

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



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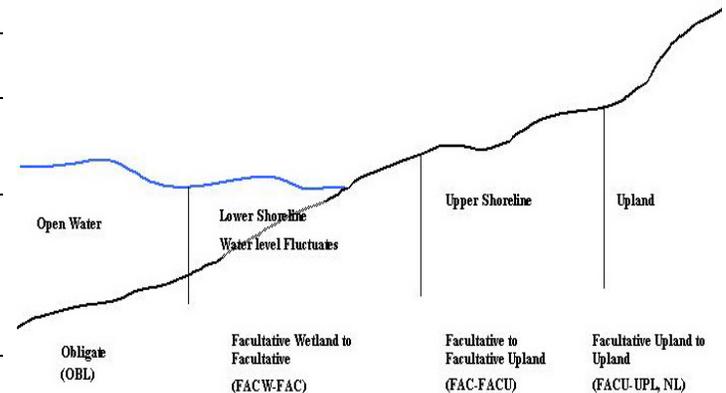
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Introduction to the Plant List

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.

Wetland Indicator Status	Wetland Type	Definition
OBL	Obligate Wetland	Occurs almost always (estimated probability 99%) under natural conditions in wetlands.
FACW	Facultative Wetland	Usually occurs in wetlands (estimated probability 67%-99%), but occasionally found in non-wetlands.
FAC	Facultative	Equally likely to occur in wetlands or non-wetlands (estimated probability 34%-66%).
FACU	Facultative Upland	Usually occurs in non-wetlands (estimated probability 67%-99%), but occasionally found on wetlands (estimated probability 1%-33%)
UPL	Obligate Upland	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
NI	No indicator	Insufficient information was available to determine an indicator status
NL	Not Listed	The species was not listed for the region



Common name Latin name	WIS*	Size and shape	Seasonality; flowers, fruits, berries, other	Landscape considerations	Plant community relationships	Other values
TREES						
swamp white oak <i>Quercus bicolor</i>	FACW+	Medium sized mid- to overstory tree that reaches heights of 50 to 70 feet and diameters of 2 to 3 feet with an open, irregularly shaped crown.	Flowers are tiny and inconspicuous; fruit is an acorn 0.75 to 1.25 inches long; in fall, the leaves turn yellowish-brown to red before dropping.	Occurs in river bottomlands, depressions, and along streamsides and swamp borders; intermediate in shade tolerance but not very drought tolerant; grows best in full sun to partial shade on acid soils; long-lived; tolerates soil compaction and some salt exposure.	Plant associates include northern red oak, hickory, beech, sweetgum, yellow-poplar, red maple, sugar maple, green ash, tamarack, dogwood, sumac, serviceberry, holly, and viburnum.	Leaves and stems: serve as browse for deer; acorns are eaten by a variety of wildlife; cover valued by a wide variety of wildlife.
black willow <i>Salix nigra</i>	FACW+	Medium sized tree growing 40 to 60 feet tall and 40 to 50 feet wide; soft billowy irregular shape and attractively furrowed bark	Flowers are tiny and arranged on catkins appearing in early summer; fruit is a cone-shaped capsule containing many small, cottony seeds; non-showy fall color.	Occurs in swamps, sloughs, and swales; tolerates most soils but prefers wet to moist settings; flood tolerant; prefers full sun.	Common associates include river birch, sycamore, American elm, red maple, box elder, and eastern cottonwood.	High wildlife value; dense leaves and twigs provide ample browse and thermal shelter for wildlife and excellent stream shading.
river birch <i>Betula nigra</i>	FACW	Medium sized tree reaching up to 70 feet tall with and often divided trunk; can form dense clumps and can serve as a tall hedge if pruned regularly.	Monoecious; tiny flowers borne on hanging catkins appear in mid-spring; fruit is a cone-like aggregate many reddish brown hairy scales containing numerous minute 3-winged seeds that ripen and break apart in the fall; yellow fall color with attractive exfoliating bark.	Heat-tolerant and can survive short-term drought; vigorous and fast-growing; transplants easily; does best in full sun and will not tolerate full shade; good choice for erosion control.	River birch is found in most bottomland cover types, and is associated with most bottomland plants.	Birds eat the seeds; white-tailed deer and other mammals browse the leaves and twigs; provides nesting sites for waterfowl, and food and cover for many wildlife species.
green ash <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	FACW	A medium sized tree to 70 feet tall with an irregular to rounded crown.	Light green to purplish flowers appear after the leaves; fruit is a samara maturing in autumn and dispersing over winter; bright yellow fall color; leaves are lost in early fall.	Found primarily in bottomland sites, but grows well when planted on moist upland soils; easily transplanted and established; fast growth rate; prefers full sun and moist, deep, fertile soils for best growth.	Associated with box elder, red maple, quaking aspen, and American elm.	Provides food and cover for birds, small mammals, deer, insects, and improves habitat for aquatic species
pussy willow <i>Salix discolor</i>	FACW	Small tree or multi-stemmed shrub up to 30 feet; slender, green or red twigs often fuzzy with purplish-red buds and a single cap-like scale are attractive.	Catkins are silvery gray, 1 inch long, and appear in late winter or very early spring; fruit is a small, brown capsule that ripens in late spring releasing many small fuzzy seeds; non-showy fall color.	Occurs in swamps, along stream banks, and in floodplains, marsh borders, ditches and other wetlands; roots readily from stem cuttings taken from new growth and branches can simply be inserted into moist soil in summer and will develop roots within a few weeks; rapid spreading root systems; can be severely pruned after flowering.	Associated with common riparian species including red osier dogwood, birch, green ash and American elm.	Catkins provide early season food for migrating and resident songbirds and small mammals; dense habit provides good streamside cover.

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American sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	FACW-	Very large tree with heavy, spreading branches reaching up to and over 100 feet tall; pyramidal when young and forming a broad, rounded crown when mature	Flowers are very small and appear in dense round clusters; fruit is spherical containing many tiny, winged seeds; attractive multicolored flaking bark adds beauty in winter; foliage is yellowish-brown in fall.	Rapid growth rate; good choice for difficult growing sites including urban areas; excellent shade tree; prefers sun to partial shade and moist, well drained soil.	Associated with river birch, sweetgum, eastern cottonwood, red maple, black willow, and other moist-site hardwoods.	Seeds are eaten by wildlife; leaves, stems, and wood are utilized by beaver; large trunk provides habitat for wildlife including sites for cavity-nesters.
boxelder <i>Acer negundo</i> var. <i>negundo</i>	FAC+	Medium sized tree to 60 feet with multiple trunks; forming an irregular to somewhat rounded crown.	Yellow-green flowers in drooping racemes appear in spring; paired samaras appear in drooping clusters in fall and persist throughout winter; leaves turn yellow to orange in fall.	Rapid growth; tolerates a wide range of soil types and dry to wet conditions; grows in partial shade to full sun; fibrous root system and prolific seeding make it useful in erosion control.	Commonly found in association with bottomland hardwoods including red maple, hackberry, black walnut, basswood, black cherry, and blackgum.	Seeds are eaten by many species of birds and mammals and are valuable due to their availability.
red maple <i>Acer rubrum</i> var. <i>rubrum</i>	FAC	Grows 50 to 80 feet tall and 30 to 50 feet wide.	Bright red flower clusters in winter followed by bright red samaras; versatile shade tree with variable shades of red to burgundy in autumn.	Tolerates average to rich soils that range from moist to well-drained; easily established and fast growing; relatively shallow root system.	Occurs from lowland swamps to upland forests. Often occurs with green ash, yellow poplar, beech, American elm, and black cherry.	Wildlife utilize the seeds, buds, and sap; provides good summer food and nest sites.
black ash <i>Fraxinus nigra</i>	FAC	Small to medium sized tree reaching up to 40 to 50 feet tall with a slender to open crown.	Flowers in clusters appearing before the leaves in early spring; fruit is a samara appearing in hanging clusters; fall foliage is yellow; leaves are lost in early fall.	Relatively slow growing hardwood; cold tolerant; relatively tolerant of atmospheric pollutants.	Commonly occurs in swamps, often with green ash.	The seeds are an important food for game birds, songbirds, and small animals; deer eat the young twigs.
blackgum <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	FAC	Grows 30 to 80 feet tall and 25 to 30 feet wide; attractive complex branching.	Small greenish flowers in the spring appear with the leaves and produce bluish-black drupes by late summer to fall; spectacular orange, yellow or red to burgundy fall color	Relatively pest-resistant; not tolerant of high pH; slow to re-establish after transplanting.	Typically occurs in floodplain wetlands; will survive on drier sites with a slower growth rate; common tree associates include black cherry, hickory, oak, and eastern hophornbeam.	Provides cavity and nesting sites for a variety of birds and mammals; young stems are browsed by white-tailed deer and other mammals but lose palatability with age; the fruit is eaten by a variety of birds and mammals.
eastern cottonwood <i>Populus deltoides</i>	FAC	Large tree reaching 80-100 feet tall and 40-60 feet wide with an open spreading crown; attractive furrowed bark.	Male and female on drooping catkins that appear before the leaves; fruit is a capsule that releases tiny cottony seeds; yellow fall color.	Prefers wet soils in full sun; transplants easily; salt and drought tolerant; pH adaptable; good shade tree.	Overstory tree in moist areas along streams and rivers, or elsewhere where water table is near surface, especially in the vicinity of tributary confluences with gravel bars; other trees that occur with Eastern cottonwood include black willow, boxelder, tulip poplar, green ash, red maple.	Twigs and foliage: eaten by deer, beaver, and other mammals; Buds and catkins: eaten by birds; Insects attracted by fragrant buds provide additional forage for wildlife; large size offers abundant sheltering, resting, nesting and foraging habitat for numerous wildlife species

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striped maple <i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>	FACU	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.	Yellow-green flowers in hanging clusters appear in late spring; fruit consist of paired samaras, 3/4 to 1 inch long, in hanging clusters that mature in late summer and early fall; showy bright yellow fall color.	Does not do well in full sun; requires cool, moist, slightly acidic soil; intolerant of pollution, drought, and prolonged heat.	Grows best on shaded, cool northern slopes of upland valleys or as an understory tree in mixed hardwoods; associated species include beech, yellow birch, sugar maple, and red maple.	Leaves and buds serve as an important and nutritious wildlife food.
hackberry <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	FACU	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.	Very small flowers on stalks at leaf axils appear in spring with the leaves; fruit is a round drupe that turns orange-red to dark purple as it ripen in fall; yellow fall color is not particularly showy.	Prefers rich soil but is very soil adaptable; tolerant of most conditions including wind; does best in full sun, good choice for urban settings; good tree for poor conditions; fast growth rate.	Frequent in moist woods, often in and along floodplains of streams; seldom found in pure stands; loosely associated with green ash, sugar maple, basswood, beech, and sweetgum.	Fruit is highly valued by all types of wildlife and are of particular interest because they can persist all winter; deer browse the leaves and twigs.
yellow-poplar <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	FACU	Large tree with a long, straight trunk reaching over 100 feet tall; crown is pyramidal when young, and becomes oval with time.	Large showy flowers appear in late spring to early summer and look like a large tulip with yellowish petals and an orange corolla; fruit is a cone-like bunch of samaras maturing and disseminating through late fall and winter; leaves exhibit showy golden yellow to clear yellow fall color.	Prefers full sun to partial sun in deep, rich, moist soil with ample moisture; very quick establishment and growth; propagated by seeds or rooted cuttings; does not do well in very dry, hot sites; excellent shade tree that needs ample space due to very large size; not susceptible to gypsy moth	Occurs in a wide range of conditions throughout the eastern United States; loosely associated species include red maple, yellow birch, boxelder, sugar maple, basswood, cucumbertree, and black cherry.	Major honey plant; browsed by deer and other mammals; birds consume the seeds and nectar from the flowers; one of the tallest trees in the eastern United States and is valued for its lumber.
sugar maple <i>Acer saccharum</i>	FACU-	Large tree reaching over 100 feet tall, trunk usually branching; long slender branches sweep downward and then curve gracefully upwards.	Greenish to reddish flowers appear in dense clusters in early spring long before leaves; fruit is the largest samara of any native maple and matures in late spring; leaves are brilliant orange in fall.	Shade tolerant, but full sun will allow best development; prefers well-drained, moist fertile soils; does not perform well when root zone is restricted; not tolerant of high heat, pollution, road salt; excellent large shade tree.	Occurs in rich mesic, deciduous forests deep, fertile, moderately to well-drained soils; a ssoiated trees include ash, yellow poplar, basswood, red oak hophornbeam, elm, birch, black cherry, and red maple.	Wildlife use includes shelter and nesting, and good food source; sap is the principle source of maple syrup.
hophornbeam <i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	FACU-	Small tree up to 40 feet tall that develops a round crown of fine branches.	Flowers arranged on slender catkins appearing in spring; fruit is distinctive and resembles hops, maturing in late summer and persisting through winter; foliage turning yellowish-brown in fall.	Prefers full sun to partial shade in slightly acid soil that is moist, cool and fertile; tolerates dry gravelly soils in partial shade once established; can be difficult to transplant and slow to establish, but easily transplanted from containers; somewhat pollution sensitive	Grows in a wide variety of sites and conditions; greatest abundance is in hardwood communities; associated species include sugar maple, American beech, eastern hemlock, northern red oak and numerous understory species.	Buds and catkins of eastern hophornbeam are important winter food for birds including ruffed grouse; produces an extremely hard wood.

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bigtooth aspen <i>Populus grandidentata</i>	FACU-	Medium sized tree reaching up to 70 feet tall and 20-40 feet wide; pyramidal when young but developing an open, irregular crown; trunk generally divides and may be clump forming	Tiny flowers are arranged on long fuzzy catkins that appear before the leaves in early spring; fruit is a capsule that disperses tiny cottony seeds in late spring to early summer; yellow leaves in fall.	Prefers wet soils in full sun; intolerant of shade; transplants easily; fast growth rate; good urban tree; produces suckers that can be aggressive colonizers; relatively short-lived.	An upland tree of dry sunny slopes in both hardwood and conifer forests; often colonizes disturbed sites; associated tree species include quaking aspen, red maple, striped maple, birch, black cherry, basswood, sassafras, and red oak.	Aspen leaves and staminate flower buds provide ruffed grouse with their most important yearlong food resource. Aspen suckers are a favored winter food of moose and are heavily browsed by white-tailed deer. The bark, leaves, twigs, and branches of aspen are preferred by beaver
sssafras <i>Sassafras albidum</i>	FACU-	Small to medium sized tree up to 60 feet tall with a flat-topped crown; attractively furrowed bark.	Small and bright yellowish-green, appearing in early to mid-spring; fruit is a fleshy drupe borne in a red cup and held upright, maturing late summer; excellent fall color ranges from red to orange and yellow.	Some difficulty to establish due to sparse root system; prefers a light, acidic sandy soil and full sun; good shade tree for naturalistic areas; root suckering may result in thickets.	Sassafras occurs in well-drained sandy loams in open woodlands, at the edges of old fields, and in the understory of open stands of aspen. Common tree associates include sweetgum, elm, hickory, beech, hophornbeam, and pawpaw	Leaves, twigs, and bark are eaten by deer and other mammals; sassafras fruits are eaten by birds and other wildlife; spicy-sweet aroma; wood is soft, lightweight, and durable; bark of the roots has been used for making tea and scented oil.
cucumber tree <i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	NL	Medium sized tree reaching 50-80 feet tall and equal in width; pyramidal when young but becoming more open with age; wide-spreading branches	Flowers are large and greenish-yellow appearing in late spring or early summer; fruit consists of an cylindrical aggregate that is green (cucumber-like) but becoming red to dark brown as it matures in fall; yellowish bronze fall color	Does well in full sun to partial shade; prefers fertile, moist soil but tolerant of a wide range of soil types; somewhat difficult to transplant; best from container grown or balled and burlapped stock; fast growth rate; good shade tree; hardiest of the native tree-size magnolias.	Widely distributed but never abundant on cool moist sites mostly in the mountains; common associates include yellow-poplar, basswood, birch, beech, black cherry, sugar maple, northern red oak, black oak, and white oak.	Seeds are eaten by birds and mammals; durable, straight-grained wood is similar to yellow-poplar
SHRUBS						
common buttonbush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	OBL	Tall shrub or small tree that is usually from 3-6 feet tall but can grow 10-18 feet tall in warmer climates; rounded spreading shape is loose and open.	Small, white, fragrant, tubular flowers occur in dense, round "button-like" clusters and appear in mid-summer; fruit is a similar round cluster of nutlets maturing from late summer to fall and persisting into winter; fall color is green with red highlights.	Does best in moist areas with full sun to light shade; grown easily as long as moisture is adequate; relatively pest free; good landscape plant for naturalistic areas along the edge of a waterbody; easily forms a shrub border; cuttings root easily and seed establishes easily also.	Common to most swamps, floodplains and other wetlands and riparian areas that are inundated for at least part of the year; frequent associates include beech, red maple, sugar maple, ash, black oak, grape, viburnum, switchgrass and sedges	Many species of waterfowl and other birds eat the seeds, which can persist through winter; butterflies and bees forage on the nectar; also serves as important shelter and rearing habitat for wood ducks and marsh birds.
swamp rose <i>Rosa palustris</i>	OBL	Many-branched shrub growing to 8 feet tall or more with gracefully arching branches; stem bear stout, curved thorns, approximately 1/4 inch long, with a flattened base.	Flowers are solitary, pink, and fragrant, appearing from June-July; fleshy fruits are red; brilliant red fall foliage	Prefers moist, acidic habitats with loamy soil in full sun; very hardy; ornamental; good for low areas where other plants won't live; spreads by suckers and will colonize areas if conditions are good; can be used as hedges or trained to climb walls, fences or trellises.	Occurs in swamps, marshes, and along streams, major rivers and, ponds and lakes. Associated species include viburnums, red osier dogwood, green arrow-arum, sedges, ferns, rice cutgrass, and horsetail.	Birds and other wildlife eat the fruits (rose hips), which are rich in vitamin C.

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silky willow <i>Salix sericea</i>	OBL	Small tree growing to 20 feet tall with an upright, rounded form; reddish brown twigs.	Small greenish flowers appear on catkins before the leaves; fruits are small and inconspicuous. leaves have silky undersides that turn yellow in fall.	Grows in full sun and partial to full shade; prefers moist to wet soils with a clay component; good for streamside and lakeshore stabilization; excellent rooting ability	Often found in moist or rocky ground, often in or near running water; associated species include black willow, buttonbush, green ash, and many herbaceous plants.	Dense thickets provide excellent cover and browse for wildlife; roots stabilize and create overhanging banks providing habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms.
common winterberry <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	FACW+	Deciduous shrub growing 6 to 15 feet tall in an oval to rounded upright form.	Flowers are tiny, and greenish-white, appearing on short stalks in spring; fruit is a round red drupe occurring in clusters of 2 to 4 in fall and persisting through winter; foliage is yellow-green with purple tinges.	Does best in full sun but will perform well in shady moist areas; prefers moist soils and is tolerant of poorly-drained soils; popular landscape plant due to persistent bright red fruit; tends to sucker and can form large clumps; easily transplanted from containers and summer cuttings are easily rooted.	Common along stream banks, river banks, and openings in riparian areas; commonly associated species include red maple, birch, black gum, highbush blueberry, buttonbush, and spicebush.	Bright red berries that persist through winter are a favorite of many bird and mammal species; leaves and stems of winterberry browsed by mammals.
spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	FACW-	A large shrub with several stems, usually rounded in outline up to 15 feet tall.	Numerous yellow tiny but dense clusters appear early in spring before the leaves; deep golden leaves with bright red fruit in fall.	Plant in full sun or partial shade in moist but well-drained soil; successfully grows and reproduces in a wide range of light conditions; can be pruned to form native hedge.	Primarily an understory species, sometimes forming thickets; common habitats are low woods, swamp margins, and streambanks; Associated species include viburnums, swamp rose, red osier dogwood, green arrow-arum, sedges, ferns, rice cutgrass, and horsetail.	Birds and mammals browse the leaves and eat the fruits. Host plant for spicebush swallowtail butterfly and provides nectar for spring azure; one of the earliest plants to flower in spring.
common elderberry <i>Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis</i>	FACW-	Deciduous shrub growing 5-12 feet tall; multi-stemmed with arching branches and a broad, rounded crown	Large clusters of dense white flowers in summer, and dark purple fruits with yellowish-green foliage in the fall.	Plant in moist soils in shade, part-shade, or sun; very adaptable in terms of soil type; transplants easily and has a fast rate of growth; very hardy; easily forms a shrub border; tolerates harsh winds and air pollution well.	Grows on moist, well-drained sunny sites; common along stream banks, river banks, and open places in riparian areas, usually occurring in early seral communities or in openings in moist forest habitats; associated species include buttonbush, willow, boxelder, ash, blackberry, and native roses.	All types of wildlife including people enjoy fruits; twigs and fruit are used to make dyes; roots stabilize and create overhanging banks, providing habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms.
American hazelnut <i>Corylus americana</i>	FACU-	Deciduous shrub growing 8 to 15 feet tall	Glowers in February–April before the emergence of leaves and fruits in July–August. Male and female flowers are separate, but both are present on each plant; fruit is a light brown, acorn-like nut 1-2 cm long, wider than long, enclosed in two, leafy bracts; bright red autumn foliage.	Prefers well-drained loamy soil in sun to partial shade; creates a nice border for difficult dry sites; propagated by seeds; transplants well when young; may begin producing seed after the first year and produce good seed crops every 2-3 years.	Occurs in moist to dry woods and thickets, forest margins, roadsides, and fencerows and other disturbed areas; also found close to streambanks and scattered among prairies.	Produces nuts that highly nutritious and are enjoyed by a variety of wildlife including people; leaves, twigs, and catkins are browsed by rabbits, deer, and moose; dense, low growth habit provides cover and nesting sites for many wildlife species.

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downy serviceberry <i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	FAC-	Large deciduous shrub to small tree growing from 15-25 feet tall; multi-stemmed forming a rounded crown.	Showy white flowers appear in early spring and are borne in dense drooping racemes that are 2-4 inches long; bright red fruit is a favorite of birds; fall color is early and ranges from yellow-orange to red.	Prefers moist, well-drained, acidic soil in full sun to partial shade; tolerant of pollution; excellent landscape plant with attractive fragrant flowers; pest resistant	Grows in a variety of habitats from elevated spots in swamps to dry woods, rocky ridges, forest edges, and open woodlands. Associated species include yellow birch, witch hazel, and elderberry.	Fruit is eaten by many songbirds and other wildlife; good nesting sites for birds; host plant for coral hairstreak butterfly; edible fruits used for pies.
witch hazel <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	FAC-	Small tree or shrub with arching branches, usually growing in dense multi-stemmed clumps reaching up to 20 feet tall.	Bright yellow flowers appear in mid to late fall; fruits are woody, brown capsule, each of which contain two shiny black seeds that mature the following year in late summer; fall color is yellow and often occurs with flowering.	Prefers rich, well-drained soil in full sun to partial shade; very hardy; tolerates low temperatures well; fairly pollution tolerant; provides rare late fall bloom and fragrance; somewhat slow growing.	Occurs at the edges of dry or moist woods in rich soil and on the rocky banks of streams; associated species include beech, yellow poplar, sweetgum, red maple, basswood, serviceberry, and hop-hornbeam.	Woody seeds are eaten by ruffed grouse and squirrels in winter, and white-tailed deer eat the young branchlets and leaves; traditional herb used to heal wounds.
Virginia rose <i>Rosa virginiana</i>	FAC	Small, deciduous shrub reaching 4-6 feet high with upright stems and paired thorns.	Fragrant, showy pink flowers. Yellow to red fall color.	Prefers well-drained, acidic soil in full sun; pH adaptable and salt tolerant; easy to transplant and grow; can be used to form a hedge; succeeds in moist and clay-rich soils; outstanding ornamental shrub that is easy to grow.	Virginia rose grows along the edges of salt marshes, roadsides and in pastures, sometimes forming dense thickets. Associated with shrubby cinquefoil, a variety of aster species, broomsedge, and numerous other forbs and grasses.	Birds and other wildlife eat the fruits (rose hips), fruit is a good source of essential fatty acids, and vitamins C and E; used medicinally; butterfly nectar source.
alternate-leaf dogwood <i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	NL	Large shrub reaching rarely up to 30 feet tall	Small white flowers forming 2-4 inch clusters appear in late spring; fruits consist of bluish-black drupes that turn reddish upon ripening in late summer; foliage is red to purple in fall.	Very hardy and pest-resistant species; adaptable to a wide variety of conditions; plant in full sun to shade; prefers a moist, well-drained soil; tolerates slightly alkaline soil.	Often found in thickets near streams, and other rich shady woods.	Flowers attract a variety of pollinators including butterflies.
gray dogwood <i>Cornus racemosa</i>	NL	Deciduous shrub growing 10' to 15' tall with a similar irregular width; multi-stemmed habit forming dense clones by suckering	Small white flowers in 2-inch wide clusters appearing in June; clusters of white fruit on bright red pedicels that persist into winter; fall foliage is a rich, reddish purple in full sun.	Tolerates a variety of harsh sites including those with prolonged inundation and drought, oldfields and roadsides; easily transplanted; very adaptable; good soil stabilizer, can be used as a border or hedge with pruning.	Occurs on moist ground on slopes and thickets, roadsides, and cultivated areas.	Fruits are eaten by birds and other wildlife; provides food and shelter for wildlife.
purpleflowering raspberry <i>Rubus odoratus</i>	NL	Deciduous shrub growing 6-8 feet tall and 3-6 feet wide; no thorns, but does have dense bristly hairs.	Bright pinkish-purple flowers; large fuzzy maple-shaped leaves; blooms in mid-summer and produces fruit from summer to early fall; fruit is a large fuzzy raspberry.	Easily transplanted and quick to establish; does well in partial to full shade; soil should be consistently moist, but not wet; prefers acid soil.	Grows at the edges of moist, shady woodlands.	Wildlife love the fruits and the species will attract songbirds to the garden.

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staghorn Sumac <i>Rhus typhina</i>	NL	Large open shrub that grows 15-25 feet tall and forms dense colonies through sucker production.	Producing tiny flowers borne in large panicles appearing in June and forming a bright red cone-shaped panicle of seeds that mature in August but persist through winter; very showy yellow, orange to red fall color.	Easily transplanted; fast-growing; adaptable to many soil types; excellent stabilizer for highly disturbed sites; tolerates full sun to partial shade; not shade-tolerant; produces numerous suckers; undervalued landscape plant; can be an aggressive spreader and may need to be managed accordingly.	Commonly occurs in cultivated areas, roadsides, and disturbed sites; associate with serviceberry and hazelnut, grasses and forbs that do well in disturbed habitats including goldenrod and poverty oatgrass.	Important source of food for the birds in late winter to early spring as the fruits are persistent; fruits are also used to make a medicinal tea.
VINES						
groundnut <i>Apios americana</i>	FACW	Perennial deciduous vine that grows from slender rhizomes with tuberous "potato-like" thickenings; stems twining or climbing over other plants.	Showy reddish-purplish flowers appear in rounded clusters from July to October; fruits are produced in fleshy pods.	Easy to grow and good in wet areas; can be propagated from tubers in early spring; nitrogen-fixing.	Grows in wet meadows, low thickets, banks of streams and ponds, and moist soil in woodlands, most often found where it can get full sunlight at least part of the day.	Produces numerous white-fleshed tubers along its rhizomes that are high in carbohydrates and protein and serve as valuable food for wildlife; larval host for the silver-spotted skipper.
wild grape <i>Vitis riparia</i>	FACW	Native climbing or trailing vine that is long-lived and capable of reaching into the upper canopy of the tallest trees; mature vines have loose, fissured bark, and may attain several inches in diameter.	Flowers are small, fragrant, and white or greenish colored and are held in a loose panicle in May or June; fruit is a small, edible, blue-black berry.	Prefers well-drained soil in semi-shade or full sun; can tolerate a variety of soil types; extremely cold tolerant but young growth can be damaged by late frosts; plants climb by use of tendrils forming a complex mid-story habitat.	Occurs along riverbanks, and in bottomlands, rich thickets and woodland margins.	Berries: eaten by a wide variety of wildlife; vines and leaves are browsed by mammals and used by birds for nesting material; flowers provide nectar and pollen for bees; fruit is used to make flavorful jellies, jams, and wine.
virgin's bower <i>Clematis virginiana</i>	FAC	Twining vine that grows 10 to 20 feet covered with clusters (bowers) of fragrant white flowers.	Showy white, scented flowers appear from July to September; showy feathery seed pods.	Prefers full sun to partial shade in well-drained soils; fast-growing; can quickly cover a fence or trellis.	Occurs along the edges of mixed woods, thickets, and streambanks, often climbing along shrubs and trees in riparian bottomlands.	Serves as a larval host plant for butterflies
limber honeysuckle <i>Lonicera dioica</i> var. <i>glaucescens</i>	FACU	Native perennial shrub-like vine; stems are generally to 10 feet long.	Flowers are red and are located in a terminal spike above perfoliate leaves at twig tips; fruits are orange-red berries.	Tolerates dry to moist soils in sun to partial shade; difficult to obtain;	Inhabits rocky banks, dry woods and thickets, and hardwood to mixed forests	Attracts hummingbirds, which feed on nectar.
Virginia creeper <i>Parthenocissus</i> <i>quinquefolia</i>	FACU	Climbing vine that may provide ground cover grow upward to fifty feet; stems grow to several inches in diameter.	Flowers are small and green and arranged in clusters appearing in summer; fruit is a blue-black berry in clusters that mature in late summer; fall foliage is brilliant red to burgundy.	Prefers moist, well-drained soils but will grow in drier soils and conditions; fairly shade tolerant; also salt tolerant; can be used as a shading vine for buildings, fences and walls.	Found along the edges of openings in forests and along streambanks.	Provides cover for many small birds and mammals; songbirds, deer, and small mammals eat the fruit.

**PERENNIAL
FORBS/SUB-SHRUBS**

Common name Latin name	WIS*	Size and shape	Seasonality; flowers, fruits, berries, other	Landscape considerations	Plant community relationships	Other values
swamp milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	OBL	Erect, clump-forming perennial that typically grows 3-4' tall.	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.	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.	Occurs in swamps, river bottomlands and wet meadows.	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.
marsh marigold <i>Caltha palustris</i>	OBL	Clumped perennial growing to about 15 inches in diameter and up to 2 feet tall.	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.	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.	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.	Nectar and pollen of the flowers attract pollinators including honeybees.
blue flag iris <i>Iris versicolor</i>	OBL	Hardy lakeshore perennial herb of shallow water growing 2-3 feet tall.	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.	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.	Occurs in swamps, along the edges of ponds and shallow waters, sedge meadows, marshes, and along streambanks and shores, and in forested wetlands.	Provides wetland cover for aquatic and semi-aquatic wildlife.
pickerel weed <i>Pontederia cordata</i>	OBL	Shallow fresh water emergent plant reaching 1-4 feet tall; glossy upright deep green leaves are long and heart shaped at base.	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.	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.	Occurs along the shallow edges of wetlands, ponds and lakes; often occurs with burreed, spikerush, bulrush, and cattail.	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.
American burreed <i>Spartanium americanum</i>	OBL	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.	Inflorescence consists of spherical heads of flowers is spring that becoming brown and bur-like later as the fruits (achenes) mature.	Grows best on wet ground in rich soil in full sun but can tolerate some shade; can be grown by seeds or by division.	Mostly found in muddy or shallow water of swamps and pond and lake edges; often occurs with burreed, spikerush, bulrush, and cattail.	Fruits are nutritious and attract a variety of wildlife.

Common name Latin name	WIS*	Size and shape	Seasonality; flowers, fruits, berries, other	Landscape considerations	Plant community relationships	Other values
boneset <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	FACW+	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.	Large creamy white flower clusters at the top of the stems appear from July to September.	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.	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.	Attracts a wide variety of pollinators; somewhat browse resistant; valued as a multipurpose medicinal plant.
cardinal flower <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	FACW+	This herbaceous perennial grows 1-2.5 feet tall with unbranched stems; alternate oblong to lance-shaped leaves.	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.	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.	Occurs in marshes, and along streambanks, wetland boundaries, and lakeshores; often associated with blue flag iris and a wide variety of sedges and ferns.	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.
spotted joe pye weed <i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	FACW	Clumping perennial herb with a whorled leaf arrangement reaches 4-6 feet high and about 3 feet wide; very showy tall border plant.	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	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.	Occurs in damp thickets, meadows, and shorelines; associated species include boneset, orange jewelweed, and numerous grasses and sedges.	Attracts butterflies, bumblebees, and many other insects; provides cover for small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles; seeds are eaten by birds; somewhat browse resistant.
blue-eyed grass <i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	FACW-	Clumped perennial iris with straplike leaves 4-20 inches high.	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.	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.	Occurs along the edges of wetland meadows, ponds, springs, and lakeshores.	Provides a minor source of food and cover for birds and small mammals.
columbine <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	FAC	Erect, branching perennial, up to 2 ft. tall with showy flowers; delicate, attractive compound leaves with a fern-like quality.	Produces a showy, nodding, red and yellow flower with spurred petals and numerous yellow stamens; fruit is a beaked follicle containing numerous small seeds.	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.	Occurs on rocky ledges and slopes, and along woodland edges.	Contain nectar that attracts long-tongued insects and hummingbirds; larval host for the Columbine Duskywing.
joe-pye weed <i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	FAC	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.	Produces fragrant clusters of purplish-pinkish flowers in wide clusters from mid-summer to early fall; attractive seed head persists into winter	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.	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.	Attracts a wide variety of insect pollinators and birds; good late season cover for birds and small mammals.

Common name Latin name	WIS*	Size and shape	Seasonality; flowers, fruits, berries, other	Landscape considerations	Plant community relationships	Other values
beardstongue <i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	FAC	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.	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.	Prefers well-drained soils in full sun; drought tolerant; grows poorly in heavy clay soils; transplants easily and easily propagated by seed or cuttings.	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.	Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies; somewhat deer resistant;
early meadowrue <i>Thalictrum dioicum</i>	FAC	Feathery perennial that reaches up to 3 feet tall ; leaves are delicately scalloped giving the plant a fern-like appearance.	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.	Prefers moist, well drained soils in partial shade; shade tolerant; propagation by seed and by division of offshoots; usually requires two years to bloom.	Occurs on rich north-facing slopes and ledges; associated with woodlands containing aspen and oaks.	Produces nectar and pollen for insect pollinators; popular for its grey green, fernlike foliage.
downy yellow violet <i>Viola pubescens</i>	FACU	Robust perennial; small rosette of basal leaves with leafy stems covered in downy hairs; growing 6-16 inches tall.	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.	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.	Occurs in dry mixed and deciduous woodland areas; associated species include other violet species, toothwort, spring beauty and other woodland spcies.	Provides minimal cover for small mammals and birds; attracts butterflies.
Canada goldenrod <i>Solidago canadensis</i>	FACU	Hardy perennial reaching 2 to 5 feet tall with leafy stems and numerous small branches.	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.	Very flexible in terms of the soil and moisture conditions tolerated; grows in semi-shade to full sun. Seeds ripen from September to October.	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.	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 (<i>Ambrosia</i> spp.), many of which bloom at the same time.

Common name Latin name	WIS*	Size and shape	Seasonality; flowers, fruits, berries, other	Landscape considerations	Plant community relationships	Other values
broad-leaved goldenrod <i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	FACU	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.	Small golden flowers appear in July through October in loose clusters in the axils of toothed leaves.	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.	Often found in rich woods, especially along streams.	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 (<i>Ambrosia</i> spp.), many of which bloom at the same time.
wild bergamot <i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	UPL	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.	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	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.	Occurs in upland woods, thickets, prairies and roadsides; associated species include blazing star and little bluestem.	Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds use the plant for nectar; many medicinal uses; good dried flower.
white wood aster <i>Aster divaricatus</i>	NL	Loose somewhat sprawling perennial reaching approximately 3 feet tall; distinctive heart-shaped leaves.	Numerous small, white “daisy-like” flowers are produced prolifically in dense clusters throughout late summer to fall; seeds are numerous and wind dispersed.	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.	Occurs in dry open woods, fallow fields and along roadsides. Associated species include a wide variety of grasses, sedges, and forbs.	Attractive to butterflies; songbirds feed on the seeds and also collect the fluffy seed for nesting materials; provides cover for small mammals..
butterfly milkweed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	NL	Clumped perennial with multiple stems reaching 2 to 3 feet tall.	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.	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.	Occurs along dry to mesic roadsides and forest edges, successional fields, meadows, and dry streambanks. Does particularly well over calcareous rock.	Attractive to many insect species milkweed bugs, butterflies, and bees.

ANNUALS

Common name Latin name	WIS*	Size and shape	Seasonality; flowers, fruits, berries, other	Landscape considerations	Plant community relationships	Other values
blunt spikerush <i>Eleocharis obtusa</i>	OBL	Annual to short-lived perennial that produces dense tufts of smooth, upright, unbranched stems up to two feet in height.	Flowers are crowded into dense oval cluster at the top of stems and appear from June through August; seedheads are brown, scaly and conical.	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.	Occurs in wetlands, marshes, and along ponds and lakes; associated species include bulrush, sedges, soft rush and blue flag.	Seeds are a valuable and nutritious food source for ducks and other wildlife.
orange touch-me-not <i>Impatiens capensis</i>	FACW	Prolific annual forb growing two to five feet tall with large hollow stems and lush green foliage.	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.	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.	Occurs in wetlands, floodplains, and along the edges of streams, ponds and lakes. Associated species include royal fern.	Attracts and provides nectar for hummingbirds and other pollinators; serves as a natural remedy for poison ivy rash
FERNS						
royal fern <i>Osmunda regalis</i>	OBL	Deciduous, perennial fern that is one of the largest and most impressive of our native ferns; grows up to five feet tall.	Sterile fronds are upright, long, broad, and bipinnate; fertile fronds are erect and shorter.	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.	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.	Provides minimal cover and browse for wildlife.
sensitive fern <i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	FACW	Deciduous, perennial, coarse-textured fern, with broader leaves and pinnae (leaflets) than most other ferns; growing 1 to 2 feet tall.	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.	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.	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.	Believed to be poisonous to livestock grazing low; provides minimal cover and browse for wildlife.
GRASSES AND SEDGES						

Common name Latin name	WIS*	Size and shape	Seasonality; flowers, fruits, berries, other	Landscape considerations	Plant community relationships	Other values
long-hair sedge <i>Carex comosa</i>	OBL	Clumped perennial sedge with bright green folded leaves coming off triangular stems reaching to 4.5 feet tall.	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.	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.	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 Carex species, bulrush, cattail, pickerel weed, and burreed.	Seed are a nutritious food source for waterfowl and other wildlife; provides cover for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians and nesting materials for birds.
greater bladder sedge <i>Carex intumescens</i>	FACW+	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.	Female inflorescences appear beginning in late May in a cluster; developing into bladderlike, inflated seedpods that persist through September.	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.	Occurs in moist to wet in coniferous and deciduous woodlands, forest openings, thickets, wet meadows, and ditches; associated species include a wild variety of grasses and other sedges.	Seeds are a nutritious food source for waterfowl and other wildlife; provides cover for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians and nesting materials for birds.
riverbank wildrye <i>Elymus riparius</i>	FACW	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.	Flowers and seeds are produced on an attractive nodding spike from May through September.	Prefers partial sun to light shade, moist to slightly dry conditions, and fertile loamy soil; good soil stabilizer for shady wetland areas and streambanks; easily established by seed.	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.	Provides food and cover for wildlife, and nesting materials for birds.
white-edge sedge <i>Carex debilis</i>	FAC	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.	Flowers and fruits are borne on drooping narrow spikes that appear in spring.	Prefers partial shade and rich, moist soil with high organic content; transplants and establishes well; easily propagated by seed or division.	Occurs in rich open woods, thickets and meadows, and rich bottomland and floodplain forests; associated species include other sedge species, jack-in-the-pulpit, and sensitive fern..	Seeds are a nutritious food source for waterfowl and other wildlife; provides cover for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians and nesting materials for birds.
switchgrass <i>Panicum virgatum</i>	FAC	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.	Airy inflorescences consist of open spreading panicles that are reddish in the spring and purplish in the fall.	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..	Occurs in moist thickets, and prairies and roadsides; associated species include little bluestem, aster and goldenrod.	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.

Common name Latin name	WIS*	Size and shape	Seasonality; flowers, fruits, berries, other	Landscape considerations	Plant community relationships	Other values
red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i> ssp <i>.rubra</i>	FACU	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.	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	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.	Common in early successional habitats; may colonize disturbed areas naturally.	Provides food and cover for wildlife, and nesting materials for birds; valuable forage grass.
little bluestem <i>Schizachyrium</i> <i>scoparium</i>	FACU-	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.	Flowers appear on terminal spikes and produce feathery seed heads that are ornamental through winter.	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.	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 <i>Allium</i> species, asters and goldenrods.	Provides food, nesting habitat, and cover for many bird species; deer resistant.
purpletop <i>Tridens flavus</i>	FACU	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.	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.	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.	Occurs in openings in woodlands, savannas, meadows, powerline corridors, and oldfields; thrives in disturbed open woodlands areas.	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.
Indiangrass <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	UPL	Perennial, warm-season grass that grows in clumps from 3 to 5 feet tall.	Seed head is a single, narrow, plume-like panicle of a golden brown color; seeds are light and fluffy with small awns attached.	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.	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.	Attracts wildlife and pollinators including honeybees; provides excellent nesting sites and cover for pheasants, quail, doves and other songbirds.

Common name Latin name	WIS*	Size and shape	Seasonality; flowers, fruits, berries, other	Landscape considerations	Plant community relationships	Other values
sand dropseed <i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	UPL	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.	Flowers and seedhead arranged on an open panicle	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.	Occurs on lake shore in dunes and on droughty and disturbed and previously cultivated lands; associates include little bluestem silky willow, and buffalograss.	Small mammals and birds utilize sand dropseed for forage and shelter.
Pennsylvania sedge <i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	NL	Low-growing, densely-tufted, perennial sedge; foliage is 4 to 18 inches.	Flowering takes place between mid-April to mid-May; produces a narrow spike of reddish brown flowers followed by fruits.	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.	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	Provides excellent cover and nesting materials for all types of birds and forage for small mammals.
plantain-leaf sedge <i>Carex plantaginea</i>	NL	Tufted evergreen sedge characterized by shiny strap-like, puckered green leaves up to 1 inch wide and 15 inches long.	Flowers appear on thin, black-tipped stems in late spring; fruits follow and are quickly dispersed.	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.	Occurs in rich hardwood forests; associated species include trillium, trout lily, blue cohosh, and other sedge species.	Provides minimal food and cover for small mammals and birds; deer resistant.
Curly oat grass <i>Danthonia spicata</i>	NL	Perennial bunchgrass 1-2 feet tall with attractive curly basal leaves that straighten in damp weather.	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.	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.	Occurs under pines and in drier oak/mixed woodlands; secondary successor of burned and/or cut sites, old fields, and old pastureland.	Leaves provide browse for mammals; birds and mammals eat the seeds. provides some cover for small mammals and birds.