

# Cedar Lake Healthy Lakes Native Plantings

The Healthy Lakes Native Planting Program provides Cedar Lake property owners support to establish small zones of native plants on their waterfront. Native plants stabilize shorelines, provide a home for birds and butterflies, and add natural beauty to your waterfront property!

Up to 75% of the cost of the planting (not to exceed \$1,000 for each 350ft<sup>2</sup> area) is provided after the planting is completed. **A contract agreeing to keep plants in place for at least 10 years is required for reimbursement. This contract must be signed before expenses are incurred.** For landscaper-installed projects, a budget threshold of \$1,334 is available for 75% reimbursement. For do-it-yourself project, a log of volunteer time is required. Volunteer time is credited toward 25% project match at \$15/hour. With 23 hours of volunteer time for preparing the site and planting, a budget of \$1,000 for plants and supplies is available.

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## Complete Your Native Planting in 5 Easy Steps.

### 1. Schedule a site visit and complete contract.

You may email [doreenlallier@gmail.com](mailto:doreenlallier@gmail.com) to request a visit. If you have already signed up, we will contact you.

### 2. Consider your site conditions, and choose plants accordingly.

### 3. Prepare your site.

### 4. Hire a landscaper or purchase and install plants – keep receipts to verify purchase.

Plant an area at least 350 square feet. It is possible to plant up to 3 “projects” of at least 350ft<sup>2</sup> each. Plants must begin next to the water, and be at least 10 feet wide at the water’s edge.

### 5. Email to schedule a time to verify plant installation ([doreenlallier@gmail.com](mailto:doreenlallier@gmail.com)).

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## 2. Consider your site conditions, and choose plants accordingly.

Designs are available for three common site conditions on Cedar Lake.

- Wet Meadows: Sunny with moist or wet soil  
*Bright sun encourages blooming flowers with lots of color*  
*Wet conditions fuel tall growth – expect your planting to be at least 3 feet tall!*
- Prairies: Sunny with dry or medium soil  
*Flowers bloom all summer to attract butterflies*  
*Prairie grasses have deep roots to stabilize slopes*
- Woodlands: Shady with medium soil  
*Woodland plants thrive where it is hard to grow grass*  
*Expect subtle flowers and lots of greenery*

You can also choose a design from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources web site:  
<http://healthylakeswi.com/best-practices/>

### 3. Prepare your site.

*Removing lawn grass is critical to native planting success. If you already have some native plants growing, you might consider removing weeds and planting among what is already growing. Designs assume you are removing lawn grasses and starting from scratch.*

#### a. Remove existing lawn grass

**If you use an herbicide:** Wait at least 7 to 10 days after treatment to be certain that vegetation is dead before planting native plants. The treated turf should be brown in color; if it is still green or yellow-green, a repeated application is recommended.

- A glyphosate herbicide like Roundup® is recommended. This herbicide will only affect plants directly sprayed, and will break down into harmless substances rapidly.
- Timing of herbicide application is crucial; do not apply when rain is forecast within the next 24 hours or on a windy day. Read the label for additional instructions.
- When applying herbicide, shield and spray around existing native plants and trees.

**Avoid drift of herbicide into the lake.**

- **Leave the dead grass in place.** It will act as mulch for the new plantings by holding moisture, anchoring soil, reducing weed growth, and contributing organic matter to the soil.

**If you remove sod with a sod cutter:** Mulch immediately to prevent erosion of bare soil.

**If you smother grass with black plastic:** Plan to wait awhile. This method generally works only in full sun where it will really heat up. The plastic needs to remain in place for several weeks to a full growing season to be sure that the grass and weeds are dead.

- #### b. Set up a watering system.
- Watering will be essential to ensure the survival and success of your native planting. The watering system should be in place before you begin any seeding or planting.

### 4. Purchase and install plants.

*Hire a landscaper to install plants and keep the invoice for payment.*

*For do-it-yourself projects, keep receipts to verify the value of purchase and types of native plants. Also keep a log of your time preparing the site and installing plants.*

*No reimbursement is available without invoices and receipts. Plant an area at least 350 square feet. Plants must begin next to the water, and be at least 10 feet wide at the water's edge.*

*Plant lists and quantities are included with each example design. Substitutions may be made from the appropriate Polk or St. Croix County plant list. Polk County native plants lists are available at <http://www.co.polk.wi.us/> on the Land and Water Resources Department pages.*

Late spring (mid-May to mid-June) and late summer (mid-August to mid-September) are the best times to plant.

- #### a. Lay mulch down prior to planting.
- Mulch will conserve moisture and reduce weed growth within the planting area. Wood chips (2 inches deep), straw, or fallen leaves (each 3-4 inches

deep) may be used as mulch. Stabilize areas right next to the water with erosion control fabric if vegetation is removed.

- b. **Be ready to water.** Watering plants is critical to their success. Be ready with hoses and sprinklers before you begin to plant.
- c. **Dig holes for plants.** This will speed up planting. A bulb planter or bulb auger drill bit attached to an electric drill work well. Plant placement is indicated on design sheets. Space seedling plugs 12-14 inches apart and 4-6" pots 18-24 inches apart.
- d. **Amend the soil in the planting hole.** A small amount of organic, phosphorus-free or low-phosphorus soil amendment is recommended. Plant Tone© and Milorganite© are two examples. The second number on the label indicates the percentage of phosphorus. For a 6-0-6 NPK ratio, place a teaspoon in each plant hole. Avoid over-applying, as excess nutrients will encourage weed growth.
- e. **Place live plants in the ground soon after you bring them home.** If you must keep them a few days before planting, keep them in an area with partial sun, such as on the east side of a building or under a deciduous tree. Do not leave them in a dark area for long periods; this will weaken plants. Water once or twice a day to keep packs moist.
- f. **Plant in the cool hours of the day.** Plants will have a greater survival rate if planted on a cool day or during the morning or evening hours. To plant, separate the mulch, dig a hole, sprinkle soil amendment, place the plant plug in the hole, press the soil gently around the plug, and replace the mulch, being careful to keep mulch ½ inch from the stem of plants.
- g. **Water immediately after planting.** Plan to water daily for the first few weeks or until the plants are well established. If plants wilt or droop, a repeated watering during the day may be necessary. Once plants are established, water only if prolonged dry periods occur.
- h. **Consider installing a temporary fence** to prevent damage from deer, rabbits, or other critters. Keep in mind that zoning regulations do not allow permanent fences parallel to the water.

*If you have questions as you complete your project, you are welcome to call or email our native planting volunteer, Doreen L'Allier at 612.426. 8982 ([doreenlallier@gmail.com](mailto:doreenlallier@gmail.com)).*

## 5. Email to schedule a time to verify plant installation.

[doreenlallier@gmail.com](mailto:doreenlallier@gmail.com)

Please have receipts and time logs ready to turn in (and make copies for yourself if you wish to keep them).

Then sit back and enjoy your planting. Be sure to share your project with your friends and neighbors!



## Caring for your plants

Regular watering the first year of planting is the most important step to ensure plant survival (unless, of course, you are planting in a wet spot).

Weeding is another critical step. Take the time to become familiar with common weeds and remove them early and often. A list of regulated invasive plants is available at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/RegulatedSpecies>. Also remove common garden weeds such as dandelions. In the end, your native plants will spread and win the war against the weeds. They will need your help as they grow.

Leave seed heads and tall grass in place for winter interest. Dead vegetative material may be trimmed back in early spring if desired.

## Native Plant Retailers

There are a number of nurseries in the area that specialize in native plant species. The prices and availability of particular species may vary.

### Dragonfly Gardens

Amery, Wisconsin (HWY 46)

715-554-7219

natives@dragonflygardens.net

[www.dragonflygardens.net](http://www.dragonflygardens.net)

### Kinnickinnic Natives

River Falls, WI (HWY 65)

715-222-6910

<https://www.kinninatives.com/>

### Landscape Alternatives

Shafer, Minnesota (HWY 95)

651-257-4460

[www.landscapealternatives.com](http://www.landscapealternatives.com)

### Prairie Restoration

Scandia, Minnesota (HWY 97)

651-433-1437

<https://www.prairieresto.com/>



Additional designs are available at <https://healthylakeswi.com/> under “best practices”

Plant photos on following pages from: <https://wisflora.herbarium.wisc.edu/index.php>



## Prairies: Sunny with Dry or Medium Soil

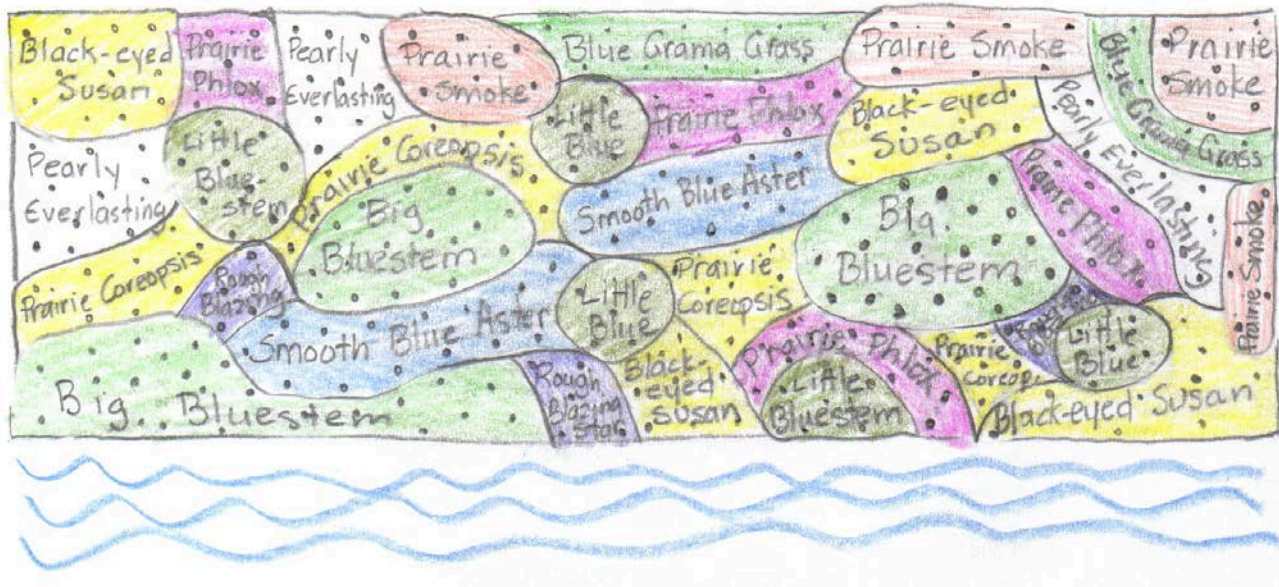
Flowers bloom all summer to attract butterflies

Prairie grasses have deep roots to stabilize slopes

**Shopping List (for a 350 ft<sup>2</sup> planting)** – for subs use *Prairie List* on <http://www.co.polk.wi.us/landwater>

PLANTS SELECTED- space 12-14 inches apart, if 6" pots substituted, divide by 2 and space 18 inches apart						
Number	Size	Common Name	Latin name	Height	Bloom Color	Bloom Time
18	plug	Blue grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	1-2'	NA	NA
30	plug	Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	2-3'	NA	NA
60	plug	Big bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	3-8'	NA	NA
36	plug	Black-eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	1-3'	Yellow	June to Oct
30	plug	Prairie phlox	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	1-2'	Pink	May to June
30	plug	Pearly everlasting	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	1-2'	White	June to Aug
24	plug	Smooth blue aster	<i>Aster laevis</i>	2-3'	Blue	July to Oct
12	plug	Rough blazing star	<i>Liatris aspera</i>	2-3'	Purple	July to Sept
24	plug	Prairie smoke	<i>Geum triflorum</i>	6-13"	Red	May to June
30	plug	Prairie coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	1-2'	Yellow	June to Oct
SUPPLIES						
60	ft <sup>3</sup>	Wood mulch				
5	lb.	Soil amendment (Milorganite, Plant Tone, or similar low phosphorus, organically based amendment)				
1	pint	Glyphosate herbicide (such as Round Up ©) to cover 350 ft <sup>2</sup>				

35 feet



10 feet



Black-eyed Susan



Prairie Phlox



Pearly Everlasting



Smooth Blue Aster



Rough Blazing Star

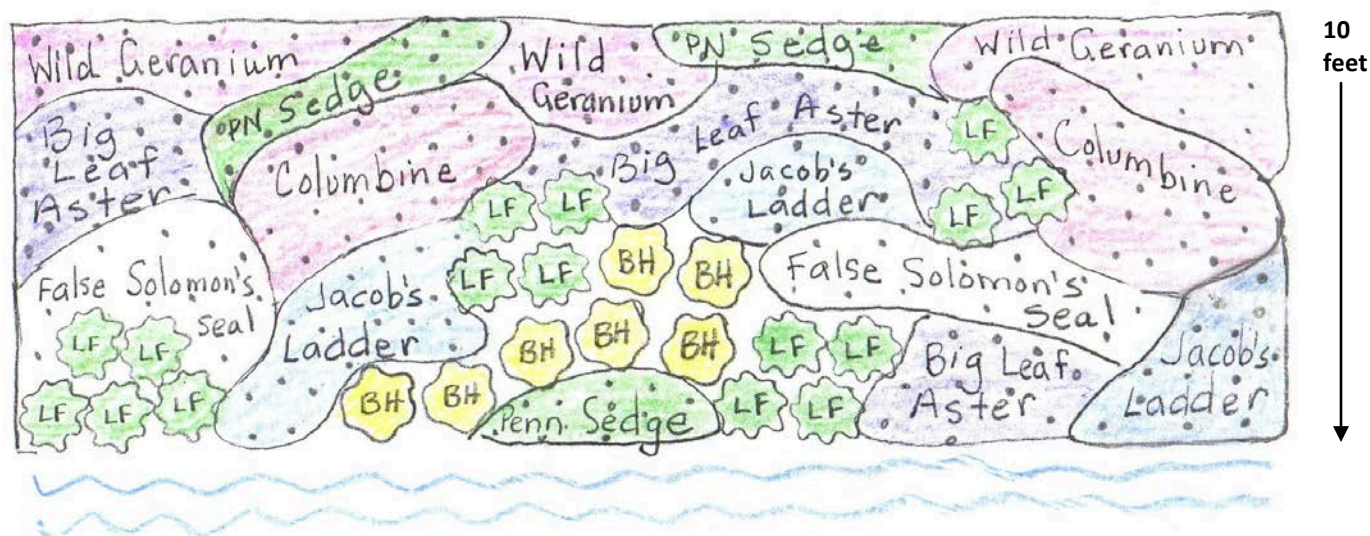
## Woodlands: Shady with Medium Soil

Woodland plants thrive where it is hard to grow grass  
Expect subtle flowers and lots of greenery

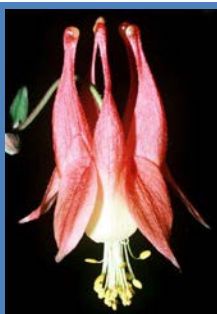
**Shopping List (for a 350 ft<sup>2</sup> planting)** – for subs use Maple Forest List on <http://www.co.polk.wi.us/landwater>

PLANTS SELECTED - space 6 inch pots 18-24 inches apart (as indicated) and plugs 12 inches apart						
Number	Size	Common Name	Latin name	Height	Bloom Color	Bloom Time
30	4-6" pot	Wild geranium (18"space)	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	1-2'	Lavender	May to June
21	4-6" pot	False solomon's seal (18")	<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>	18-24"	White	May to June
16	6" pot	Lady fern (24")	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	18-24"	NA	NA
6	4-6" pot	Bush honeysuckle (24")	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	2-3'	Yellow	June to Sept
36	plug	Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	8-24"	Pink	May to June
36	plug	Jacob's ladder	<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	8-24"	Blue	May to June
30	plug	Pennsylvania sedge	<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	6-18"	NA	NA
48	plug	Big-leaf aster	<i>Aster macrophyllus</i>	6-12"	Lavender	Aug to Oct
SUPPLIES						
60	ft <sup>3</sup>	Wood mulch				
5	lb.	Soil amendment (Milorganite, Plant Tone, or similar low phosphorus, organically based amendment)				
1	pint	Glyphosate herbicide (such as Round Up ©) to cover 350 ft <sup>2</sup>				

35 feet



Lady Fern



Columbine



Wild Geranium



False Solomon's Seal



Jacob's Ladder