nigra</em></td>
<td>FAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blackgum</strong></td>
<td><em>Nyssa sylvatica</em></td>
<td>FAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eastern cottonwood</strong></td>
<td><em>Populus deltoides</em></td>
<td>FAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common name</td>
<td>Latin name</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>striped maple</td>
<td><em>Acer pensylvanicum</em></td>
<td>Small tree or large shrub up to 30 feet tall develops a broad, uneven, flat-topped or rounded crown; often irregular; attractive bark adds beauty in winter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hackberry</td>
<td><em>Celtis occidentalis</em></td>
<td>Medium to large deciduous tree reaching 40-60 feet tall when mature and 40-50 feet wide; corky gray bark with warty appearance and prominent lenticels on stems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yellow-poplar</td>
<td><em>Liriodendron tulipifera</em></td>
<td>Large tree with a long, straight trunk reaching over 100 feet tall; crown is pyramidal when young, and becomes oval with time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sugar maple</td>
<td><em>Acer saccharum</em></td>
<td>Large tree reaching over 100 feet tall, trunk usually branching; long slender branches sweep downward and then curve gracefully upwards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hophornbeam</td>
<td><em>Ostrya virginiana</em></td>
<td>Small tree up to 40 feet tall that develops a round crown of fine branches.</td>
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<tr>
<td>bigtooth aspen</td>
<td><em>Populus grandidentata</em></td>
<td>FACU-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sassafras</td>
<td><em>Sassafras albidum</em></td>
<td>FACU-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cucumber tree</td>
<td><em>Magnolia acuminata</em></td>
<td>NL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>common buttonbush</td>
<td><em>Cephalanthus occidentalis</em></td>
<td>OBL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>swamp rose</td>
<td><em>Rosa palustris</em></td>
<td>OBL</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>silky willow</td>
<td>Salix sericea</td>
<td>OBL</td>
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<tr>
<td>common winterberry</td>
<td>Ilex verticillata</td>
<td>FACW+</td>
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<tr>
<td>spicebush</td>
<td>Lindera benzoin</td>
<td>FACW-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>common elderberry</td>
<td>Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis</td>
<td>FACW-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American hazelnut</td>
<td>Corylus americana</td>
<td>FACU-</td>
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<tr>
<td>downy serviceberry</td>
<td><em>Amelanchier arborea</em></td>
<td>FAC-</td>
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<tr>
<td>witch hazel</td>
<td><em>Hamamelis virginiana</em></td>
<td>FAC-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia rose</td>
<td><em>Rosa virginiana</em></td>
<td>FAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>alternate-leaf dogwood</td>
<td><em>Cornus alternifolia</em></td>
<td>NL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gray dogwood</td>
<td><em>Cornus racemosa</em></td>
<td>NL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>purpleflowering raspberry</td>
<td><em>Rubus odoratus</em></td>
<td>NL</td>
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<tr>
<td>staghorn Sumac</td>
<td><em>Rhus typhina</em></td>
<td>NL</td>
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<tr>
<td>VINES</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>groundnut</td>
<td><em>Apis americana</em></td>
<td>FACW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wild grape</td>
<td><em>Vitis riparia</em></td>
<td>FACW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>virgin’s bower</td>
<td><em>Clematis virginiana</em></td>
<td>FAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>limber honeysuckle</td>
<td><em>Lonicera dioica var. glaucescens</em></td>
<td>FACU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia creeper</td>
<td><em>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</em></td>
<td>FACU</td>
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**PERENNIAL**  
**FORBS/SUB-SHRUBS**
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<th>Other values</th>
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<tr>
<td>swamp milkweed</td>
<td>Asclepias incarnata</td>
<td>OBL</td>
<td>Erect, clump-forming perennial that typically grows 3-4’ tall.</td>
<td>Fragrant, pink to mauve flowers with attractively reflexed petals and an elevated central crown appear in tight clusters at the stem ends in summer; large seed pods split open when ripe releasing silky-haired seeds easily carried by the wind; dried seed pods remain on stems into winter.</td>
<td>Easily grown in medium wet to wet soils in full sun; tolerant of average well-drained soils in cultivation; plants have deep taproots and are best left undisturbed once established; foliage is slow to emerge in spring; no serious insect or disease problems. stems exude a toxic milky sap when cut.</td>
<td>Occurs in swamps, river bottomlands and wet meadows.</td>
<td>Flowers are important butterfly nectar source and the plant serves as host plant for the larval stage of Monarch butterflies; dried seedpods are used in floral arrangements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marsh marigold</td>
<td>Caltha palustris</td>
<td>OBL</td>
<td>Clumped perennial growing to about 15 inches in diameter and up to 2 feet tall.</td>
<td>Glossy green foliage; large, shiny yellow “buttercup-like” flowers appear during mid-spring and last about a month; flattened and recurved seedpods split open to release several seeds.</td>
<td>Prefers full or partial sun, wet conditions, and mucky soil; shallow standing water is tolerated; growth and development begin early in the year; one of the first wildflowers to bloom during the spring; fibrous root system can stabilize soils.</td>
<td>Occurs in wetlands, including vernal pools in low woodlands, swamps, soggy meadows in river floodplains, marshes, fens, seeps and springs, ditches, and in shallow water around ponds and lakes.</td>
<td>Nectar and pollen of the flowers attract pollinators including honeybees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blue flag iris</td>
<td>Iris versicolor</td>
<td>OBL</td>
<td>Hardy lakeshore perennial herb of shallow water growing 2-3 feet tall.</td>
<td>Stems support 2-3 large, showy flowers that are light to deep blue with yellow and whitish markings at the base of the sepals; flowers appear from May - July; fruit consists of a three-celled capsule containing two rows of densely packed large, brown seeds.</td>
<td>Requires full sun and heavy, rich, organic soil that is constantly moist or with standing water; good plant for low spots or other moist areas in the landscape; root mass of established colonies provides good shoreline protection; reproduces by seed and vegetatively by rhizomes.</td>
<td>Occurs in swamps, along the edges of ponds and shallow waters, sedge meadows, marshes, and along streambanks and shores, and in forested wetlands.</td>
<td>Provides wetland cover for aquatic and semi-aquatic wildlife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pickerel weed</td>
<td>Pontederia cordata</td>
<td>OBL</td>
<td>Shallow fresh water emergent plant reaching 1-4 feet tall; glossy upright deep green leaves are long and heart shaped at base.</td>
<td>Showy blue flower spike appears from a leaf bract at top of stem from May to October; conelike aggregation of fruits produced by these flowers each hold one seed.</td>
<td>Prolific grower that can cover large areas; emergent mass of stems and leaves provide wave-buffering protection; good establishment by seed; grows in shallow water in sun to partial shade; can also be grown in 5 gallon tub; thick creeping rootstock forms a tough stabilizing vegetative mat.</td>
<td>Occurs along the shallow edges of wetlands, ponds and lakes; often occurs with burreed, spikerush, bulrush, and cattail.</td>
<td>Seed is eaten by waterfowl; geese and small mammals consume the vegetation, and fish, small mammals and birds use stands of this plant for cover.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American burreed</td>
<td>Sparganium americanum</td>
<td>OBL</td>
<td>Lush emergent plant with long straplike folded leaf blades that are a bright lemony green; stems and leaves to 2 feet tall and leaves to 1 inch wide.</td>
<td>Inflorescence consists of spherical heads of flowers is spring that becoming brown and bur-like later as the fruits (achenes) mature.</td>
<td>Grows best on wet ground in rich soil in full sun but can tolerate some shade; can be grown by seeds or by division.</td>
<td>Mostly found in muddy or shallow water of swamps and pond and lake edges; often occurs with burreed, spikerush, bulrush, and cattail.</td>
<td>Fruits are nutritious and attract a variety of wildlife.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>boneset</td>
<td>Eupatorium perfoliatum</td>
<td>FAC+</td>
<td>Clumping perennial herb with large, opposite leaves that are joined at the base where they meet the hairy stem; reaches 2 to 4 feet high and 2 feet wide.</td>
<td>Large creamy white flower clusters at the top of the stems appear from July to September.</td>
<td>Does well in ordinary well-drained but moisture retentive soil in sun or part shade; very cold-hardy; propagate by seed or division; seedlings transplant easily.</td>
<td>Occurs in damp thickets, meadows, and along wetland boundaries; associated species are highly variable and include spotted joe pye weed, goldenrod, orange jewelweed, and numerous grasses and sedges.</td>
<td>Attracts a wide variety of pollinators; somewhat browse resistant; valued as a multipurpose medicinal plant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cardinal flower</td>
<td>Lobelia cardinalis</td>
<td>FAC+</td>
<td>This clumping perennial herb grows 1-2.5 feet tall with unbranched stems; alternate oblong to lance-shaped leaves.</td>
<td>Brilliant red flowers; flowers appear on tall stalks and are irregular, tubular with the upper portion being two-lobed and the lower spreading and divided into three parts; produces tiny seeds in two-celled, many-seeded capsules opening at the top.</td>
<td>Tolerates full or partial sun; requires deep rich soil with ample moisture; easy to grow; can be propagated by seeds or by dividing clumps in the fall or spring; takes two years to bloom; plants will readily self-sow.</td>
<td>Occurs in marshes, and along streambanks, wetland boundaries, and lakeshores; often associated with blue flag iris and a wide variety of sedges and ferns.</td>
<td>Flowers provide nectar for hummingbirds; deer browsing often damages young plants; utilized by Native Americans for medicinal purposes; one of few native species that offer bright red color.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spotted joe pye weed</td>
<td>Eupatorium maculatum</td>
<td>FAC+</td>
<td>Clumping perennial herb with a whorled leaf arrangement reaches 4-6 feet high and about 3 feet wide; very showy tall border plant.</td>
<td>Flowers from late July to early September with large light purple flower clusters at the top of the stems; flowers are lightly scented and very showy</td>
<td>Needs full sun to partial shade with a moist rich soil, but very hardy and adaptable; propagated by division of older plants and by seed in the spring; useful in upper shoreline zones and in vegetated swales.</td>
<td>Occurs in damp thickets, meadows, and shorelines; associated species include boneset, orange jewelweed, and numerous grasses and sedges.</td>
<td>Attracts butterflies, bumblebees, and many other insects; provides cover for small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles; seeds are eaten by birds; somewhat browse resistant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blue-eyed grass</td>
<td>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</td>
<td>FAC-</td>
<td>Clumped perennial iris with straplike leaves 4-20 inches high.</td>
<td>Perfect flowers; numerous blue star-like flowers appear at the top of grass-like stems form May to July; fruit is a round capsule containing numerous small seeds.</td>
<td>Prefers a moist but well-drained humus-rich loamy soil and full sun, though it will tolerate part-day shade; hardy; often self-sowing; can be propagated by seed or division.</td>
<td>Occurs along the edges of wetland meadows, ponds, springs, and lakeshores.</td>
<td>Provides a minor source of food and cover for birds and small mammals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>columbine</td>
<td>Aquilegia canadensis</td>
<td>FAC</td>
<td>Erect, branching perennial, up to 2 ft. tall with showy flowers; delicate, attractive compound leaves with a fern-like quality.</td>
<td>Produces a showy, nodding, red and yellow flower with spurred petals and numerous yellow stamens; fruit is a beaked follicle containing numerous small seeds.</td>
<td>Prefers sandy or gravelly, well-drained soils in the shade; good ornamental choice; self seeds; seedlings flower the second year following germination. fairly drought tolerant; colonizes by rhizomes; do not mix planting of this species with non-native varieties as they will hybridize.</td>
<td>Occurs on rocky ledges and slopes, and along woodland edges.</td>
<td>Contains nectar that attracts long-tongued insects and hummingbirds; larval host for the Columbine Duskywing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>joe-pye weed</td>
<td>Eupatorium purpureum</td>
<td>FAC</td>
<td>Tall, clumping perennial that grows up to 9 feet tall and 3 feet wide; lance-shaped dark green leaves emerge from reddish tinted stem nodes.</td>
<td>Produces fragrant clusters of purplish-pinkish flowers in wide clusters from mid-summer to early fall; attractive seed head persists into winter</td>
<td>Prefers full sun to partial shade and moist soil; can be propagated by seed, division, or by rooting cuttings in spring; strong stems don’t require staking; an excellent plant for the back of a border.</td>
<td>Occurs in low moist areas next to streams, wetlands, ponds and lakes and on moist wooded slopes; associated species include goldenrod, beardtongue, and a wide variety of grasses and sedges.</td>
<td>Attracts a wide variety of insect pollinators and birds; good late season cover for birds and small mammals.</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>beardstongue</td>
<td><em>Penstemon digitalis</em></td>
<td>FAC</td>
<td>Clumped perennial growing from 2-4 feet tall and 1 foot wide; leaves are opposite or in whorls of three and clasp the stem at their base.</td>
<td>Showy tubular white or pale purple flowers are arranged on a tall stem and appear from late spring into early summer; fruit is a many-seeded capsule.</td>
<td>Prefers well-drained soils in full sun; drought tolerant; grows poorly in heavy clay soils; transplants easily and easily propagated by seed or cuttings.</td>
<td>Occurs in rich open woods, thickets, roadsides, and vegetated edges along railroads and other corridors; associated species include goldenrod, joe pye weed, and a wide variety of grasses and sedges.</td>
<td>Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies; somewhat deer resistant;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>early meadowrue</td>
<td><em>Thalictrum dioicum</em></td>
<td>FAC</td>
<td>Feathery perennial that reaches up to 3 feet tall; leaves are delicately scalloped giving the plant a fern-like appearance.</td>
<td>Flowers appear in mid- to late-spring and are whitish to light green and sometimes have a light purplish tint with no petals but numerous attractive pendulous anthers; fruit is a relatively large achene that does not disperse far from the parent plant.</td>
<td>Prefers moist, well drained soils in partial shade; shade tolerant; propagation by seed and by division of offshoots; usually requires two years to bloom.</td>
<td>Occurs on rich north-facing slopes and ledges; associated with woodlands containing aspen and oaks.</td>
<td>Produces nectar and pollen for insect pollinators; popular for its grey green, fernlike foliage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>downy yellow violet</td>
<td><em>Viola pubescens</em></td>
<td>FACU</td>
<td>Robust perennial; small rosette of basal leaves with leafy stems covered in downy hairs; growing 6-16 inches tall.</td>
<td>Flowers develop from April to May from the axils of the cauline leaves, not from the rootstock; each flower is about ¾” across, and consists of 5 rounded yellow petals and 5 light green sepals; small, closed, self-pollinating flowers also occur from upper axils. 3-sided capsule project the seeds upon opening.</td>
<td>Prefers light shade to partial sun, moist to dry conditions, and rich loamy soil with abundant organic matter; medium tolerance to drought; short life span relative to most other plant species and moderate growth rate; can be propagated by bare cuttings, seeds and division; good groundcover for shady areas; no serious insect or disease problems.</td>
<td>Occurs in dry mixed and deciduous woodland areas; associated species include other violet species, toothwort, spring beauty and other woodland species.</td>
<td>Provides minimal cover for small mammals and birds; attracts butterflies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada goldenrod</td>
<td><em>Solidago canadensis</em></td>
<td>FACU</td>
<td>Hardy perennial reaching 2 to 5 feet tall with leafy stems and numerous small branches.</td>
<td>Dense clusters of tiny flowers are deep golden and appear in late summer and fall. This species is particularly beautiful in a mixed meadow where it contrasts well with other colors of perennials and grasses.</td>
<td>Very flexible in terms of the soil and moisture conditions tolerated; grows in semi-shade to full sun. Seeds ripen from September to October.</td>
<td>Occurs in a wide variety of moisture regimes and is most often seen in successional fields, pastures, along road banks, and in clearings or openings in forests.</td>
<td>Flowers attract bees, butterflies and other native pollinators for the nectar and birds eat the seeds and use portions of the plant for nesting materials. Goldenrods are often mistakenly thought to cause hay fever, but this is usually caused by pollen from ragweed species (<em>Ambrosia</em> spp.), many of which bloom at the same time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>broad-leaved goldenrod</td>
<td>Solidago flexicaulis</td>
<td>FACU</td>
<td>Perennial reaching 1-3 feet tall that is smaller and daintier than the species described above with a stem that sometimes bends slightly at each leaf axil giving it a “zig-zag” appearance. The stem may also be straight.</td>
<td>Small golden flowers appear in July through October in loose clusters in the axils of toothed leaves.</td>
<td>Easily grown in average well-drained soils with medium moisture in dappled shade to full sun. Established plants tolerate some dry soils. Plants can be grown from seed and sometimes spread by rhizomes.</td>
<td>Often found in rich woods, especially along streams.</td>
<td>Flowers attract bees, butterflies and other native pollinators. Goldenrods are often mistakenly thought to cause hay fever, but this is usually caused by pollen from ragweed species (<em>Ambrosia</em> spp.), many of which bloom at the same time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wild bergamot</td>
<td>Monarda fistulosa</td>
<td>UPL</td>
<td>Clumped perennial reaching 3 feet tall with many-branched, square, hairy stems and aromatic opposite leaves. Bergamot has square stems; fruit consists of many-seeded capsule.</td>
<td>Lavender, tubular flowers appear in tightly packed heads at the top of the stems; flower heads are located above a whorl of showy, pinkish, leafy bracts; long summer bloom period from June to September</td>
<td>Prefers dry to moist, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade; tolerates poor soils and drought; needs good air circulation to avoid mold; does not tolerate prolonged moisture; self-seeds; spreads by seeds and rhizomes; propagation by seeds and stem cuttings.</td>
<td>Occurs in upland woods, thickets, prairies and roadides; associated species include blazing star and little bluestem.</td>
<td>Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds use the plant for nectar; many medicinal uses; good dried flower.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>white wood aster</td>
<td>Aster divaricatus</td>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Loose somewhat sprawling perennial reaching approximately 3 feet tall; distinctive heart-shaped leaves.</td>
<td>Numerous small, white “daisy-like” flowers are produced prolifically in dense clusters throughout late summer to fall; seeds are numerous and wind dispersed.</td>
<td>Easily grown in average, medium wet, or well-drained soil in part shade to full shade; highly adaptable: thrives in shade and tolerates dry conditions; no serious insect or disease problems; an excellent choice for difficult shady areas or for an understory for wooded areas; can be topped in early summer for fuller growth.</td>
<td>Occurs in dry open woods, fallow fields and along roadsides. Associated species include a wide variety of grasses, sedges, and forbs.</td>
<td>Attractive to butterflies; songbirds feed on the seeds and also collect the fluffy seed for nesting materials; provides cover for small mammals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>butterfly milkweed</td>
<td>Asclepias tuberosa</td>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Clumped perennial with multiple stems reaching 2 to 3 feet tall.</td>
<td>Strikingly beautiful orange flower clusters atop hairy stems. Each flower has 5 petals, that are bent downward and topped by a crown of 5 erect hoods, each of which support a short horn. Fruits are hairy, spindle-shaped pods 8-15 cm long containing numerous wind-dispersed seeds with a tuft of long white hairs at the tip.</td>
<td>Easily propagated by seed and rhizome cuttings. Seedlings and cuttings usually bloom in the second year, although cuttings will occasionally bloom during their first year. Increases by underground shoots. Ideal in semi-dry places where it can spread without crowding other species.</td>
<td>Occurs along dry to mesic roadsides and forest edges, successional fields, meadows, and dry streambanks. Does particularly well over calcareous rock.</td>
<td>Attractive to many insect species milkweed bugs, butterflies, and bees.</td>
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**ANNUALS**
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<tr>
<td><strong>blunt spikerush</strong></td>
<td><em>Eleocharis obtusa</em></td>
<td>OBL</td>
<td>Annual to short-lived perennial that produces dense tufts of smooth, upright, unbranched stems up to two feet in height.</td>
<td>Flowers are crowded into dense oval cluster at the top of stems and appear from June through August; seedheads are brown, scaly and conical.</td>
<td>Easily grown in medium wet to wet soils in full sun; will flourish in many different kinds of soil including sandy, gravelly, and mucky; does not do well with heavy competition with other tall wetland species; fibrous rhizomes; spreads by reseeding itself and often forms colonies; quick and easy establishment by seed makes this species a good choice for soil stabilization.</td>
<td>Occurs in wetlands, marshes, and along ponds and lakes; associated species include bulrush, sedges, soft rush and blue flag.</td>
<td>Seeds are a valuable and nutritious food source for ducks and other wildlife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>orange touch-me-not</strong></td>
<td><em>Impatiens capensis</em></td>
<td>FACW</td>
<td>Prolific annual forb growing two to five feet tall with large hollow stems and lush green foliage.</td>
<td>Large, showy orange flowers are unusual in shape (pendulous and funnel–shaped) and appear from June through August; ripe seed pods burst readily when touched.</td>
<td>Will prosper in a wide variety of conditions as long as adequate moisture is present; can grow in heavy clay soil; prefers full sun to partial shade; fast growing; prolific seed producer and self-sowing.</td>
<td>Occurs in wetlands, floodplains, and along the edges of streams, ponds and lakes. Associated species include royal fern,.</td>
<td>Attracts and provides nectar for hummingbirds and other pollinators; serves as a natural remedy for poison ivy rash</td>
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<td><strong>FERNS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>royal fern</strong></td>
<td><em>Osmunda regalis</em></td>
<td>OBL</td>
<td>Deciduous, perennial fern that is one of the largest and most impressive of our native ferns; grows up to five feet tall.</td>
<td>Sterile fronds are upright, long, broad, and bipinnate; fertile fronds are erect and shorter.</td>
<td>Requires a moist, shady to partially shaded location with acidic soils; will grow in full sun with adequate moisture; low maintenance; creeping rhizomes and numerous roots along the rhizomes produce a fibrous mat and stabilize the soil surface; easily propagated by division.</td>
<td>Occurs in forested wetlands, thickets, and woodlands, and along stream and riverbanks and pond and lake edges where the soil is usually in slightly acidic soil.</td>
<td>Provides minimal cover and browse for wildlife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>sensitive fern</strong></td>
<td><em>Onoclea sensibilis</em></td>
<td>FACW</td>
<td>Deciduous, perennial, coarse-textured fern, with broader leaves and pinnae (leaflets) than most other ferns; growing 1 to 2 feet tall.</td>
<td>Curled leaves (fiddleheads) emerge from rhizomes in the spring; sterile fronds are light green and broad with an almost triangular shape; fertile frond appear from August through September and are brown, shorter than the sterile leaves, and often persistent into the following year; reproduces by spores and vegetatively by rhizomes.</td>
<td>Highly adaptable; very hardy; can perform well in both sunny and shady locations; prefers moist soil and will tolerate wet soils and can be used near water; will tolerate dryer conditions but will be smaller; low maintenance; creeping rhizomes and numerous roots along the rhizomes produce a fibrous mat that stabilizes the soil surface; easily propagated by division.</td>
<td>Occurs in wetlands, wet meadows, thickets, and woods, and along stream and riverbanks and pond and lake edges where the soil is usually slightly acidic; uncommon in forested environments.</td>
<td>Believed to be poisonous to livestock grazing low; provides minimal cover and browse for wildlife.</td>
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**GRASSES AND SEDGES**
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<tr>
<td>long-hair sedge</td>
<td><em>Carex comosa</em></td>
<td>OBL</td>
<td>Clumped perennial sedge with bright green folded leaves coming off triangular stems reaching to 4.5 feet tall.</td>
<td>Flowers are held on large, drooping spikes that have a “bottle brush” appearance and emerge from April through mid-July; flowers develop into triangular achenes.</td>
<td>Prefers full to partial sun and standing water or saturated soil with high organic content; long-lived species that can serve as a good filler in landscaping gaps; transplants and establishes well; easily propagated by seed or division.</td>
<td>Occurs in marshes, lake shores, and wet meadows, often in shallow water or on emergent stumps, floating logs, and floating mats of vegetation; associated species may include other emergent <em>Carex</em> species, bulrush, cattail, pickerel weed, and burreed.</td>
<td>Seed are a nutritious food source for waterfowl and other wildlife; provides cover for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians and nesting materials for birds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>greater bladder sedge</td>
<td><em>Carex intumescens</em></td>
<td>FACW+</td>
<td>Clumped perennial sedge with bright green folded leaves coming off triangular stems reaching to 2.5 feet with somewhat cylindrical to rounded inflorescences clustered at top of stem.</td>
<td>Female inflorescences appear beginning in late May in a cluster; developing into bladderlike, inflated seedpods that persist through September.</td>
<td>Prefers full to partial sun and standing water or saturated soil with high organic content; long-lived species that can serve as a good filler in landscaping gaps; transplants and establishes well; easily propagated by seed or division.</td>
<td>Occurs in moist to wet in coniferous and deciduous woodlands, forest openings, thicketts, wet meadows, and ditches; associated species include a wild variety of grasses and other sedges.</td>
<td>Seeds are a nutritious food source for waterfowl and other wildlife; provides cover for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians and nesting materials for birds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>riverbank wildrye</td>
<td><em>Elymus riparius</em></td>
<td>FACW</td>
<td>Perennial bunchgrass reaching to 5 feet tall; often forming tufts of culms at the base; leaf sheaths are green and covered with spreading white hairs.</td>
<td>Flowers and seeds are produced on an attractive nodding spike from May through September.</td>
<td>Prefers partial sun to light shade, moist to slightly dry conditions, and fertile loamy soil; good soil stabilizer for shady wetland areas and streambeds; easily established by seed.</td>
<td>Habitats include deciduous woodlands, woodland borders, rocky wooded slopes, savannas, small meadows in wooded areas, and thickets. This grass is usually found in higher quality wooded habitats.</td>
<td>Provides food and cover for wildlife, and nesting materials for birds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>white-edge sedge</td>
<td><em>Carex debilis</em></td>
<td>FAC</td>
<td>Densely clumped, perennial sedge with shiny green strap-like narrow leaf blades; culms are dark maroon at base; leaves reaching up to 5 feet tall.</td>
<td>Flowers and fruits are borne on drooping narrow spikes that appear in spring.</td>
<td>Prefers partial shade and rich, moist soil with high organic content; transplants and establishes well; easily propagated by seed or division.</td>
<td>Occurs in rich open woods, thicketts and meadows, and rich bottomland and floodplain forests; associated species include other sedge species, jack-in-the-pulpit, and sensitive fern.</td>
<td>Seeds are a nutritious food source for waterfowl and other wildlife; provides cover for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians and nesting materials for birds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>switchgrass</td>
<td><em>Panicum virgatum</em></td>
<td>FAC</td>
<td>Clump forming perennial grass grows from 3-8 feet tall and 4-5 feet wide; can be distinguished from other warm-season grasses by the white patch of hair at the point where the leaf attaches to the stem.</td>
<td>Airy inflorescences consist of open spreading panicles that are reddish in the spring and purplish in the fall.</td>
<td>Widely adapted to both wet and dry sites; prefers rich moist soil in full sun; perhaps the most valuable native grass on a wide range of sites; valuable soil stabilization plant; easily established by seed; holds up well in heavy snow; no serious insect or disease problems.</td>
<td>Occurs in moist thickets, and prairies and roadsides; associated species include little bluestem, aster and goldenrod.</td>
<td>Provides excellent nesting materials and habitat for birds and fall and winter cover birds and small mammals; seeds are eaten by a variety of songbirds; interest in switchgrass as a renewable biofuel resource has been increasing in recent years.</td>
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<tr>
<td>red fescue</td>
<td>Festuca rubra ssp. rubra</td>
<td>FACU</td>
<td>Cool season, sod-forming grass with bright green leaves that are wiry and narrow; reaching approximately 2 feet tall; stems are usually bent at the reddish or purplish base.</td>
<td>Flowers and seeds are borne on a narrow panicle; starts growth early in spring, generally slows in mid-summer, and grows vigorously from late summer until freezing</td>
<td>Prefers well-drained soils in full sun, but requires ample moisture for establishment; hardy; wear-resistant; shade tolerant; drought resistant after establishment, and adapted to sandy and acid soils; excellent soil binder and used extensively for stabilization; used as a turf for lawns, athletic fields, golf courses, and playgrounds; serves as a cover crop in orchards; no serious pests; reproduces by seeds and spreads vegetatively.</td>
<td>Common in early successional habitats; may colonize disturbed areas naturally.</td>
<td>Provides food and cover for wildlife, and nesting materials for birds; valuable forage grass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>little bluestem</td>
<td>Schizachyrium scoparium</td>
<td>FACU-</td>
<td>Small, non-spreading, clump-forming, warm-season perennial grass with blue-green leaves up to 4 feet tall that turn reddish orange in the fall.</td>
<td>Flowers appear on terminal spikes and produce feathery seed heads that are ornamental through winter.</td>
<td>Thrives in the hottest, driest, and harshest soils and exposures; relatively tolerant of drought during seedling establishment; used in prairie restoration projects and along highways. Often used in seed mixes with big bluestem, indiangrass, little bluestem, sideoats grama, and switchgrass.</td>
<td>Understory species occurring in open-growing pine stands; also important in tallgrass, mixed-grass, coastal, and bluestem prairies; early to mid-successional grassland species associated with Allium species, asters and goldenrods.</td>
<td>Provides food, nesting habitat, and cover for many bird species; deer resistant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>purpletop</td>
<td>Tridens flavus</td>
<td>FACU</td>
<td>Perennial, warm season bunchgrass with erect tufted culme to 6 feet tall; leaf blades are flat, often less than 1/2 inch wide, up to 2 feet long.</td>
<td>Flowering seedhead consists of an open cluster, 8 to 14 inches long, with a roughly pyramid shape; usually purple but sometimes nearly black; most vegetative growth occurs during the late spring and early to mid-summer.</td>
<td>Prefers partial sun and moist to slightly dry conditions; many kinds of soil are tolerated, including those that contain loam, clay-loam, gravel, rocky material, and some sand; tolerant of road salt and often colonizes roadside sites; well adapted to shallow, droughty, infertile soil; slow to develop and can be sensitive to competition.</td>
<td>Occurs in openings in woodlands, savannas, meadows, powerline corridors, and oldfields; thrives in disturbed open woodlands areas.</td>
<td>Provides forage in the summer and on sites where cool season forages do not produce well; provides food, cover and nesting materials for small mammals and birds; aterpillars feed on the leaves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiangrass</td>
<td>Sorghastrum nutans</td>
<td>UPL</td>
<td>Perennial, warm-season grass that grows in clumps from 3 to 5 feet tall.</td>
<td>Seed head is a single, narrow, plume-like panicle of a golden brown color; seeds are light and fluffy with small awns attached.</td>
<td>Grows best in deep, well-drained floodplain soils but is highly tolerant of poorly to excessively well-drained soils; tolerates acid to alkaline conditions and soil types from sand to clay; optimum time to plant is from early May to late June; moist, firm seedbed is essential as the seeds are very light; should not require replanting once well-established; no known serious pests.</td>
<td>Grows in a wide variety of dry to mesic woods and meadows; common associates include tallgrass prairie co-dominants including big bluestem, little bluestem, and switchgrass.</td>
<td>Attracts wildlife and pollinators including honeybees; provides excellent nesting sites and cover for pheasants, quail, doves and other songbirds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>sand dropseed</td>
<td><em>Sporobolus cryptandrus</em></td>
<td>UPL</td>
<td>Warm season, perennial bunchgrass ranging from 2 to 3 feet tall; leaf blade is flat and about 1/8 inch wide; tapering toward tip and rolling inward as the plant matures.</td>
<td>Flowers and seedhead arranged on an open panicle</td>
<td>Prefers light to medium loamy soils that are well-drained and in full sun; does not tolerate shade; can tolerate dry to moist sites; prolific seed producer and seeds remain viable for many years; readily re-seeds itself following drought.</td>
<td>Occurs on lake shore in dunes and on dry and disturbed and previously cultivated lands; associates include little bluestem silky willow, and buffalograss.</td>
<td>Small mammals and birds utilize sand dropseed for forage and shelter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania sedge</td>
<td><em>Carex pensylvanica</em></td>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Low-growing, densely-tufted, perennial sedge; foliage is 4 to 18 inches.</td>
<td>Flowering takes place between mid-April to mid-May; produces a narrow spike of reddish brown flowers followed by fruits.</td>
<td>Requires well-drained soils; utilizes variable soil types from sandy loams to clay and silty clay loams, as well as alluvial deposits; tolerates slightly acidic and relatively infertile soils; quick establishment and vigorous growth in disturbed areas make this a good choice for an alternative to a traditional lawn; vigorous rhizomes often form extensive, pure stands; no serious pest or disease problems.</td>
<td>Grows in a wide range of landscapes and climates, but it performs best in dry deciduous forests, grasslands, and open areas; commonly found in open meadows and forest understories.</td>
<td>Provides excellent cover and nesting materials for all types of birds and forage for small mammals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plantain-leaf sedge</td>
<td><em>Carex plantaginea</em></td>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Tufted evergreen sedge characterized by shiny strap-like, puckered green leaves up to 1 inch wide and 15 inches long.</td>
<td>Flowers appear on thin, black-tipped stems in late spring; fruits follow and are quickly dispersed.</td>
<td>Prefers moist rich soil with plenty of organics in full to partial shade; hardy; easily transplanted; propagation by seed or division; good filler plant but can also form attractive expanses as an alternative to turfgrass.</td>
<td>Occurs in rich hardwood forests; associated species include trillium, trout lily, blue cohosh, and other sedge species.</td>
<td>Provides minimal food and cover for small mammals and birds; deer resistant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curly oat grass</td>
<td><em>Danthonia spicata</em></td>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Perennial bunchgrass 1-2 feet tall with attractive curly basal leaves that straighten in damp weather.</td>
<td>Flowers and seeds are borne on spikelets carried off the main stem on short, stiff branches appearing from May to July; in winter, leaves turn beige but persist in exaggerated curlicues.</td>
<td>Highly variable in terms of nutrient and moisture requirements; able to establish and succeed on sites of particularly poor nutrient and moisture regimes; protects soil from erosion and excessive nutrient leaching, frost-heave resistant; performs well in dry, rocky and poor soils.</td>
<td>Occurs under pines and in drier oak/mixed woodlands; secondary successor of burned and/or cut sites, old fields, and old pastureland.</td>
<td>Leaves provide browse for mammals; birds and mammals eat the seeds. Provides some cover for small mammals and birds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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