TOP TEN
NATIVE SHORELINE PLANTS
FOR BURNETT COUNTY, WI

For Clean Water & Lakeshore Habitat
Interested in beautifying your property and helping your lake?

**GROW NATIVE PLANTS!**

**WHY PLANT NATIVE PLANTS?**
Because native plants are suited to the local climate and soils, and local wildlife – from birds to butterflies – depend upon native plants for their survival. This short list of native plants will help make your planting project a success.

**PLANTING TIPS**

**SOIL:** The sandy soils of Burnett County make plant establishment a challenge. The selected top ten plants are suited for the county’s harsh conditions. Choose plants that are suited to your site, follow the county’s soil condition recommendations.

**PLANTING:** Planting early (mid-May to mid-June) and late (mid-August to mid-September) in the growing season adds to planting success. Follow the soil, moisture and light recommendations to choose the best planting location.

**WATERING:** The most important advice for plant survival is WATER, WATER, WATER for the first year or two!
**SWAMP MILKWEED**  
*Asclepias incarnata*

**BLOOM**  June – August, pink flowers  
**HEIGHT**  3 – 4 ft.  
**LOCATION**  Plant along lake edge  
**BEST FEATURE**  Swamp milkweed attracts monarch butterflies and provides food for their caterpillars. Wood thrushes and many birds use the fibers from old stems to build nests. Interesting pods for fall arrangements.

**SOIL**  Wet to moist  
**LIGHT**  Sun to part shade  
**ROOTS**  4 ft. deep

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**BLUE VERVAIN**  
*Verbena hastata*

**BLOOM**  June – September, blue flowers  
**HEIGHT**  2 – 6 ft.  
**LOCATION**  Plant along lake edge.  
**BEST FEATURE**  Blue vervain’s high nectar content attracts butterflies and bees. Sandpipers, cardinals and juncos eat the seeds. Best of all, it blooms all summer!

**SOIL**  Wet to moist  
**LIGHT**  Sun to part shade
**CHOKECHERRY**
*Rhus virginiana*

**BLOOM** May – June, white flowers  
**HEIGHT** up to 20 ft.  
**LOCATION** Plant near the lake edge and in upland areas  
**BEST FEATURE** Incredible aroma of spring flowers. Ruffed grouse and many other birds and mammals love the bright red summer fruit. Often, a dozen or more birds can be seen feeding on the ripe cherries in a single shrub.

**SOIL** Moist to dry  
**LIGHT** Full sun to part shade  
**ROOTS** 24 ft. deep

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**BIG BLUESTEM**
*Andropogon gerardii*

**HEIGHT** 3 – 8 ft. (shorter with less moisture)  
**LOCATION** Plant along lake edge or upland  
**BEST FEATURE** Super stabilizer for shorelines – roots are as deep as plants are tall. Provides great cover for sparrows and juncos. Leopard frogs forage for insects in stands of big bluestem up to a mile away from water.

**SOIL** Moist to dry  
**LIGHT** Full sun  
**ROOTS** 9 ft. deep
BERGAMOT
*Monarda fistulosa*
**Bloom** July – August, lavender flowers
**Height** 3 – 4 ft.
**Location** Plant along lake edge
Also grows in dry upland areas.
**Best Feature** Bergamot spreads to fill large areas. Aromatic leaves make a great mint tea. A rich nectar source for monarch butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Birds feed on the seeds in fall and winter.

**Soil** Moist to dry
**Light** Sun to part shade
**Roots** 4 ft. deep

BLACK EYED SUSAN
*Rudbeckia hirta*
**Bloom** June – October, gold flowers
**Height** 1 – 3 ft.
**Location** Plant along lake edge or in open areas
Will tolerate a range of moisture conditions.
**Best Feature** Blooms shortly after planting. Will spread from seed. Provides protection and food for songbirds, and nectar for bees, butterflies and other insects. Seed heads are an attractive silhouette in the winter garden.

**Soil** Dry to medium
**Light** Sun to part shade
**Roots** 6 ft. deep
**SNOWBERRY**  
*Symphoricarpos albus*  
**BLOOM**  June – August, pink flowers, white berries  
**HEIGHT**  2 – 4 ft.  
**LOCATION**  Plant in open areas or along the edge of woods  
**BEST FEATURE**  Not favored by deer. Pink flowers and white berries persist through summer. Soft, leafy foliage.

**SOIL**  Dry to medium  
**LIGHT**  Full sun to part shade  
**ROOTS**  18 ft. deep

**BIG LEAF ASTER**  
*Aster macrophyllus*  
**BLOOM**  August – October, lavender flowers  
**HEIGHT**  1 – 2 ft.  
**LOCATION**  Shady edges and woodlands  
**BEST FEATURE**  Foilage provides rich green ground cover and shelter for ground nesting birds like the wood thrush. Late summer lavender flowers harmonize with fall colors.

**SOIL**  Dry to medium  
**LIGHT**  Full shade to part shade  
**ROOTS**  10 ft. deep
**PENNSYLVANIA SEDGE**  
*Carex pennsylvanica*

**HEIGHT**  
6 – 8 in.

**LOCATION**  
Woodlands, pathways

**BEST FEATURE**  
Provides a soft, low understory to stabilize sandy soils. A perfect no-mow alternative to turf grass. Will tolerate a range of conditions. Beautiful form.

**SOIL**  
Dry to medium

**LIGHT**  
Part sun to full shade

**ROOTS**  
1 – 2 ft. deep

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**COLUMBINE**  
*Aquilegia canadensis*

**BLOOM**  
May – June, coral/yellow flowers

**HEIGHT**  
2 – 3 ft.

**LOCATION**  
Woodlands, pathway borders

**BEST FEATURE**  
Hummingbirds visit this delicate woodland flower in early summer.

**SOIL**  
Dry to medium

**LIGHT**  
Full shade to part shade

**ROOTS**  
1 – 2 ft. deep
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FOR MORE INFORMATION


To get free, expert landscaping advice about using these and other native plants for clean water and healthy shorelines, visit www.burnettcounty.com/shoreline or call 715.349.2186 to arrange a visit.


PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SWAMP MILKWEED PODS, CHOKECHERRY IN BLOOM, MONARCH BUTTERFLY WITH BLACK EYED SUSAN, BIG LEAF ASTER LEAVES.