

Native Plants Reference List

Native Plants That Grow In Sun

grasses

[*Sporobolus heterolepis* - Prairie dropseed](#)

perennials

[*Allium cernuum* - Nodding onion](#)

[*Anaphalis margaritacea* - Pearly everlasting](#)

[*Asclepias incarnata* - Swamp milkweed](#)

[*Asclepias tuberosa* – Butterflyweed](#)

[*Aster novae-angliae* - New England aster](#)

[*Desmodium canadense* - Showy tick-trefoil](#)

[*Echinacea pallida* - Pale Purple Coneflower](#)

[*Elymus Canadensis* - Canada wild rye](#)

[*Eupatorium maculatum* - Spotted Joe Pye weed](#)

[*Liatris aspera* - Rough blazingstar](#)

[*Medeola virginiana* – Indian cucumber root](#)

[*Monarda fistulosa* – Wild Bergamot](#)

[*Ratibida pinnata* - Gray-headed coneflower](#)

[*Schizachyrium scoparium* - Little Bluestem](#)

[*Silphium perfoliatum* - Cup Plant](#)

[*Sisyrinchium montanum* - Blue-eyed Grass](#)

[*Solidago rigida* - Stiff goldenrod](#)

shrubs

[*Alnus rugosa* - Speckled alder](#)

[*Juniperus communis* - Common juniper](#)

[*Juniperus horizontalis*- creeping juniper](#)

[*Potentilla tridentata* - Three-toothed cinquefoil](#)

[*Prunus pensylvanica* - Common pincherry](#)

[*Rhus typhina* - Staghorn sumac](#)

[*Rosa acicularis* – Prickly wild rose](#)

[*Rosa palustris* - Swamp rose](#)

[*Sambucus canadensis* - Common elder](#)

[*Sheperdia canadensis* - Buffaloberry](#)

[*Viburnum trilobum* - Highbush cranberry](#)

trees

[*Acer saccharinum* –Silver Maple](#)

[*Amelanchier arborea* - Downy serviceberry](#)

[*Betula papyrifera* - White birch](#)

[*Betula populifolia* - Gray birch](#)

[*Juniperus virginiana* - Eastern Red cedar](#)

[*Larix laricina* – Tamarack](#)

[*Picea glauca* - White spruce](#)

Native Plants That Grow In Sun to Partial Shade

grasses

[*Bouteloua curtipendula* - Sideoats grama](#)

perennials

[*Anemone Canadensis* – Canada Anemone](#)

[*Asclepias sullivantii* - Prairie Milkweed](#)

[*Claytonia virginica* - Spring Beauty](#)

[*Corydalis sempervirens* - Pale Corydalis](#)

[*Euphorbia corollata* - Flowering spurge](#)

[*Gentiana andrewsii* - Bottle gentian](#)

[*Helianthus divaricatus* - Woodland sunflower](#)

[*Hibiscus moscheutos* - Swamp Rose Mallow](#)

[*Iris versicolor* - Blue flag iris](#)

[*Linnaea borealis* – Twinflower](#)

[*Lupinus perennis* – Wild Lupine](#)

[*Penstemon digitalis* – Smooth White Penstemon](#)

[*Potentilla palustris* - Marsh cinquefoil](#)

[*Solidago caesia* - Blue-stemmed Goldenrod](#)

[*Thalictrum dioicum* - Early Meadow-rue](#)

[*Waldsteinia fragarioides* - Barren Strawberry](#)

[*Aquilegia Canadensis* - Canada columbine](#)

[*Campanula rotundifolia* – Harebell](#)

[*Coreopsis lanceolata* - Lanceleaf coreopsis](#)

[*Eupatorium purpureum* - Sweet Joe Pye weed](#)

[*Fragaria virginiana* - Common strawberry](#)

[*Geranium maculatum* - Wild geranium](#)

[*Heliopsis helianthoides* - False sunflower](#)

[*Hypericum ascyron* – Great St Johnswort](#)

[*Lilium philadelphicum* – Wood lily](#)

[*Lobelia siphilitica* - Great blue lobelia](#)

[*Mimulus ringens* –Blue monkey flower](#)

[*Physostegia virginiana* - Obedient plant](#)

[*Rudbeckia hirta* – Black Eyed Susan](#)

[*Solidago nemoralis* - Grey Goldenrod](#)

[*Trientalis borealis* – Starflower](#)

[*Zizia aurea* - Golden Alexanders](#)

shrubs

[*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* – Bearberry](#)

[*Cornus amomum* - Silky dogwood](#)

[*Cornus stolonifera* - Red osier dogwood](#)

[*Ilex verticillata* - Winterberry](#)

[*Prunus virginiana* - Choke cherry](#)

[*Spiraea alba* – Meadowseet](#)

[*Vaccinium myrtilloide* \(Common Blueberry\)](#)

[*Cephalanthus occidentalis* – Buttonbush](#)

[*Cornus racemosa* - Gray dogwood](#)

[*Gaylussacia baccata* - Black huckleberry](#)

[*Myrica gale* – Sweetgale](#)

[*Rubus odoratus* - Flowering raspberry](#)

[*Vaccinium angustifolium* \(Low sweet blueberry\)](#)

[*Viburnum lentago* – Nannyberry](#)

trees

[*Abies balsamea*](#) - Balsam fir

[*Acer rubrum*](#) –Red Maple

[*Betula alleghaniensis*](#) – Yellow birch

[*Carya cordiformis*](#) - Bitternut hickory

[*Pinus strobus*](#) - White pine

[*Populus balsamifera*](#) – Balsam poplar

[*Sorbus americana*](#) - American Mountain Ash

[*Thuja occidentalis*](#) -Eastern white cedar

vines

[*Celastrus scandens*](#) – Climbing bittersweet

[*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*](#) – Virginia creeper

Native Plants That Grow In Partial Shade to Full Shade

fern

[*Adiantum pedatum*](#) - Maidenhair fern

Perennials

[*Actaea pachypoda*](#) White Baneberry

[*Allium tricoccum*](#) -Wild Leek, Wild Garlic

[*Asarum canadense*](#) – Wild Ginger

[*Caltha palustris*](#) - Marsh marigold

[*Dentaria diphylla*](#) – Toothwort

[*Erythronium americanum*](#) - Trout Lily

[*Geranium maculatum*](#) - Wild geranium

[*Impatiens capensis*](#) - Spotted Jewelweed

[*Polygonatum biflorum*](#) - Solomon's seal

[*Smilacina racemosa*](#) - False Solomon's Seal

[*Stylophorum diphyllum*](#) - Wood Poppy

[*Trillium erectum*](#) - Purple Trillium

[*Trillium grandiflorum*](#) – WhiteTrillium

[*Uvularia perfoliata*](#) - Bellwort

shrubs

[*Cornus Canadensis*](#) – Bunchberry

[*Cornus racemosa*](#)- Gray dogwood

[*Cornus stolonifera*](#) - Red osier dogwood

trees

[*Carpinus caroliniana*](#) - Blue Beech

[*Ostrya virginiana*](#) – Ironwood

Native Plants That Grow In Full Shade

ferns

[*Athyrium filix-femina*](#) - Lady fern

perennials

[*Arisaema triphyllum* - Jack-in-the-pulpit](#)

[*Gaultheria procumbens* – Wintergreen](#)

[*Sanguinaria canadensis* – Bloodroot](#)

[*Caulophyllum thalictroides* - Blue cohosh](#)

[*Maianthemum canadense* - Canada Mayflower](#)

shrubs

[*Cornus stolonifera* - Red osier dogwood](#)

trees

[*Acer saccharum*- Sugar Maple](#)

[*Tsuga canadensis* - Eastern hemlock](#)

Native Plants That Grow in Dry Soils

grasses

[*Bouteloua curtipendula* - Sideoats grama](#)

perennials

[*Anemone virginiana* –Thimbleweed](#)

[*Echinacea pallida* - Pale Purple Coneflower](#)

[*Helianthus divaricatus* - Woodland sunflower](#)

[*Schizachyrium scoparium* - Little Bluestem](#)

[*Corydalis sempervirens* - Pale Corydalis](#)

[*Euphorbia corollata* - Flowering spurge](#)

[*Solidago nemoralis* - Grey Goldenrod](#)

shrubs

[*Juniperus communis* - Common juniper](#)

[*Sheperdia canadensis* - Buffaloberry](#)

[*Juniperus horizontalis*- creeping juniper](#)

[*Potentilla tridentata* - Three-toothed cinquefoil](#)

trees

[*Acer rubrum* –Red Maple](#)

[*Juniperus virginiana* - Eastern Red cedar](#)

Native Plants That Grow in Moist To Dry Soils

Shrubs

[*Cornus racemosa*- Gray dogwood](#)

[*Mitchella repens* – Partridge-berry](#)

[*Prunus virginiana* - Choke cherry](#)

[*Gaylussacia baccata* - Black huckleberry](#)

[*Rhus typhina* - Staghorn sumac](#)

perennials

[*Allium cernuum* - Nodding onion](#)

[*Campanula rotundifolia* – Harebell](#)

[*Desmodium canadense* - Showy tick-trefoil](#)

[*Fragaria virginiana* - Common strawberry](#)

[*Lupinus perennis* – Wild Lupine](#)

[*Penstemon digitalis* – Smooth White Penstemon](#)

[*Ratibida pinnata* - Gray-headed coneflower](#)

[*Sisyrinchium montanum* - Blue-eyed Grass](#)

[*Solidago caesia* - Blue-stemmed Goldenrod](#)

[*Aquilegia Canadensis* - Canada columbine](#)

[*Coreopsis lanceolata* - Lanceleaf coreopsis](#)

[*Elymus Canadensis* - Canada wild rye](#)

[*Liatris aspera* - Rough blazingstar](#)

[*Monarda fistulosa* – Wild Bergamot](#)

[*Polygonatum biflorum* - Solomon's seal](#)

[*Rudbeckia hirta* – Black Eyed Susan](#)

[*Solidago rigida* - Stiff goldenrod](#)

[*Smilacina racemosa* - False Solomon's Seal](#)

trees

[*Betula populifolia* - Gray birch](#)

[*Pinus strobus* - White pine](#)

[*Thuja occidentalis* -Eastern white cedar](#)

[*Ostrya virginiana* – Ironwood](#)

[*Sorbus americana* - American Mountain Ash](#)

vines

[*Celastrus scandens* – Climbing bittersweet](#)

Native Plants That Grow In Dry to Well Drained Soils

perennials

[*Anaphalis margaritacea* - Pearly everlasting](#)

[*Rosa acicularis* – Prickly wild rose](#)

[*Asclepias tuberosa* – Butterflyweed](#)

shrub

[*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* – Bearberry](#)

trees

[*Amelanchier arborea* - Downy serviceberry](#)

[*Betula populifolia* - Gray birch](#)

Native Plants That Grow In Moist Soils

ferns

[*Adiantum pedatum* - Maidenhair fern](#)

[*Athyrium filix-femina* - Lady fern](#)

perennials

[*Actaea pachypoda* White Baneberry](#)

[*Allium tricoccum* -Wild Leek, Wild Garlic](#)

[*Anemone Canadensis* – Canada Anemone](#)

[*Asarum canadense* – Wild Ginger](#)

[*Asclepias sullivantii* - Prairie Milkweed](#)

[*Claytonia virginica* - Spring Beauty](#)

[*Caulophyllum thalictroides* - Blue cohosh](#)

[*Dentaria diphylla* – Toothwort](#)

[*Gaultheria procumbens* – Wintergreen](#)

[*Geranium maculatum* - Wild geranium](#)

[*Geranium robertianum* - Herb Robert](#)

Houseonia caerulea - Bluets

Ledum groenlandicum – Labrador tea

[*Lilium canadense* - Canada lily](#)

[*Lilium philadelphicum* – Wood lily](#)

Linnaea borealis - Twinflower

[*Maianthemum canadense* - Canada mayflower](#)

[*Physostegia virginiana* - Obedient plant](#)

[*Medeola virginiana* – Indian cucumber root](#)

[*Trientalis borealis* – Starflower](#)

[*Solidago flexicaulis* - Zig-zag Goldenrod](#)

shrubs

[*Cornus amomum* - Silky dogwood](#)

[*Cornus Canadensis* – Bunchberry](#)

[*Cornus stolonifera* - Red osier dogwood](#)

[*Rubus odoratus* - Flowering raspberry](#)

[*Spiraea alba* – Meadowseet](#)

[*Viburnum trilobum* - Highbush cranberry](#)

trees

[*Acer rubrum* –Red Maple](#)

[*Acer saccharinum* –Silver Maple](#)

[*Betula alleghaniensis* – Yellow birch](#)

[*Carpinus caroliniana* - Blue Beech](#)

[*Carya cordiformis* - Bitternut hickory](#)

[*Picea glauca* - White spruce](#)

[*Tsuga canadensis* - Eastern hemlock](#)

Native Plants That Grow in Moist To Wet Soils

ferns

[*Athyrium filix-femina* - Lady fern](#)

perennials

[*Anemone virginiana*](#) –Thimbleweed

[*Asclepias incarnata*](#) - Swamp milkweed

[*Caltha palustris*](#) - Marsh marigold

[*Eupatorium purpureum*](#) - Sweet Joe Pye weed

[*Heliopsis helianthoides*](#) - False sunflower

[*Hypericum ascyron*](#) – Great St Johnswort

[*Iris versicolor*](#) - Blue flag iris

[*Lobelia siphilitica*](#) - Great blue lobelia

[*Ratibida pinnata*](#) - Gray-headed coneflower

[*Silphium perfoliatum*](#) - Cup Plant

[*Waldsteinia fragarioides*](#) - Barren Strawberry

[*Arisaema triphillium*](#) - Jack-in-the-pulpit

[*Aster novae-angliae*](#) - New England aster

[*Eupatorium maculatum*](#) - Spotted Joe Pye weed

[*Gentiana andrewsii*](#) - Bottle gentian

[*Hibiscus moscheutos*](#) - Swamp Rose Mallow

[*Impatiens capensis*](#) - Spotted Jewelweed

[*Lobelia cardinalis*](#) - Cardinal flower

[*Mimulus ringens*](#) –Blue monkey flower

[*Sanguinaria canadensis*](#) – Bloodroot

[*Stylophorum diphyllum*](#) - Wood Poppy

[*Zizia aurea*](#) - Golden Alexanders

shrubs

[*Alnus rugosa*](#) - Speckled alder

[*Ilex verticillata*](#)- Winterberry

[*Myrica gale*](#) – Sweetgale

[*Viburnum lentago*](#) – Nannyberry

[*Cephalanthus occidentalis*](#) – Buttonbush

[*Kalmia angustifolia*](#) - Sheep laurel

[*Sambucus canadensis*](#) - Common elder

trees

[*Acer saccharinum*](#) –Silver Maple

[*Larix laricina*](#) – Tamarack

[*Acer saccharum*](#)- Sugar Maple

[*Populus balsamifera*](#) – Balsam poplar

Native Plants That Grow In Moist To Well Drained Soils

Perennials

[*Allium cernuum*](#) - Nodding onion

[*Dicentra cucullaria*](#) - Dutchman's breeches

Penstemon digitalis – foxglove beardtongue

[*Thalictrum dioicum*](#) - Early Meadow-rue

[*Trillium erectum*](#) - Purple Trillium

[*Coreopsis lanceolata*](#) - Lanceleaf coreopsis

[*Lupinus perennis*](#) – Wild Lupine

[*Solidago caesia*](#) - Blue-stemmed Goldenrod

[*Uvularia perfoliata*](#) - Bellwort

trees

[*Abies balsamea* - Balsam fir](#)

[*Betula papyrifera* - White birch](#)

[*Ostrya virginiana* – Ironwood](#)

[*Picea mariana* - Black spruce](#)

[*Pinus strobus* - White pine](#)

Native Plants That Grow In Rocky Soils

perennials

[*Allium cernuum* - Nodding onion](#)

[*Campanula rotundifolia* – Harebell](#)

[*Coreopsis lanceolata* - Lanceleaf coreopsis](#)

[*Corydalis sempervirens* - Pale Corydalis](#)

[*Geranium robertianum* - Herb Robert](#)

[*Hibiscus moscheutos* - Swamp Rose Mallow](#)

[*Potentilla tridentata* - Three-toothed cinquefoil](#)

[*Solidago nemoralis* - Grey Goldenrod](#)

shrubs

[*Aquilegia Canadensis* - Canada columbine](#)

[*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* – Bearberry](#)

[*Gaylussacia baccata* - Black huckleberry](#)

[*Rhus typhina* - Staghorn sumac](#)

[*Rosa acicularis* – Prickly wild rose](#)

trees

[*Acer rubrum* –Red Maple](#)

[*Pinus strobus* - White pine](#)

Native Plants That Grow In Sandy Soils

shrubs

[*Gaylussacia baccata* - Black huckleberry](#)

[*Juniperus communis* - Common juniper](#)

[*Juniperus horizontalis*- creeping juniper](#)

[*Rhus typhina* - Staghorn sumac](#)

[*Sheperdia canadensis* - Buffaloberry](#)

[*Viburnum lentago* – Nannyberry](#)

[*Viburnum trilobum* - Highbush cranberry](#)

trees

[*Acer rubrum* –Red Maple](#)

[*Amelanchier arborea* - Downy serviceberry](#)

[*Betula papyrifera* - White birch](#)

[*Betula populifolia* - Gray birch](#)

grasses

[*Bouteloua curtipendula* - Sideoats grama](#)

perennials

[*Allium cernuum* - Nodding onion](#)

[*Anemone virginiana* –Thimbleweed](#)

[*Asclepias sullivantii* - Prairie Milkweed](#)

[*Asclepias tuberosa* – Butterflyweed](#)

[*Coreopsis lanceolata* - Lanceleaf coreopsis](#)

[*Desmodium canadense* - Showy tick-trefoil](#)

[*Echinacea pallida* - Pale Purple Coneflower](#)

[*Elymus Canadensis* - Canada wild rye](#)

[*Eupatorium purpureum* - Sweet Joe Pye weed](#)

[*Fragaria virginiana* - Common strawberry](#)

[*Gaultheria procumbens* – Wintergreen](#)

[*Heliopsis helianthoides* - False sunflower](#)

[*Liatris aspera* - Rough blazingstar](#)

[*Lupinus perennis* – Wild Lupine](#)

[*Potentilla tridentata* - Three-toothed cinquefoil](#)

[*Rudbeckia hirta* – Black Eyed Susan](#)

[*Schizachyrium scoparium* - Little Bluestem](#)

[*Solidago nemoralis* - Grey Goldenrod](#)

[*Sporobolus heterolepis* - Prairie dropseed](#)

[*Sanguinaria canadensis* – Bloodroot](#)

vines

[*Celastrus scandens* – Climbing bittersweet](#)

Native Plants That Are Drought Tolerant

perennials

[*Allium cernuum* - Nodding onion](#)

[*Anaphalis margaritacea* - Pearly everlasting](#)

[*Aquilegia Canadensis* - Canada columbine](#)

[*Asclepias tuberosa* – Butterflyweed](#)

[*Coreopsis lanceolata* - Lanceleaf coreopsis](#)

[*Desmodium canadense* - Showy tick-trefoil](#)

[*Elymus Canadensis* - Canada wild rye](#)

[*Euphorbia corollata* - Flowering spurge](#)

[*Geranium maculatum* - Wild geranium](#)

[*Heliopsis helianthoides* - False sunflower](#)

[*Liatris aspera* - Rough blazingstar](#)

[*Lupinus perennis* – Wild Lupine](#)

[*Monarda fistulosa* – Wild Bergamot](#)

[*Rudbeckia hirta* – Black Eyed Susan](#)

[*Schizachyrium scoparium* - Little Bluestem](#)

[*Silphium perfoliatum* - Cup Plant](#)

[*Sisyrinchium montanum* - Blue-eyed Grass](#)

[*Solidago rigida* - Stiff goldenrod](#)

[*Sporobolus heterolepis* - Prairie dropseed](#)

shrubs

[*Juniperus communis*](#) - Common juniper

[*Juniperus horizontalis*](#)- creeping juniper

trees

[*Juniperus virginiana*](#) - Eastern Red cedar

[*Picea glauca*](#) - White spruce

vines

[*Celastrus scandens*](#) – Climbing bittersweet

Native Plants That Are Salt Tolerant

shrubs

[*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*](#) – Bearberry

[*Juniperus communis*](#) - Common juniper

[*Prunus virginiana*](#) - Choke cherry

[*Rhus typhina*](#) - Staghorn sumac

[*Vaccinium angustifolium*](#) (Low sweet blueberry)

[*Vaccinium myrtilloide*](#) (Common Blueberry)

trees

[*Amelanchier arborea*](#) - Downy serviceberry

[*Juniperus virginiana*](#) - Eastern Red cedar

Native Plants That Are Deer Resistant

perennials

[*Allium cernuum*](#) - Nodding onion

[*Aquilegia Canadensis*](#) - Canada columbine

[*Asclepias tuberosa*](#) – Butterflyweed

[*Campanula rotundifolia*](#) – Harebell

[*Coreopsis lanceolata*](#) - Lanceleaf coreopsis

[*Geranium maculatum*](#) - Wild geranium

[*Iris versicolor*](#) - Blue flag iris

[*Penstemon digitalis*](#) – Smooth White Penstemon

[*Rudbeckia hirta*](#) – Black Eyed Susan

[*Schizachyrium scoparium*](#) - Little Bluestem

[*Solidago rigida*](#) - Stiff goldenrod

shrubs

[*Cornus amomum*](#) - Silky dogwood

[*Cornus racemosa*](#)- Gray dogwood

[*Cornus stolonifera*](#) - Red osier dogwood

[*Juniperus communis*](#) - Common juniper

[*Kalmia angustifolia*](#) - Sheep laurel

trees

[*Juniperus virginiana* - Eastern Red cedar](#)

[*Picea glauca* - White spruce](#)

[*Picea mariana* - Black spruce](#)

[*Pinus strobus* - White pine](#)

vines

[*Celastrus scandens* – Climbing bittersweet](#)

Native Plants for Ground Cover

perennial

[*Anemone Canadensis* – Canada Anemone](#)

[*Asarum canadense* – Wild Ginger](#)

[*Claytonia virginica* - Spring Beauty](#)

[*Fragaria virginiana* - Common strawberry](#)

[*Gaultheria procumbens* – Wintergreen](#)

[*Geranium robertianum* - Herb Robert](#)

[*Polygonatum biflorum* - Solomon's seal](#)

[*Waldsteinia fragariodes* - Barren Strawberry](#)

shrubs

[*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* – Bearberry](#)

[*Cornus Canadensis* – Bunchberry](#)

[*Mitchella repens* – Partridge-berry](#)

[*Potentilla tridentata* - Three-toothed cinquefoil](#)

[*Vaccinium angustifolium* \(Low sweet blueberry\)](#)

vines

[*Celastrus scandens* – Climbing bittersweet](#)

[*Parthenocissus quinquefolia* – Virginia creeper](#)

Native Plants for the Septic Bed

perennials

[*Anemone Canadensis* – Canada Anemone](#)

[*Aquilegia Canadensis* - Canada columbine](#)

[*Aster novae-angliae* - New England aster](#)

[*Echinacea pallida* - Pale Purple Coneflower](#)

[*Elymus Canadensis* - Canada wild rye](#)

[*Fragaria virginiana* - Common strawberry](#)

[*Monarda fistulosa* – Wild Bergamot](#)

[*Penstemon digitalis* – Smooth White Penstemon](#)

[*Ratibida pinnata* - Gray-headed coneflower](#)

[*Rudbeckia hirta* – Black Eyed Susan](#)

[*Solidago rigida* - Stiff goldenrod](#)

[*Solidago nemoralis* - Grey Goldenrod](#)

[*Sporobolus heterolepis* - Prairie dropseed](#)

[*Waldsteinia fragariodes* - Barren Strawberry](#)

ferns

[*Athyrium filix-femina* - Lady fern](#)

grasses

[*Bouteloua curtipendula* - Sideoats grama](#)

Shoreline Planting Tips

When naturalizing your shoreline there are several tips that you can follow to help increase the survival rate of the trees that you plant.

1. Plant Native Species of Plants

Survey the area around your property and take note of the plants and tree that are abundant and health. This will give you an indication of what type of vegetation will have the best chance for success on your property.

2. Plant a Variety of Species and Ages

Planting a variety of native species and species of various ages will help minimize the potential of a disease being transferred from the new plants to the already existing plants on your property.

Where to Obtain Plants and Trees?

There are several nurseries within the area where plants and trees can be obtained of various ages and species. For a list of these locations refer to the Contact List.

Where and When to Plant?

The positions (low wetlands, mid-slope, lakeshore, etc.) of wild plants will tell you where planting new colonists of the same species are most likely to succeed. When planting on your property you need to consider the spacing of wild plants; some cluster together, while others need their space. When planting new colonies you should try to mimic ones in the wild. Plants prefer to be in groups of their own kind, for example, instead of having a cedar every 2 metres; plant them in clumps of three, spaced out with groups of other species. Aquatic plants should be planted in the spring after the water levels go down. This gives them time to establish root systems capable of keeping them alive over the winter. Upland plants can be planted in the spring or autumn while it is cool.

Note: If you are planting aquatic plants a permit may be required if the water level is below the high water mark. Refer to the Permits.

Preparing the Site

The last step before the plants go in is to get the site ready for them. To maximize their chances of survival, you should remove any nearby invasive species that might crowd out the new arrivals. Purple loosestrife, crown vetch, reed canary grass, and common buckthorn are examples of the type of species that should be removed before the start of planting. Aside from removing invasive species, no other preparation is needed. If the plants are selected and placed well, they will not need soils, peat moss, or fertilizers – the site will already have everything they need. In fact, these measures may cause the plantings to grow too fast and then flop over, or encourage weeds to compete with them.

Planting Techniques

Live Staking or Cuttings

Live stakes are approximately metre-long sections of woody branches or stems cut from live shrubs. The cuttings are taken in the spring or fall when the shrubs are most dominate. The live stakes are cut flat on top and an angle on the bottom, about 45 degrees. The stakes should be taken from hardy species that root easily. The most common choices for live stakes are native willow and dogwoods. When placing the stakes in their location there are a few things to remember; if the stakes are being used on their own they should be placed in groups of five and arranged like the dots on a die. They should be inserted perpendicular to the slope so that the roots are allowed to grow better. About 70% of the stake should be driven underground to force the stake to root. In order for roots to form it is important that the stakes have good contact with the soil; tamp the soil down around the stake after it has been planted.

Container Plants

Container plants should be soaked thoroughly before planting them (a dry root ball can repel water even when the ground above it is being watered). The plants should be gently removed from the containers with the landowner supporting the root ball to keep it intact. Cut away only the roots that cannot be worked out of the container holes. If there are roots wound around the circumference of the root mass, they should be combed out to keep the plant from strangling itself. The plant should be buried so that the top of the root ball is flush with the surrounding soil. After planting, the new arrival should be watered very well to encourage deep root growth. If the plant is in a dry or upland area, it will need regular watering for the first few months if there is no rain. A real soaking once a week will help the plant more than sprinkling it frequently.

Ball-Root Plants

Some nurseries provide their larger plants with a burlap wrap around the root ball. These give the root ball limited protection and should be handled gently and supported while carrying the plant. When planting ball-root plants, it is a good idea to remove the burlap wrapper; if it can be done without the root-ball disintegrating. This is best done by placing the plant in its hole, undoing the bindings on the wrapper, then having one person lift the plant slightly while another slides out the wrapper. Otherwise, you should follow the directions under container plants.

Bare-Root Plants

Occasionally larger plants can be purchased with bare roots. They have often been 'rescued' from construction sites and are usually quite inexpensive. If you purchase some of these, they should be planted as quickly as possible – the same day is best. If bare-root plants must be stored for a short time, the roots must be kept moist at all times. Cover the roots with damp straw, compost, soil, or wet burlap while storing them. Planting suggestions are the same as for container plants.

Mulching

Mulching is the process of spreading out a layer of some kind of shredded protective material (cardboard, bark mulch, wood chips, etc.) over a site. It is usually a good idea to mulch around any freshly planted site – but particularly one with water nearby. The mulch will prevent the freshly turned soil from eroding away, while also discouraging competing plants and holding moisture in the soil.

Mulch should not be used right on the water's edge where wave action will wash it away; a biodegradable erosion control mat would work best there. Mulch needs to be coarse enough to stay in place and light enough to keep from preventing the plants from growing. Bark mulch and shredded hardwood work very well. Clean straw works well with quick-growing plants that can establish themselves before the straw rots away. Wood chips, cardboard, and shredded newspaper are too light and are prone to getting blown or washed away. Manure and compost should be avoided near a water body as their nutrients will wash into the water causing problems.

If you prefer mulch can be laid down before planting and when planting time comes. The mulch can be brushed aside from the individual planting holes and replaced afterward. When proceeding in this manner you should be careful to plant into the soil (not the mulch), and keep the mulch away from the plants' stems. Mulch can be laid down up to one inch deep for herbaceous plants and three inches deep for shrubs and trees.