



## Companion Planting with Native Species

With all landscape designs, it is important to put the right plant in the right place. This refers to soil moisture (dry vs wet), sun exposure (full sun vs shade), and soil composition (sandy vs clay). Below are lists of my favorite well-behaved native plants that can be used in small scale landscape designs that provide ecological benefits for wildlife. They have been broken into categories that describe the environment that they prefer. However native plants are adapted to our environment, and some can tolerate a wider variety of environments.

### Dry & Sunny Conditions in Sand or Loam

- Trees
  - Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
  - Basswood (*Tilia americana*)
- Shrubs
  - St. John's Wort (*Hypericum kalmianum*)
  - New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)
- Perennials
  - Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*)
  - Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)
  - Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)
  - Sand Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)
  - Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
  - Purple Prairie Clover (*Dalea purpurea*)
  - Hoary Vervain (*Verbena stricta*)
  - Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*)
  - Nodding Onion (*Allium cernuum*)
  - Rough Blazingstar (*Liatris aspera*)
  - Prairie Dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*)
  - Sky Blue Aster (*Aster azureus*)
  - Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)
  - Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
  - Bicknell's Sedge (*Carex bicknellii*)
  - Side Oats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)

### Additional Resources

- Native Plant Finder  
<https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/about>
- Plants for Birds  
<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>
- Native Plants for Bees and Wasps  
<https://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com/>
- Homegrown National Park  
<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/resources>

### Wet & Sunny Conditions in Loam or Clay

- Trees
  - Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
  - Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)
- Shrubs
  - Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
  - Red Oiser Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
  - Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*)
- Perennials
  - Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*)
  - Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*)
  - Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*)
  - Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
  - Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*)
  - Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*)
  - Bottle Gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*)
  - Prairie Blazingstar (*Liatris pycnostachya*)
  - Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)
  - Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
  - Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)
  - Brown Fox Sedge (*Carex vulpinoidea*)
  - Porcupine Sedge (*Carex hystericina*)

### Sun Green Mulch Species

- Wild Petunia (*Ruellia humilis*)
- Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)
- Pussy Toes (*Antennaria neglecta*)
- Canada Anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)

### Partial Shade to Shade

- Trees
  - Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*)
  - Musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
- Shrubs
  - Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)
  - Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)
- Perennials
  - Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*)
  - Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon meadia*)
  - Blue Cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*)
  - Red Baneberry (*Actea rubra*)
  - Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)
  - Sweet Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*)
  - Tick Trefoil (*Desmodium canadense*)
  - Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
  - Big Leaf Aster (*Eurybia macrophylla*)
  - Zigzag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*)
  - ElmLeaved Goldenrod (*Solidago ulmifolia*)
  - Bottlebrush Grass (*Elymus hystrix*)
  - Long Beaked Sedge (*Carex sprengeii*)
  - Plains Oval Sedge (*Carex brevior*)

### Shade Green Mulch Species

- Starry Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum stellatum*)
- Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*)
- Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex Pennsylvanica*)
- Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)