

# Plants for Ecology Plant Information Sheets

Version #2, 2024.

Please use this as a basic reference when deciding what to plant. The species displayed will do well in rural to urban environments of southeast Michigan and are typically available at local nurseries. The goal of any planting should be diversity of species, as this creates better habitat and resiliency.

Consider the principles of design when creating your habitat since appearance does matter when showcasing natives.

For ease of access, species are listed alphabetically by common name. If further research is desired, please reference the botanical name provided to make sure you find the correct species.

# Alternate-leaf Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Partial-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist and well drained

**Soil Type:** Well drained. Not clay.

**Size:** 12-25'

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Blue/Black

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Excellent source of pollen and nectar. Berries are eaten by mammals and birds alike. Herbivores like deer and rabbit eat the foliage.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Follow the link below.

<http://illinoiswildflowers.info/trees/tables/table27.htm>

**Special Note:** This is a stunning tree. Various accounts say it can be planted in full sun while many say it prefers partial to shade. Best to plant it in partial-sun. Is more of an understory tree in its natural habitats.

**Deer resistant:** No. Small saplings should be caged until larger.



# American Crabapple (*Malus coronaria*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-dry.

**Soil Type:** Loamy and well drained

**Size:** 15-25'

**Flower:** White w/ pink tones

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Yellow

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Good source of pollen and nectar. Fruits eaten by mammals and birds. Used as a nesting site for various birds, and, as a thicket species, creates cover and protection for many creatures.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** Fruit is edible for humans. Great tree species for forming a hedge/thicket and for supporting wildlife.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Protect until mature.



# American Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-wet

**Soil Type:** Rich, moist soils

**Size:** 12 feet

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** June-July

**Fruit:** Deep purple berries

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Birds and mammals love the berries. Great source of nectar and pollen for a wide variety of insects. Offers cover for wildlife.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Great shrub to plant at water's edge, rain garden or wet area to naturalize the space. It will spread to create a thicket unless thinned or cut back (remember that thickets are beneficial to wildlife). Berries are edible for humans as well.

**Deer Resistant:** Moderate. Best to protect until of large enough size.



# American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-dry

**Soil Type:** Various.

**Size:** 5-15 Ft

**Flower:** Red (female) Green (male catkins)

**Bloom Time:** April-May

**Fruit:** Nut

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Large numbers of birds and mammals eat the nuts, incredible numbers of insects use various parts as a food source, and browsers such as deer and rabbit consume the leaves and twigs. This thicket species is great for cover and nesting.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** Hazelnut is edible. More than one shrub is needed to cross pollinate. Great fall color. This species has high ecological value

**Deer Resistant:** No.



# American Linden (*Tilia americana*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Well-drained and loamy

**Size:** 80 feet

**Flower:** Yellow and white

**Bloom Time:** April

**Fruit:** Brown

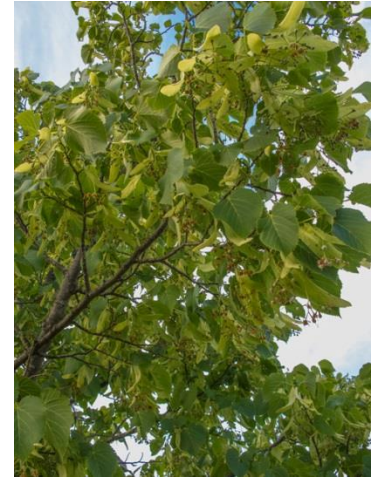
**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar.

Birds and mammals eat the berries and various animals browse on the leaves and bark. Important species to have in your habitat.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** Great tree for any landscape. Use as a specimen tree. It will provide lots of shade as it matures.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Protect until it has reached a larger size.



# American Plum (*Prunus americana*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Various, but prefers loamy with high organic content.

**Size:** 15-25 feet

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** May

**Fruit:** Red plums

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great early source of nectar and pollen. Fruit eaten by some mammals. Will form thickets, so it has a high value for nesting and cover.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Can be used to form hedges or thickets or planted as specimen tree in landscape. Beautiful small tree. Cross-pollination is required for fruit development as Wild Plum trees are either male or female (dioecious)

**Deer Resistant:** No



# American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- average.

**Soil Type:** Rich, moist soils.

**Size:** 140 feet

**Flower:** Green

**Bloom Time:** April-May

**Fruit:** Brown

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Good source of food for birds and small mammals. Shelter and home to cavity nesting birds and small mammals.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Very striking bark that exposes various colors as it peels.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes





# American Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Partial-Shade- Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Well-drained, loamy.

**Size:** 15- 25'

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** Late fall

**Fruit:** Brown

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Late source of nectar and pollen. Fruit is eaten by mammals and birds.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Late blooms are very fragrant. Great understory shrub.

**Deer Resistant:** Moderate. Rabbits can seriously damage seedlings.



# Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-average

**Soil Type:** Various as long as they retain moisture.

**Size:** 15 feet

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** May

**Fruit:** Dark purple berries

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of nectar and pollen for pollinators and a food source for birds and mammals. Animals use it for protection and cover.

**Larval Host:** Spring Azure

**Special Note:** Mass plant in average to wet areas to create a hedge or thicket. Great for wildlife and great for privacy. Need to plant in multiples since cross pollination is required to set fruit.

**Deer Resistant:** Moderate.



# Bee Balm (Monarda fistula)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type: Forb**

**Light Requirement: Full-sun, Partial**

**Soil Moisture: Average-dry**

**Soil Type: Various**

**Size: 4-6 feet**

**Flower: Violet-purple**

**Bloom Time: July- September**

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects: Pollinators love this plant. It will be full of them. Including hummingbirds and Hummingbird Moth.**

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note: A must for any landscape habitat. Leaves are fragrant and edible. Use as a substitute for Oregano**

**Deer resistant: Yes.**



# Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Grass

**Light Requirement:** Sun, part-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average-moist

**Soil Type:** Variable

**Size:** 4-8ft

**Flower:** yellow with hints of brownish red on green stems

**Bloom Time:** August-fall

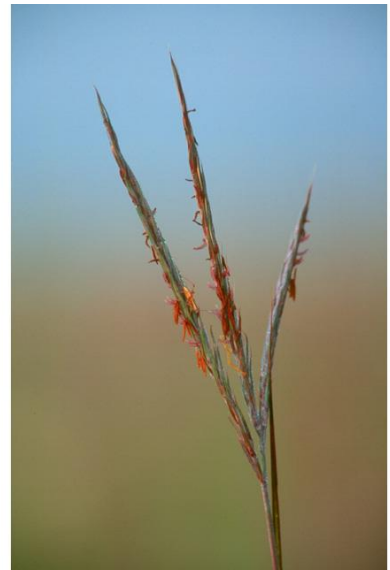
**Fruit:** Seedheads

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Provides cover and nesting sites for many species of songbirds. Many grazing animals will readily eat this grass and other mammals use it for cover and protection. Some song birds consume the seeds

**Larval Host:** Delaware Skipper, Dusted Skipper

**Special Note:** This is a tall grass that can become aggressive, so be aware of that when adding it to a landscape. Not well-suited for small areas. If planted in the appropriate locations, this grass is amazing!

**Deer Resistant:** Deer and small mammals may eat this, but grasses hold up well to browsing.



# Big-leaf Aster (*Eurybia macrophylla*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-dry

**Soil Type:** Various, well-drained.

**Size:** 2 Ft

**Flower:** White with yellow center.

**Bloom Time:** Mid summer- fall

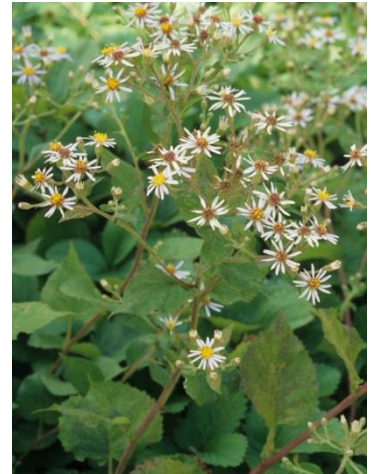
**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Good source of late pollen and nectar. Many insects use the plant as a food source. Seeds are eaten by some birds and leaves are sometimes browsed by mammals like deer.

**Larval Host:** Pearl Crescent

**Special Note:** Great for shady/woodland sites. Will form a base ground cover.

**Deer Resistant:** Moderate



# Bishop's Cap (*Mitella diphylla*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-average

**Soil Type:** Loamy and rich with high organic matter.

**Size:** 2 feet

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** May

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Early source of nectar and pollen.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Woodland ground cover with a very neat flower. Likes moist woodlands in the spring that begin to dry up a bit in summer. Found mostly in high quality natural areas.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Well-drained.

**Size:** ~80'

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Dark red cherries

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Host plant for many butterflies and insects. Fruit is eaten by many birds and animals. Leaves and bark are staples for a wide range of insects and leaves are browsed by grazing mammals.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** Top three trees to plant along with Oak and Willow. Provides huge ecological benefits. Highly recommended.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Protect until it becomes larger



# **Black Chokeberry (Aronia prunifolia)**

## **Plant Characteristics**

**Plant Type: Shrub**

**Light Requirement: Full sun- Partial**

**Soil Moisture: Average-wet**

**Soil Type: Various with ability to hold moisture.**

**Size: 6 feet**

**Flower: White**

**Bloom Time: June**

**Fruit: Black-deep purple berries**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects: Good source of nectar and pollen. Birds eat the berries. As a thicket forming shrub, it offers nesting sites, cover and protection to wildlife.**

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note: One of the most fragrant shrubs when in bloom. Plant this species en masse or set apart, but more than one is required to properly set fruit. Highly recommended.**

**Deer Resistant: Moderate. Deer eat the flower and leaf buds. Consider caging until bigger.**





# Black Eyed Susan (Rudbeckia Hirta)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 3 feet

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** June-September

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of nectar and pollen.  
Seeds are eaten by a variety of birds.

**Larval Host:** Gorgone Checkerspot, Bordered Patch butterfly

**Special Note:** Readily reseeds, as this species is a short-lived perennial. Do not cut back in fall! This is a great species to plant when starting a restoration, as it populates disturbed ground quickly.

**Deer resistant:** Yes



# **Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)**

## **Plant Characteristics**

**Plant Type: Tree**

**Light Requirement: Full-sun**

**Soil Moisture: Average-moist**

**Soil Type: Various. Well drained.**

**Size: 120 Ft**

**Flower: Green**

**Bloom Time: April-May**

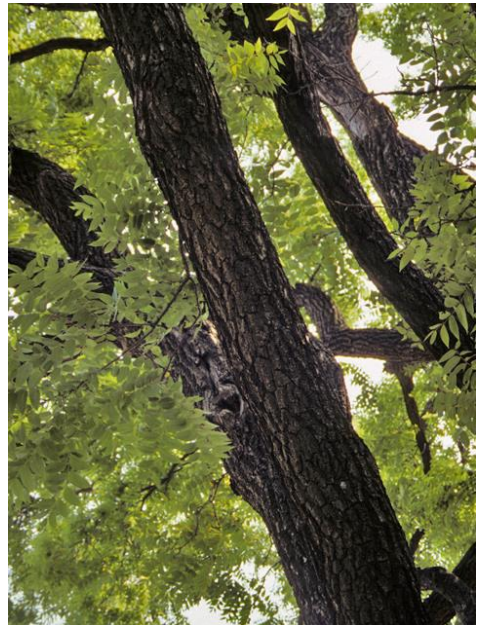
**Fruit: Large. Green.**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects: Great host for various moths, and nuts are eaten by wildlife, particularly squirrels.**

**Larval Host: Yes**

**Special Note: Gets a bad rap for preventing plants from growing underneath. Most native woodland plants are well-adapted to Walnut. Great tree.**

**Deer Resistant: Yes.**



# Black Willow (Salix Nigra)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average-wet

**Soil Type:** Various moist soils

**Size:** 65ft

**Flower:** Green

**Bloom Time:** April

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** An ecological powerhouse that supports insects and wildlife in numerous way. Food source, nesting and host species.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** Black Willow can be weak limbed, so care needs to be taken that it is not planted too close to structures. An important tree to include in any habitat creation.

**Deer Resistant:** No



# Blue Cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Loamy or average soil

**Size:** 1-3 Ft

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** Mid-spring

**Fruit:** Fleshy blue seeds

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar early in the season. The seeds are a favorite food of many birds and small mammals.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** This beautiful plant gives a nice floral display and also rewards us in the late summer with its blue berries. A very long lived species that is highly recommended.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes, the leaves and stems of the plant are very bitter and are rarely bothered by mammals.



# Blue Eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Most except clay.

**Size:** 12-18 inches

**Flower:** Blue

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Seed head

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar.  
Seeds are eaten by some birds.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Will spread by underground rhizomes and create a nice low colony. Use in the front areas of a planting. Great plant to use when larger sizes can be an issue.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet

**Soil Type:** Various (must be able to hold moisture.)

**Size:** 2-3 feet

**Flower:** Blue

**Bloom Time:** July-Fall

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of nectar and pollen for pollinators and hummingbirds.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Great for use in a wet area of the landscape. Does well in full sun settings as long as the soil stays moist. In average moisture, plant with some shade.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-wet

**Soil Type:** Various moist soils

**Size:** 3-5 feet

**Flower:** Blue-purple

**Bloom Time:** July-September

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of nectar and pollen.  
Bumble bees love this plant.

**Larval Host:** Common Buckeye

**Special Note:** Great for use in a rain garden or at a water's edge. Plant where you plant Queen of the Prairie or Swamp Milkweed. Will volunteer freely.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# **Blue-Stemmed Goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*)**

## **Plant Characteristics**

**Plant Type: Forb**

**Light Requirement: Partial-shade, Shade**

**Soil Moisture: Dry-average**

**Soil Type: Various**

**Size: 2-3ft**

**Flower: Yellow**

**Bloom Time: Late summer- fall**

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects: Attracts lots of butterflies and pollinators late in the growing season. Also brings other beneficial insects. Plant is eaten by mammals and birds will sparingly eat seeds.**

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note: Great Goldenrod for shady habitats. It is essential to have late blooming plants in the garden.**

**Deer Resistant: No**





# Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-wet

**Soil Type:** Various moist soils

**Size:** 5 feet

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** July-September

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** A powerhouse for pollen and nectar. Pollinators and beneficial insects flock to this species!

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Readily reseeds and spreads. Can take over a small space. Still highly recommended for its ecological benefit.

**Deer resistant:** Yes.



# Bottlebrush Grass (*Elymus hystrix*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Grass

**Light Requirement:** Partial Sun, Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 3- 5 feet

**Flower:** Green

**Bloom Time:** June-July

**Fruit:** Seeds

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Food source for birds and mammals.  
Provides cover for wildlife.

**Larval Host:** Northern Pearly Eye

**Special Note:** It is hard to find grasses that grow in the shade. If you are looking to fill a shaded area, this is a great choice.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 85 feet

**Flower:** Green

**Bloom Time:** May

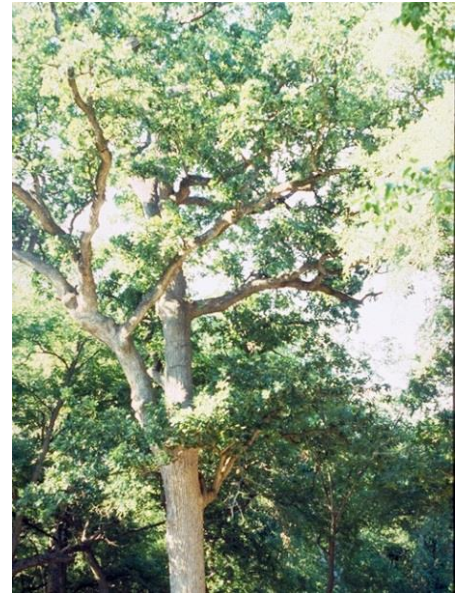
**Fruit:** Acorn

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Oak is one of the most important species. It is a food source and larval host for over 400 species.

**Larval Host:** Many butterflies and moths

**Special Note:** Bur Oak is moderately resistant to Oak Wilt. Never prune spring-fall. Want to help save the planet? Plant an Oak! Great Shade tree.

**Deer Resistant:** Not really. Use repellent or put up fencing until it gets big enough.



# Bush Honeysuckle (Diervilla lonicera)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Partial Sun- shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- average

**Soil Type:** Various, well-drained

**Size:** 3 feet

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** June

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Primarily attracts insects for pollen and nectar. As a low thicket forming shrub, it offers cover and nesting.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Will form dense low hedges or thickets. Can overwhelm small spaces, but excellent choice to help fill a space. Very hardy and excellent for erosion control. Can handle shade, but this may result in low flower production.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Well-drained

**Size:** 2-3 feet

**Flower:** Orange

**Bloom Time:** June-August

**Fruit:** Pods

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** A great source of pollen and nectar. Attracts many pollinators and other beneficial insects.

**Larval Host:** Grey Hairstreak, Monarch, Queens

**Special Note:** A very well-behaved Milkweed. Most popular for a more formal garden. Very drought tolerant.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet

**Soil Type:** Moist to wet soils

**Size:** 15 feet

**Flower:** White globe

**Bloom Time:** June-August

**Fruit:** Red globe



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Birds and mammals love to eat the seeds of this plant, especially aquatic birds. A big draw for butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators/beneficials.

**Larval Host:** Buttonbush Sphinx

**Special Note:** Use this in the wet areas of your landscape- next to ponds, streams, vernal ponds. Can handle average moisture as long as moisture is retained consistently. Thrives in flooded/aquatic situations. Fantastic globe flowers!

**Deer Resistant:** Yes

# Canadian Anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet

**Soil Type:** Various that is able to maintain moisture.

**Size:** 12 inches

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** May-July

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Nectar and pollen source.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** This spreads quickly and readily. Use as a base layer in wet areas or rain gardens. Interplant with other hardy species such as Boneset or Swamp Milkweed. Great for erosion control. If planting site becomes too dry, this plant will die back but will come back in the spring or when conditions become more favorable.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Canadian Goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Average-dry

**Size:** 6 feet

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** August-Oct

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Goldenrod is a fantastic source of pollen and nectar. Pollinators flock to this species when in bloom late in the season.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Essential species to have in a habitat. Can spread quickly and take over, so may not work well in smaller spaces. Companion plant with plants of similar habit. Try Zigzag Goldenrod or Bluestem Goldenrod in smaller landscapes. I do not typically offer this for sale, as it will find its own way into a native planting.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes





# Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet

**Soil Type:** Moisture retaining soils

**Size:** 2-4ft

**Flower:** Red

**Bloom Time:** Jul-August

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of nectar and pollen.  
Attracts hummingbirds.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Great for a rain garden or any wet areas in your landscape. Can be short-lived.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Sun, Part-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Dry-average

**Soil Type:** Variable

**Size:** 20-30ft

**Flower:** Many white flowers on numerous flower spikes. Very striking.

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Very sour but also edible cherries.

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Leaves and berries are essential sources of food for many birds and mammals. Great source of nectar and pollen for insects. As a suckering tree, this species is thicket forming and offers cover, nesting and protection.

**Larval Host:** Columbia Silk Moth

**Special Note:** Thicket forming. Very important species to include in any habitat creation but can be hard to manage in small landscapes.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Protect until they grow larger.



# Common Cinquefoil (*Potentilla simplex*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 12 inches

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** June

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar.

Deer and small mammals will eat the leaves.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Fantastic ground cover. Acts as a living mulch. Will not flower as much in shaded locations. Effective erosion control.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes. This plant's rapid growth means browsing by animals does little if no harm.



# Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Various. Does well in poor soils.

**Size:** 3-5 feet

**Flower:** Pink to light purple

**Bloom Time:** June-July

**Fruit:** Seed pod

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** A pollinator power house. In addition to Monarchs, one will find a vast array of insects on this plant.

**Larval Host:** Monarch

**Special Note:** Spreads quickly and very hard to contain. Not recommended for small landscapes. Blooms are very fragrant. One of the best smelling flowers you will experience. Remember, if you want to save Monarchs, plant more than just Milkweed.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Common Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet

**Soil Type:** Various moist to wet

**Size:** 3ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** July-August

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of nectar and pollen.  
Brings in many pollinators and beneficial insects.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Great species for use in a rain garden or simply planted in wet areas of the landscape or habitat. Can be aggressive. Plant with similarly cheeky plants, but may over-whelm small spaces.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Common Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average-moist

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 10ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Seeds

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** This showy shrub attracts beneficial insects, pollinators and birds. Plant as a hedge to offer cover and nesting for wildlife. Herbivores will eat the leaves.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** This is a very showy shrub. Can be versatile in moisture requirements, but does better in moister locations.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Protect until a larger size and can handle grazing.



# **Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)**

## **Plant Characteristics**

**Plant Type: Forb**

**Light Requirement: Full-sun- partial**

**Soil Moisture: Moist-average**

**Soil Type: Various**

**Size: 5-6 feet**

**Flower: White**

**Bloom Time: June-August**

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects: Great source of pollen and nectar. This species will bring in many pollinators and beneficial insects.**

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note: Use in areas that temporarily fill with water such as rain gardens. Also use at water's edge. Also adaptable to average soil that retains moisture.**

**Deer Resistant: Yes**



# Cup Plant (*Shilphium perfoliatum*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-average

**Soil Type:** Various. Must remain moist.

**Size:** 6-8ft

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** July-September

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Attracts a wide variety of butterflies, other pollinators and additional beneficial insects. Birds consume the seeds and use the plants for cover. A unique feature of this species is the cup formed at the leaf attachments to the stem. Water pools in this area and gives animals a source of water.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** This is a large and very robust species. Needs space, as it will spread. Not recommended for small landscapes.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes





# Cut-leaf Coneflower (Rudbeckia laciniata)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun-shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average-moist

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 5-7 feet

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** July-Oct

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of nectar and pollen.

Seeds are eaten by a variety of birds.

**Larval Host:** Silver Checkerspot

**Special Note:** This is a tall plant that can form large colonies, so it will need ample space to spread. Not best for small landscapes where it tends to take over. Great option for a woodland planting. Will not do well in full sun or dry conditions.

**Deer resistant:** Yes



# Early Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum dioicum*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average-moist

**Soil Type:** Various.

**Size:** 2-2.5 Ft

**Flower:** Green, purple, yellow

**Bloom Time:** April-May

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Good early source of nectar and pollen. Seems to be a very attractive for various moth species. Good cover plant for small animals.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Great for a woodland habitat. Will form nice low colonies. Male and female flowers are on separate plants. Male flowers are purple and yellow and female flowers are white. Very attractive plant.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Early Sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun-partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-average

**Soil Type:** Loamy. Adaptable to various others

**Size:** 3-5ft

**Flower:** Yellow ray flower

**Bloom Time:** Early summer-late summer

**Fruit:** Brown seeds at center when blooms are spent.

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar for many insects, bees, wasps, moths and butterflies. Many species of birds will eat the seeds as will small mammals.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Great plant for the home landscape. Has a long bloom period.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes. Deer and other mammals may browse young plants, but mature plants are avoided.



# Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*)

## Plant Characteristics:

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- wet

**Soil type:** Tolerant of any (except for constantly waterlogged) soil.

**Size:** Large Shade tree that can reach 100ft at times.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Mourning Cloak, Red-spotted Purple, Viceroy & Tiger Swallowtail butterflies.

**Benefit to Wildlife:** A wide range of insects, birds and mammals use Cottonwood as a food source and for nesting/habitation. Does have high ecological value.

**Special Note:** A beautiful tree that gets a bad rap for being messy. Copious amounts of seeds and white fluff is a small price to pay for such a great tree. Typically found growing in moist forests and close to water such as rivers, ponds or lakes. Weak limbed, so best not to plant close to your home.

**Deer Resistant:** No



# Leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun-shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average-moist

**Soil Type:** Loamy soil with high organic matter

**Size:** 3-7 ft.

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** Mid-spring

**Fruit:** Small green fruit

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** An early blooming shrub that provides pollen and nectar for emerging pollinators. Birds will eat the fruit, but mammals typically stay away from this species which is toxic to them.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** This is a great woodland (shade) species that is very manageable within a home landscape. It is found as an understory species in the wild.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes. Rabbits and other small mammals leave it alone as well



# Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average- moist

**Soil Type:** Various rich and well-drained.

**Size:** 25 feet

**Flower:** Purple

**Bloom Time:** May

**Fruit:** Pea pods

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Flowers are good source of nectar and pollen in the early part of the season for a wide variety of pollinators. Various insect feed off other parts of this tree, and, to a limited extent, the seeds are eaten by song birds. Deer sometimes browse the leaves.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** This is a most stunning tree when in bloom with very interesting leaves. Older trees have great character. As a legume, Redbud fixes nitrogen. This tree can handle some shade. Highly recommended.

**Deer Resistant:** Moderate. Protect young trees from deer and rabbit.



# Eastern Sand Cherry (*Prunus pumila*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Dry-mesic

**Soil Type:** Well drained and sandy. Grows well in loamy soils as well.

**Size:** 6ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Cherries



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar. Attracts many various pollinators and beneficial insects. Cherries are eaten by many birds and mammals. Leaves and twigs are eaten by deer and small mammals along with various insects. Good for nesting and cover.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** This shrub typically grows in very specific locations such as dunes and sandy lake shores. Some variations grow more inland on sandy or gravelly out-croppings. It is very adaptable to average garden conditions. As a shorter thicket forming species, it can be easier to manage. Cherry species are always highly recommended since they have high ecological value.

**Deer Resistant:** No

# **Thuja occidentalis (Eastern White Cedar)**

## **Plant Characteristics**

**Plant Type: Tree**

**Light Requirement: Full sun- shade (light)**

**Soil Moisture: Average-Moist**

**Soil Type: Various with moisture retention.**

**Size: 60ft**

**Flower:**

**Bloom Time:**

**Fruit: Yellow/Brown**



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects: A wide range of insects, birds and mammal use this species as a food source. Provides cover and nesting habitat for many birds and mammals and insects.**

**Larval Host: Yes**

**Special Note: This is a great tree to grow when developing your home habitat. Plant them as a hedge or simply group together in a stand to mimic how it grows in the wild. Does best if protected from hottest afternoon sun.**

**Deer Resistant: Yes. Even though deer will browse some outer leaves, it does not damage the tree**



# Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average- moist

**Soil Type:** Various, well-drained

**Size:** 15-35ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** May

**Fruit:** Orange/red berries in clumps.

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of early pollen and nectar, and the fruit is eaten by many birds and small mammals. Leaves and bark are a good food source for many insects and herbivores.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** A very showy tree that also offers great fall color. Great tree to include in your landscape, as it has high ecological value. As an understory tree, it can handle a certain amount of shade.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Protect until larger in size.



# Flowering Raspberry (Rubus odoratus)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Sun-shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average-moist

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 3-8ft

**Flower:** Pink/Purple

**Bloom Time:** June-August

**Fruit:** Raspberry

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of food for all manner of birds and mammals. Flowers are an excellent source of pollen and nectar and mature stands offer excellent cover and nesting sites.

**Larval Host:** Possibly

**Special Note:** This shrub will spread and form an awesome hedge row. Highly recommended to fill large spaces. Very fragrant flowers.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes. Even if deer and rabbit browse the leaves, it does not really affect this shrub.



# Flowering Spurge (Euphorbia corollata)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun-partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average -dry

**Soil Type:** Any type

**Size:** 3ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** Mid summer-late summer

**Fruit:** Green seed capsules form when flowering is complete

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar for many bees, wasps, moths and butterflies. Many species of birds will eat the seeds.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Karner Blue Butterfly uses this species as a primary food source. Plant Flowering Spurge with Wild Lupine

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Foam Flower (*Tiareella cordifolia*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Various well-drained

**Size:** 12 inches

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** April-May

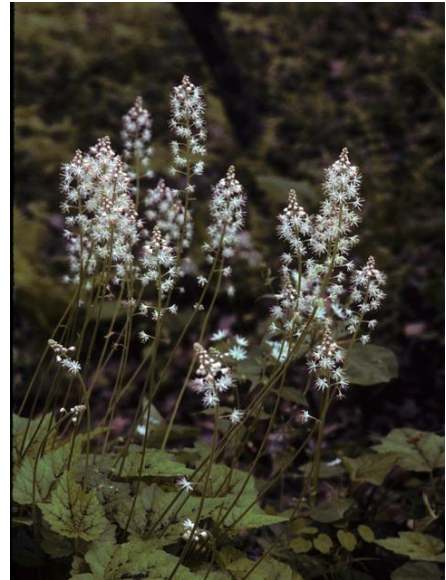
**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Good source of nectar and pollen early in the season. Offers cover for small animals.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Great ground cover in a woodland setting. Very showy in a mass planting. Spreads easily.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Fox Sedge (*Carex vulpinoidea*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Sedge

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet

**Soil Type:** Various that holds moisture

**Size:** 2-3ft

**Flower:**

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Brown seed spike

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great food source for wildlife and insects. Offers good cover for various creatures.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Great sedge to plant in a wetland/wet prairie setting. Use also in naturalized planting along rivers and lakes. Spreads readily, so it may take over small spaces. Important species to plant in restoration projects.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes. Canada Geese love to graze on sedges.



# **Foxglove (*Penstemon digitalis*)**

## **Plant Characteristics**

**Plant Type: Forb**

**Light Requirement: Full sun- partial**

**Soil Moisture: Average-moist**

**Soil Type: Various**

**Size: 3-4 feet**

**Flower: White**

**Bloom Time: June-July**

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects: Favorite for hummingbirds and bumble bees. Great source of nectar and pollen.**

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note: Very showy plant. Long bloom period early in the summer season.**

**Deer Resistant: Yes**



# Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatic*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

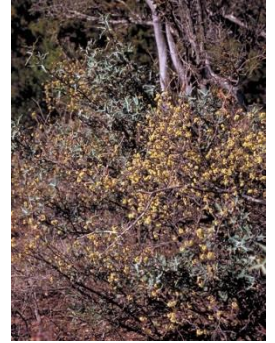
**Soil Type:** Various well-drained soils.

**Size:** 6 feet

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** May

**Fruit:** Red



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Food for birds and small mammals. Early source of pollen and nectar. Thicket forming, it offers great cover and sites for nesting.

**Larval Host:** Red-banded Hairstreak and Banded Hairstreak

**Special Note:** There are both male and female plants. The berries only develop on the female, but both are needed for pollination. Buy shrubs in at least pairs. Great species for diverse habitat creation. Use to stabilize dry and hard to reach areas. Great fall color!

**Deer Resistant:** Yes

# Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-wet

**Soil Type:** Various moist soils with high organic matter.

**Size:** 3 feet

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Attracts lots of pollinators and beneficial insects. Offers pollen and nectar after trees are done blooming.

**Larval Host:** Black Swallowtail

**Special Note:** Great for use in a rain garden or other naturally moist areas. Does very well in other areas as long as the soil retains moisture.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes





# Golden Ragwort (*Packera aurea*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun-shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet

**Soil Type:** Various with high moisture retention

**Size:** 2 Ft

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Seed heads

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of early pollen and nectar. Can become a great groundcover and offer cover for small animals.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Great floral display in spring. Can handle light seasonal flooding and can create nice colonies in wet-moist areas.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes. Sheep and goats may still eat this plant, but wild mammals will leave it alone.



# Grass-leaved Goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun to Partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- average

**Soil Type:** Variable w/ high organic matter

**Size:** 4ft

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** August-September

**Fruit:** Seed heads from spent flowers

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of nectar and pollen, seeds are a source of food for small song birds and foliage is eaten by many insects and to a limited extent by rabbits and deer.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Spreads by rhizomes and can be aggressive. It will likely over-whelm small plantings. Needs space. Interplant with species of similar habit like New England Aster. Great for large rain gardens or other moist spaces.

**Deer Resistant:** Mostly. Deer and rabbits may sample but to very limited extent.



# Gray Dogwood (*Cornus foemina*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average- moist

**Soil Type:** Soil that holds moisture.

**Size:** 10-15 Ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** April-June

**Fruit:** White berries

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** All sorts of insects, mammals and birds are attracted to this species for nectar, pollen and sources of food. Great cover and nesting for many birds and wildlife. High berry production.

**Larval Host:** Summer Azure Butterfly

**Special Note:** Great for forming a thicket or hedgerow. This habit will help mitigate damage caused by deer. Beautiful species. Plant where it has room to expand.

**Deer Resistant:** Moderate. Best to protect until it reaches a larger size.



# Gray's Sedge (Carex grayi)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Sedge

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun-shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet

**Soil Type:** Various types that hold moisture

**Size:** ~2ft

**Flower:**

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Very neat multi-spiked capsule

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Various insects will eat the leaves including many caterpillars. Seeds are great source of food for many birds. Muskrat are known to eat that to a limited extent.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** Fantastic sedge for shady and moist locations. Plant in moist woodlands or water's edge as part of a naturalized shoreline. It is hard to find a species with this versatility.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average- moist

**Soil Type:** Various well-drained

**Size:** 60-80 Ft

**Flower:** Green

**Bloom Time:** May

**Fruit:** Purple/Red



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of early nectar and pollen. Great food source for birds and mammals. Host for many butterflies and moths.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Many including Mourning Cloak

**Special Note:** Smaller than other canopy trees, but still an important tree for Michigan habitats. Great specimen tree.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes. It may be grazed sparingly. Protect small saplings.



# Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- dry

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 2 feet

**Flower:** Blue/Purple

**Bloom Time:** June-August

**Fruit:** Small capsule

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Provides pollen and nectar for hummingbirds and many other pollinators. Attracts various additional beneficial insects.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** This is a very well-behaved plant. It can get pushed aside by more aggressive plants. Great choice where more formal arrangement is required. Surprisingly resilient. Highly recommended.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Heart-Leaved Aster(*Symphotrichum cordifolium*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun- shade. Flowers best in Partial.

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- average

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 1-3 feet

**Flower:** Violet-white

**Bloom Time:** August-Sept.

**Fruit:** Seed tufts

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Fantastic pollen and nectar source for many pollinators. Other insects and caterpillars feed on the leaves. Herbivores eat the leaves and stems.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Pearl Crescent

**Special Note:** Asters can be very opportunistic so not the best for small landscapes. Otherwise, this species has high ecological value.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes (but watch out for the rabbits and ground hogs!)



# Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-moist

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:**75-100ft

**Flower:** Green/Yellow

**Bloom Time:** April/May

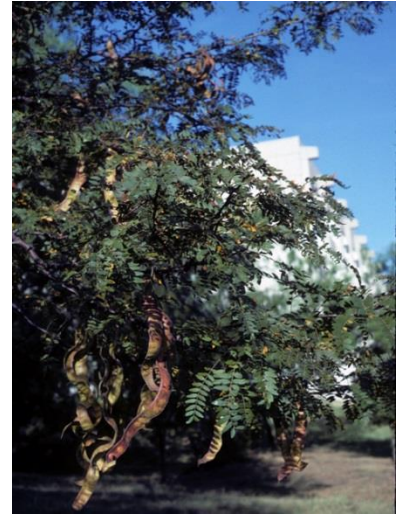
**Fruit:** Long Seed Pods

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Good early source of nectar and pollen. Provides nesting sites and cover. Fruit eaten by a variety of wildlife.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** Very common tree in SE Michigan. Offers dappled sunlight under the canopy and the leaves easily decompose in landscape. A great tree to plant.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes





# Hop Tree (*Ptelea trifoliata*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Sun- partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average- dry

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** ~15ft

**Flower:** Green

**Bloom Time:** June

**Fruit:** Wafer-like seed capsule

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar.

Good food source for various insects including many caterpillars.

Great cover species.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** Well-behaved tree. Does not spread except by seed.

Very fragrant.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Hop-Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Various well-drained

**Size:** 15-50ft

**Flower:** Yellow/green

**Bloom Time:** April/May

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Birds and small mammals love the fruit from this tree that resembles the fruit of the Hope Vine. Many moths and beetles rely on this tree as a food source. Deer eat the leaves in a limited manner.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Very slow growing tree. Great for shady areas. Flowers are striking. Can be hard to grow.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various. Does best in sandier soils

**Size:** 2 feet

**Flower:** White and purple

**Bloom Time:** July-September

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar.

**Wasps love to visit these plants when in bloom**

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Short-lived perennial. Readily reseeds. Yet another reason not to do that fall clean up- You will be cleaning up the next generation! Edible. Similar flavor to Oregano

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun-shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Sandy Loam, but adaptable to various well-drained soils

**Size:** 3-5 Ft

**Flower:** Pink

**Bloom Time:** Mid-spring

**Fruit:** Dark blue/black berry

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar and the berries are eaten by a wide range of mammals and birds. Adds cover for wildlife as well.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Does best in slightly acidic soils just like Blueberry to which it is related. Very tasty edible berries. Can form a low thicket.

**Deer Resistant:** No. However, deer and other mammals seem to want the berries more than the leaves and bark.



# Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Grass

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-dry.

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 4-6 feet

**Flower:** Brown, green and yellow

**Bloom Time:** August

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Provides cover and nesting for many animals. Birds love the seeds. Various insects (many grasshoppers) eat the leaves as a main food source.

**Larval Host:** Pepper-and-Salt Skipper butterfly

**Special Note:** Will readily fill an area. Not great for small spaces since it will out compete other species. This is a beautiful warm season grass. Highly recommended if your site has the space.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Interrupted Fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Fern

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun-shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist

**Soil Type:** Loam with high organic matter

**Size:** 2-4 Ft

**Flower:**

**Bloom Time:**

**Fruit:** Spores

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Some insects eat the leaves and large colonies provide cover for wildlife.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Typically found growing on the forest floor, this fern will not do well in dry sunny locations. The fertile leaves interrupt the sterile leaves giving the appearance they were interrupted.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Ironweed (*Vernonia missurica*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Sun-partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-average

**Soil Type:** Various.

**Size:** 3-6 Ft

**Flower:** Lighter purple

**Bloom Time:** Late summer-fall

**Fruit:** Seed heads

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar late in the season when you will see a ton of activity. Some moths feed specifically on Ironweed.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** This is a very showy plant that is well suited for most landscapes. Be aware that it does get some height, but it does not spread aggressively. Leaves turn a deep red in fall.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes. The bitter taste of the leaves make it a plant of last resort for deer and other grazers.



# Jack in the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average-moist

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 1-2 Ft

**Flower:** Green and Purple

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Red berries in a large clump

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Woodland birds such as Wild Turkey will eat the berries and leaves. Flowers are cross pollinated by small insects like gnats and thrips.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Very unique plant for a woodland habitat. Very cool in appearance, especially when many are growing together.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes





# Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium reptans*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun- shade. Can handle partial sun in spring before trees leaf out.

**Soil Moisture:** Average-moist

**Soil Type:** Various. Likes lots of organic material

**Size:** 2 Ft

**Flower:** Blue

**Bloom Time:** May

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of early nectar and pollen.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Adds vibrancy to a woodland habitat. Highly recommended. Will reseed itself to create small woodland colonies.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes. Herbivores avoid this species.



# Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Wet-moist

**Soil Type:** Prefers silty or sandy loam with high moisture levels.

**Tolerates other moist soil types.**

**Size:** 5-6ft

**Flower:** Pink/Purple

**Bloom Time:** July-August

**Fruit:** Seed heads

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Awesome source of pollen and nectar.

Many insects feed off the plant, and song birds consume the seeds.

Birds also use it as a perching point at the water's edge.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Great plant for wet areas, but it will form large dense colonies. It can over-whelm small spaces, so please understand this prior to planting. In natural areas it is found growing at the edges of rivers and lakes and can grow in standing water. In addition to the rock star blooms, the stems and leaves are beautiful as well.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# June Grass (*Koeleria macrantha*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Grass

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various, well-drained

**Size:** 2 feet

**Flower:**

**Bloom Time:** Late May-June

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** When planted together with other species, provides cover and is a food source for herbivores. Is a great source of food for insects such as grasshoppers.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Very well-behaved in the landscape. Great when planted en masse. Consider planting with Harebell or Prairie Phlox.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Deer and rabbits may browse this grass but it does not negatively affect it.



# Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Fern

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun-shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist

**Soil Type:** Loam with high organic matter

**Size:** 2-4 Ft

**Flower:**

**Bloom Time:**

**Fruit:** Spores

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Some insects eat the leaves and large colonies provide cover for wildlife.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Typically found growing on the forest floor, this fern will not do well in dry sunny locations. The spores are found on the underside of the leaves.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Sun- partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Well-drained sandy or loamy.

**Size:** 1-3 feet.

**Flower:** Purple

**Bloom Time:** June- July

**Fruit:** Brown

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Pollinators will flock to this species when in bloom. Many insects consume the leaves of this species as well which in turn feeds the birds. Herbivores love Leadplant too.

**Special Note:** Fixes nitrogen in the soil. In areas with high concentrations of deer, rabbit and ground hog this plant will need protection. Plant more than you think to compensate. Highly recommended.

**Deer Resistant:** No.



# Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Grass

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various, well drained

**Size:** 2-5 Ft

**Flower:**

**Bloom Time:** August

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Provides cover and nesting sites for birds. Many song birds eat the seeds of this grass and herbivores will graze the leaf blades. Caterpillars and grasshoppers also feed on this species.

**Larval Host:** Ottoe Skipper, Indian Skipper, Crossline Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Cobweb butterfly, Dixie skipper

**Special Note:** This well-behaved grass is a great addition to your landscape/habitat. Gains its height late in the season when it sets seed.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Maple-leaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:**

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun- shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average- dry

**Soil Type:** Various well-drained

**Size:** 5-6ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Red- Dark Purple

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Highly attractive shrub for pollen and nectar. Birds and smaller mammals consume the nutritious berries. Deer will sometimes eat the leaves and twigs.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** Will form a low attractive hedge in shady areas. Use to fill open wooded spaces as an understory shrub. It can be difficult to find shrubs for woodland areas.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Recommend protecting until there are enough to mitigate deer browsing.



# Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average-moist

**Soil Type:** Humus woodland soil

**Size:** 1-2ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** April-May

**Fruit:** Green

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Good source of Nectar and pollen.  
Fruit is readily eaten by some animals when ripe.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** This hardy woodland species will form nice colonies in a woodland habitat. Leaves are persistent through most of season. All plant parts are poisonous except for ripened berries. Plants with only one stalk are infertile.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes.





# Meadowsweet (*Spiraea alba*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet

**Soil Type:** Any soil that holds moisture and contains lots of organic matter.

**Size:** 3-6ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** June-August

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of nectar and pollen. Birds will eat the seeds, buds and leaves. Herbivores browse the leaves and twigs and many insects and caterpillars also consume this species.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** Very showy shrub for moist/wet and sunny areas. Does not get very tall. Plant en masse for a very incredible hedge and to protect from over-grazing by deer.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Protect until hedge gets large enough to handle browsing.



# Winterberry/Michigan Holly (*Ilex verticillata*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average-wet

**Soil Type:** Various that retain moisture

**Size:** 5-12ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** June

**Fruit:** Red Berries



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Provides pollen and nectar for a wide range of pollinators. Berries become an important food source for birds and small mammals during the winter when other sources are exhausted. Deer will eat the leaves to a limited extent. Rabbits may nibble young seedlings.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** This native Holly has very showy berries and is a great plant to grow in wetter areas of the landscape. Plant in pairs to properly pollinate since there are male and female shrubs.

**Deer Resistant:** Moderate.

# Musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Part sun- shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average- moist.

**Soil Type:** Variable. Requires high organic matter.

**Size:** 15-30 feet. Very slow growing

**Flower:** Green and red

**Bloom Time:** March-April depending on temperature.

**Fruit:** Brown

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Birds and small mammals (including fox) eat the seeds and fruit while rabbits and deer will eat the leaves. Insects, including caterpillars of moths, will consume leaves, bark and sap.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** The trunk and branches are very distinct.

**Deer Resistant:** Moderate. Rabbits usually eat saplings while deer eat the leaves of older trees. Protect saplings. Older trees are only minimally browsed by deer.



# Muskingum Sedge(*Carex muskingumensis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Sedge

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun- Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet

**Soil Type:** Various fertile soils that hold moisture

**Size:** 2-3ft

**Flower:**

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Tan seed head.



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** A great food source for many insects that eat the leaves. Seeds, roots and leaves provide food for birds and mammals, and it gives cover for wildlife.

**Larval Host:** Yes- Satyr butterflies

**Special Note:** This is a great species to use along the banks of rivers, pond edges and other wet areas. Works well in residential settings, but, since it spreads by rhizomes, it may over-whelm small spaces and limit what else can grow. Can be hard to find species that will grow in wet shady spaces. Highly recommended.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes

# Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Sun- partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average-moist

**Soil Type:** Various soils that hold moisture and contain lots of organic matter.

**Size:** 12-25ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** May

**Fruit:** Blue/Black

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great nectar and pollen source for a large number of pollinators, and the berries are a great source of food for mammals and birds alike. Insects will consume the leaves and sap of this *Viburnum*. It provides cover and nesting especially when it grows as a thicket or hedge. Deer eat the leaves and rabbits will eat the bark.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** This is a robust shrub that is well suited for Michigan. Plant in moist areas of the landscape. Plant together to form a nice hedge and protection for wildlife. For proper flowering and fruit set, these shrubs should be planted in multiples as they need cross pollination.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# **New England Aster (*Aster novae-anglia*)**

## **Plant Characteristics**

**Plant Type: Forb**

**Light Requirement: Full sun- partial sun**

**Soil Moisture: Average-moist**

**Soil Type: Various loam. Can handle clay**

**Size: 3-6ft**

**Flower: Purple**

**Bloom Time: August**

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects: Powerhouse for nectar and pollen. Insects of all walks and wings will flock to this species. Many moths consume this plant as do deer and rabbits.**

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note: Can be aggressive, so not one for small spaces. Is absolutely one of the showiest native species. Great for rain gardens or other moist spaces. Requires cross pollination to produce fertile seeds.**

**Deer Resistant: No**



# NJ Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Well-drained soils

**Size:** 3ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** June-July

**Fruit:** Seed pods

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Large numbers of pollinators are drawn to its blooms for pollen and nectar, and other insects visit to feed on the plant. Wild Turkey, deer and rabbits find NJ Tea to be quite tasty as well. Provides cover when planted together.

**Larval Host:** Yes: Red-fronted Emerald, Summer Azure

**Special Note:** NJ Tea fixes nitrogen in the soil. As a low mounding and showy shrub, it lends itself well to more formal plantings. Great habitat shrub, especially when planted in large numbers.

**Deer Resistant:** No. As this will not get to the height needed to evade deer and rabbit, plant it in larger quantities to factor in loss. Consider companion planting with other species that mammals dislike which can repel individuals seeking a meal.



# **Nodding Wild Onion (*Allium cernuum*)**

## **Plant Characteristics**

**Plant Type: Forb**

**Light Requirement: Full sun- partial**

**Soil Moisture: Moist- average**

**Soil Type: Various, well-drained but moisture retaining.**

**Size: 2 Ft.**

**Flower: Violet**

**Bloom Time: July-August**

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects: Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, bumble bees, and various beneficial insects.**

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note: Great low growing plant that plays nicely in the landscape, so it lends itself to a more formal planting. There is no risk of it being eaten by deer and rabbit. Easily inter-planted with other low growing species.**

**Deer Resistant: Yes**





# Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average-moist

**Soil Type:** Moist loamy soil with high organic content

**Size:** 4-6ft

**Flower:** Purple/Pink

**Bloom Time:** July-September

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great plant for hummingbirds, bumble Bees and butterflies. It also attracts other pollinators and beneficial insects.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** This robust plant is great for larger spaces. Consider planting in larger rain gardens or along ponds, drainage ditches and rivers. Place it in moist areas of the landscape but not in areas that have standing water. As it can spread aggressively, it may over-whelm small plantings.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes.



# Orange Coneflower/Blk Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 3 feet

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** June-September

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of nectar and pollen.

Seeds are eaten by a variety of birds.

**Larval Host:** Gorgone Checkerspot, Bordered Patch butterfly

**Special Note:** Readily reseeds, as this species is a short-lived perennial. Do not cut back in fall!

**Deer resistant:** Yes



# Pale Indian Plantain (*Arnoglossum atriplicifolium*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Sun- partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry



**Soil Type:** Loamy/average garden soil

**Size:** 3-9 Ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** Mid-summer to early fall

**Fruit:** Seed heads.



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Source of Pollen and nectar

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** This is a very large plant that can over-whelm small landscapes. It is a beautiful plant and recommended if you have the space.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes

# Paper Birch (*Betula papyifera*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- average

**Soil Type:** Adaptable to various soils except clay

**Size:** 30-60 Ft

**Flower:** Green catkin

**Bloom Time:** April



**Fruit:** Cone develops from female flower.

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Paper Birch has incredible ecological value. It is used as a food source by a wide range of insects, birds, mammals and insects. Additionally, it is a nesting site for many bird species.

**Larval Host:** Luna Moth, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

**Special Note:** Very showy tree that is important to include in a habitat planting.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Offer young trees protection until they get larger.



# Pasture Rose (*Rosa carolina*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- average

**Soil Type:** Various well-drained that's high in organic matter.

**Size:** 6 Ft

**Flower:** Pink

**Bloom Time:** June-July

**Fruit:** Rose hips

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** In addition to being an awesome source of pollen and nectar, birds and small mammals love the fruit of this thicket forming shrub. Deer and rabbits eat the leaves and stems to a limited extent. Offers excellent nesting and cover for smaller creatures in your landscape.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** This will form nice colonies, hedges or thickets. Give them space to grow. Can overwhelm small spaces. Wonderful shrub.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes. Even though deer and rabbit may browse the young leaves, this shrub is robust and will not be truly affected.



# Pen Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Sedge

**Light Requirement:** Part sun- shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various loam that is well drained and contains ample organic matter

**Size:** 1ft

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** April- early May

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Nest building materials. Various beneficial insects eat the leaves while birds and small mammals consume the seeds or other parts of this plant.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Use this sedge in a woodland habitat as a base layer or ground cover. Plant en masse to make the best use of this sedge. Over time it will spread. Blends into the background as the season moves forward.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Pin Cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Sun, Part-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Dry-average

**Soil Type:** Variable

**Size:** 20-35ft

**Flower:** Many white flowers on numerous flower Umbels. Very striking.

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Very sour but also edible cherries.

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Leaves and berries are essential sources of food for many birds and mammals. Great source of nectar and pollen for insects. As a suckering tree, this species is thicket forming and offers cover, nesting and protection.

**Larval Host:** Columbia Silk Moth

**Special Note:** Thicket forming. Very important species to include in any habitat creation but can be hard to manage in small landscapes.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Protect until they grow larger.



# Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-average

**Soil Type:** Sandy-loamy, well drained

**Size:** 60-90 Ft

**Flower:** Male catkins and female short spikes

**Bloom Time:** Spring

**Fruit:** Acorns

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Oak are noted for their incredible ecological value. 400+ species use or are supported by Oak species.

**Larval Host:** Yes: Multiple.

**Special Note:** Plant this in areas that may flood early spring, but it does not like its roots flooded/wet during the growing season. The area must drain well yet hold moisture. Looking at the leaves, one can see that Pin Oaks are a sub-species of Red Oak. Highly recommended.

**Mammal Resistant:** No. Deer eat the leaves and rabbits can damage young saplings.





# Plantain Sedge (*Carex plantagenia*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Sedge

**Light Requirement:** Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist

**Soil Type:** Various woodland soils with high organic matter to hold moisture.

**Size:** 1ft

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** April

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Nesting material and cover. Seeds are eaten by birds and the leaves by various insects.

**Larval Host:** Appalachian Brown

**Special Note:** Will form a nice base layer (ground cover) in a woodland setting. Hard to get. Something to add to the mix in a woodland planting.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# **Poke Milkweed (*Asclepias exaltata*)**

## **Plant Characteristics**

**Plant Type: Forb**

**Light Requirement: Partial sun- shade**

**Soil Moisture: Average**

**Soil Type: Loamy with high organic content.**

**Size: 4-6 Ft**

**Flower: Violet-white**

**Bloom Time: June-July**

**Fruit: Seed pod**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects: Great source of pollen and nectar for pollinators and other beneficial insects. These insects also become food for many birds that reside or come through the area.**

**Larval Host: Monarch and Queen**

**Special Note: A great Milkweed for woodland setting. It can grow in sunnier locations as long as the soil holds moisture and it does not get hot afternoon sun. It does best in shadier areas.**

**Deer Resistant: Yes**



# Prairie Dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average-moist

**Soil Type:** Rich loamy soil.

**Size:** 6-10 feet

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** August-September

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar for various pollinators. Birds in turn will eat the seeds while various insects feed off leaves and sap. Large herbivores will readily consume this species.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** This is a very large species that will spread. It is best for larger spaces as smaller areas will be over-whelmed. Prairie Dock has amazingly big leaves and very beautiful flowers. Highly recommended if space allows.

**Deer Resistant:** No. This species is very robust and can typically handle browsing by deer.



# Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Grass

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average- dry

**Soil Type:** Various well-drained

**Size:** 2- 3 Ft

**Flower:**

**Bloom Time:** August-October

**Fruit:** Seed head

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** It is a food source for many insects, mammals and birds. Nest building and cover for wild creatures. Does not seem that deer or rabbits eat Prairie Dropseed, but other herbivores may like it.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** A very manageable grass for home landscapes/habitats. Highly recommended. Plant in large quantities to get the best ecological value from this grass.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Prairie Phlox (Phlox pilosa)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 1.5ft

**Flower:** Violet

**Bloom Time:** May-July

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Attracts wide range of pollinators including many moths, butterflies and bees. This plant is a favorite of deer, rabbits and ground hogs. Some insects also feed off this species.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Great plant for pollinator gardens. Plant densely to mitigate damage caused by browsing mammals. Animal repellent can help if applied regularly. The fragrant blooms persist about 3 weeks.

**Deer Resistant:** No.



# Prairie Smoke (Geum triflorum)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Various but seems to prefer sandy or gravelly soils. Adaptable to loamy soils

**Size:** 2ft

**Flower:** Red/Pink

**Bloom Time:** April- May

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Primarily a nectar source with pollen being secondary. Bumble bees frequent this species and are the primary visitors.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Will become a very striking ground cover if planted away from more aggressive species initially. Once established, it will hold its own. This species gets its name from the seeds which look like plumes of smoke when ready to release.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Prickly Pear (*Opuntia humifusa*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb/Cactus

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Dry-average

**Soil Type:** Tolerates various well-drained soils, but the preference is sandy

**Size:** 1ft

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** June

**Fruit:** Red

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** A good source of pollen and nectar that is visited by a variety of bees. Some insects and caterpillars feed off this species.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** A bit out of its native range in SE Michigan. UofM has it native to SW Michigan while other organizations list it as native to NE United States. Worth planting if the conditions are right. Wear gloves! Fruit is edible, but the flavor is very dependent on local conditions.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Purple Clematis (*Clematis occidentalis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Vine

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun-shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Loamy with high organic matter

**Size:** 12 Ft

**Flower:** Purple

**Bloom Time:** Late spring-mid-summer

**Fruit:** Seed tufts at spent flowers

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Good source of pollen and nectar. If it grows dense enough, which is uncommon, it can provide cover.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Better behaved than Virgin's Bower, but it is still a vine. Put some thought into where to plant it.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes





# Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- average

**Soil Type:** Loamy soil with good amount of organic material.

**Size:** 3-4 Ft

**Flower:** Reddish Purple

**Bloom Time:** July

**Fruit:** Seed heads

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Wide variety of pollinators including bees, wasps, butterflies and moths visit this plant when in bloom. Song birds frequent this plant for its seeds which are an important food source late fall through winter. Seems that deer and rabbits may eat this when other species are unavailable.

**Larval Host:** Silvery Checkerspot

**Special Note:** This is a very showy species with high ecological value. Does not do well in hot/dry situations, so avoid these situations when planting.

**Deer Resistant:** Maybe? Rebounds well if grazed. Mature plants are not usually bothered.



# Purple Love Grass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Grass

**Light Requirement:** Full sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Loamy sand. Can handle other soils that drain well.

**Size:** 1.5 Ft

**Flower:** Purple

**Bloom Time:** August-November

**Fruit:** Red seed head

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** A food source for insects, especially Skippers. Herbivores eat this grass when it is still young. Offers good cover for small creatures when it forms larger colonies.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Can be very stunning when grown in large numbers. It will spread freely if allowed which creates a nice low cover.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes. Deer and rabbits eat this only to a limited extent.



# Purple Prairie Clover (*Dalea purpurea*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun-partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 2-3ft

**Flower:** Purple

**Bloom Time:** Early-mid summer

**Fruit:**



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** This species will attract a very wide range of pollinators and beneficial insects. High protein content in leaves means herbivores love to munch on this clover.

**Larval Host:** Dogface Sulphur and Reakirt's Blue

**Special Note:** Plant in a protected space if deer are an issue in your neck of the woods. Larger colonies of this plant fare better if browsed by deer and rabbits.

**Deer Resistant:** No

# Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet

**Soil Type:** Various wet soils with organic materials

**Size:** Around 20ft at maturity.

**Flower:** Color varies from white, yellow or green.

**Bloom Time:** Early spring

**Fruit:** Brown

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Pussy Willow is an early season source of pollen and nectar when little else is available. Willows are a major food source for mammals, birds and insects. As a thicket forming shrub, it also offers cover and nesting.

**Larval Host:** Mourning Cloak, Viceroy

**Special Note:** Pussy Willow is a thicket forming shrub in the right conditions. Is a great species to plant in a consistently moist to wet location. It can overtake small landscapes, so prudence should be shown. Willow, along with Oak and Cherry, are powerhouses in the ecological system.

**Deer Resistant:** No and yes. As a suckering thicket forming shrub, it can usually handle browsing by herbivores, but initial immature plantings can be really damaged if not protected.



# Pussytoes (*Antennaria neglecta/parlinii*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 12 inches

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Seed heads



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Good early source of pollen and nectar for a variety of pollinators. Also consumed by herbivores such as deer, rabbit and ground hog.

**Larval Host:** Painted Lady butterfly

**Special Note:** Very low growing, it is a good choice as a ground cover in sunny areas with average to dry moistness.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Will be browsed, but, if planted in decent amounts from the start, it will be sustainable and will thrive.

# Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- average.

**Soil Type:** Various loamy soils that hold moisture.

**Size:** 72 feet

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** April

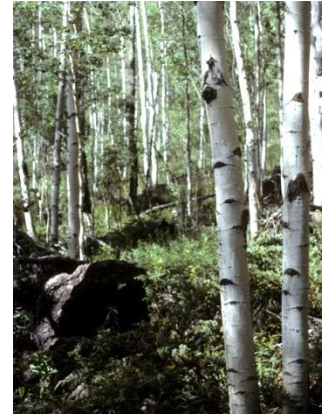
**Fruit:** Male and female catkins

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Aspens are host to a wide array of moths and butterflies. It is a food source to many insects, birds and mammals. Additionally, it is used for nesting and cover.

**Larval Host:** Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Viceroy, Great ash sphinx

**Special Note:** This tree can handle a diversity of sunny settings except when very dry or very wet. It does sucker quite a bit and thus create decent sized colonies. There are separate male and female trees, so plant in multiples or at least one of each if sex is known. Striking bark and fall color. Great for habitat creation.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Use repellent or fence off when establishing.



# Queen of the Prairie (*Filipendula rubra*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- wet

**Soil Type:** Various moist soils with high organic content.

**Size:** 3-6ft

**Flower:** Pink

**Bloom Time:** July

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** It is primarily a source of pollen for native bees and other insects feeding on pollen that visit the flowers. It is likely that deer will feed off the tender leaves or even the buds, but smaller animals do not seem to have much interest.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** It prefers a moist to wet setting and will form dense colonies in such situations. A very distinct plant and one of the showiest of our Michigan natives. A great species to plant along the water's edge or in bio-swales and rain gardens.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes. Dee



# **Rattlesnake Master (Eryngium yuccafolium)**

## **Plant Characteristics**

**Plant Type: Forb**

**Light Requirement: Full sun- partial**

**Soil Moisture: Average-moist**

**Soil Type: Various well-drained with good organic content.**

**Size: 4 feet**

**Flower: Greenish white**

**Bloom Time: July-September**

**Fruit: Globe seed head**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects: Attracts many pollinators and beneficial insects including Big Black Wasps who are frequent visitors.**

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note: This plant has very interesting leaves and flowers, making it a very unique species. Can be planted tightly together to create a type of thicket**

**Deer Resistant: Yes.**





# Red Baneberry (*Actaea rubra*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Woodland soils with plenty of organic materials

**Size:** 3ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** May

**Fruit:** Red

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** It attracts insects looking for pollen while birds and small mammals will eat the fruit.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Toxic to humans, this is still an excellent plant for a woodland habitat. Can be hard to get and to propagate.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

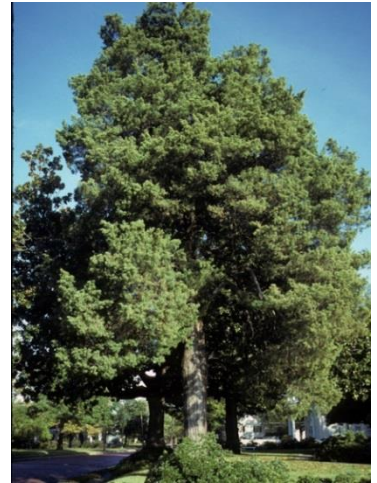
**Soil Type:** Various well-drained.

**Size:** 75ft

**Flower:** Green

**Bloom Time:** May

**Fruit:** Blue berry-like cone



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Fruit is a great source of food for many birds and small mammals. There are a wide range of beetles and other insects that use Red Cedar as a food source. Many species of birds use this tree as a nesting and perching site because of the excellent cover it provides.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Olive Hairstreak

**Special Note:** Drought tolerant. Great tree for creating a privacy hedge and for creating habitat for many bird species. Highly recommended. Red Cedar is a carrier of Cedar Apple Rust which, unfortunately, has led many people to not plant it and for many nurseries to not propagate it. The infection does not kill *Malus* species but can affect fruit production. If one is not worried about apple production, I recommend planting this species. Trees are male or female, so plant more than one.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes

# Red Honeysuckle (*Lonicera dioica*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Vine

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun- shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-dry

**Soil Type:** Well drained with high organic matter

**Size:** 10-12 Ft

**Flower:** Red

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Red berries

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great for pollen and nectar, and birds consume the berries. Can also provide cover for v wildlife. Attracts hummingbirds

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Very distinct and showy flowers. Especially good for shady areas or woodland edges.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Red Maple (Acer rubrum)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average- wet

**Soil Type:** Various soils. Red Maple is very adaptable

**Size:** 50-80 Ft

**Flower:** Red

**Bloom Time:** April

**Fruit:** Green/Red

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Many insects, birds and mammals use this tree for food and shelter. This brings in more creatures that feed on these critters.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** This is a great tree to have in a habitat. An added bonus is that it is visually stunning both in spring and the fall.

**Deer Resistant:** No. It is recommended that young trees be protected until larger.



# Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average-wet

**Soil Type:** Various soils that retain moisture and have high organic matter.

**Size:** 12 Ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** June

**Fruit:** White

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** This species has high ecological value. Many species of insects, birds and mammals rely on this shrub as a food source, for shelter, and as a larva host. As a thicket forming species it also offers cover to many more.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** This robust species is a great addition to the landscape. In addition to its ecological value, it is very stunning in bloom and with its red branches. As a thicket species, it may over-whelm small plantings.

**Deer Resistant:** No



# Red-berried Elder (*Sambucus racemosa*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average to moist.

**Soil Type:** Various soils that hold moisture.

**Size:** 10-20 feet

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Bright red berries

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Mammals and birds eat the berries and pollinators are attracted to the flowers. As this species matures it offers cover for wildlife.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Use this to create a thicket or plant as a specimen species. Consider planting where it is protected from harsh afternoon sun. Flowers are awesome when in bloom.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-wet

**Soil Type:** Various soils that retain moisture and contain a good amount of organic matter.

**Size:** 3-6ft

**Flower:** Pink

**Bloom Time:** August

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Hummingbirds and other pollinators frequent this plant. Various caterpillars eat the leaves and sometimes the seeds.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Rose Mallow has a very stunning flower. This is an excellent species to use in a rain garden or any other wet or moist location such as bio swales or the water's edge.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes.



# Rough Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 3-4 feet

**Flower:** Violet-purple

**Bloom Time:** July-August

**Fruit:** Seed tufts.

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** A magnet for butterflies and other pollinators. A favorite of mammals large and small who eat all parts of the plant.

**Larval Host:** Glorious Flower Moth

**Special Note:** One of the most beautiful native flowers. Plant en masse as a way to mitigate loss from grazing. Inter-planting with less palatable species helps with this too.

**Deer Resistant:** No. A favorite of Deer, Rabbits and Ground Hogs.





# Round-leaved Ragwort (*Packera obovate*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average- moist

**Soil Type:** Various well-drained

**Size:** 2-3ft

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Round-leaved Ragwort is a great spring blooming plant that is a great source of nectar and pollen.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Northern Metalmark

**Special Note:** This species will form a large colony that looks great in the spring. Interplant with other species.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# **Sand Coreopsis (Coreopsis lanceolate)**

## **Plant Characteristics**

**Plant Type: Forb**

**Light Requirement: Full sun- partial**

**Soil Moisture: Average-dry**

**Soil Type: Various. Does not need very fertile soil to thrive.**

**Size: 2-3 Ft**

**Flower: Yellow**

**Bloom Time: Late May-June. Plants browsed prior to flowering will bloom later in the season**

**Fruit: Roundish seed head**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects: As a great source of nectar and pollen, this species supports a wide range of pollinators and encourages many other beneficial insects. To a more limited extent, deer and small mammals will browse this plant but not destructively. It can grow into good sized colonies, so it also offers cover for wildlife.**

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note: This Coreopsis spreads by seed and by roots, so it can colonize a space. It is very stunning and bright when in bloom. This is a great species to plant when initiating a restoration or new native planting. It is one of the easier natives with lots of upside.**

**Deer Resistant: Yes. Deer and other mammals only lightly graze Sand Coreopsis.**



# Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree/Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- average/dry

**Soil Type:** Various well-drained soils

**Size:** 25ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** April-May

**Fruit:** Small red fruit or globoid pome.

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** As an early blooming tree, it attracts a wide range of pollinators when not much else is in bloom. Many other insects and butterflies/moths use Serviceberry as a food source and host plant. The fruit is eaten by both birds and mammals while the leaves and bark are primarily eaten by mammals alone.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Red-spotted Purple

**Special Note:** This is a fantastic tree for a native planting or restoration. Plant it as a hedge/thicket or as a single specimen tree. Excellent ecological value.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Deer, rabbit and ground hog do browse the leaves and twigs. Protection is wise until the tree gets larger.



# Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciose*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Average-dry

**Size:** 4-6 Ft

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** August-Oct

**Fruit:** Seed head

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Goldenrod is a fantastic source of pollen and nectar and attracts bees, wasps, moths and butterflies. Pollinators flock to this species when it is in bloom late in the season. Herbivores only occasionally browse this species.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Goldenrods are essential species to have in a habitat, as they offer a late season source of pollen and nectar. Showy Goldenrod is not aggressive like Canadian Goldenrod, so It is recommended for most planting spaces. It does get some height, so bear that in mind.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Shrubby Cinquefoil (*Dasiphora fruticosa*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average to wet (not standing water)

**Soil Type:** Various soils that retains moisture.

**Size:** 3 Ft

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** Mid-summer- fall.

**Fruit:** Brown

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** As a long blooming shrub this species is important for many pollinators especially if other sources are not available.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Dorcas Copper

**Special Note:** Consider using in lower laying areas that receive more moisture or in a rain garden. Plant in multiples to really show off the flowers and to support local pollinators.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Shrubby St. John's Wort (*Hypericum prolificum*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various well-drained soils

**Size:** 3-4 Ft

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** June-August

**Fruit:** Seed capsule.

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** This shrub attracts a wide range of pollinators and beneficial insects. This species only produces pollen. Caterpillars and other insects feed on this plant.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Gray Hairstreak, Gray Half Spot.

**Special Note:** Plant as a low hedgerow or as a mass planting. It is a great choice for a foundation planting as well. As a low growing shrub, it makes it a good option for smaller planting spaces.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Side-Oats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Grass

**Light Requirement:** Full Sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average-Dry

**Soil Type:** Most soil types except clay.

**Size:** 2-3 Ft

**Flower:** Green with reddish brown accents

**Bloom Time:** August-September

**Fruit:** seed

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** It is a food source for grazing animals, but deer seem to avoid. It handles grazing pressure well. Side Oats is great food source for grasshoppers which in turn feed birds and other animals. Used as a cover for small animals and insects.

**Larval Host:** Host for at least five types of skippers.

**Special Note:** A moderate grower, Side Oats is considered a bunch grass so rhizomes will travel and create new bunches. In ideal settings, it can grow very close together almost like a turf. Plant amongst prairie flowers such as Black Eyed Susan, Prairie Phlox, Western Sunflower.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes. Even if browsed, grasses typical regenerate without any lasting damage.



# Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Characteristics**

**Plant Type: Shrub**

**Light Requirement: Full sun- shade**

**Soil Moisture: Average-wet**



**Soil Type: Various soils that retain moisture and have high organic matter.**

**Size: 12 Ft**

**Flower: White**

**Bloom Time: June**

**Fruit: Blue**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects: This species has high ecological value. Many species of insects, birds and mammals rely on this shrub as a food source, for shelter, and as a larva host. As a thicket forming species it also offers cover to many more.**

**Larval Host: Yes**

**Special Note: This robust species is a great addition to the landscape. In addition to its ecological value, it is very stunning in bloom and with its resulting blue berries. As a thicket species, it may over-whelm small plantings. Very similar to Red Osier Dogwood.**

**Deer Resistant: No**



# Sky Blue Aster (*Aster oolentangiense*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Will grow in most soil types.

**Size:** 1.5-3 Ft

**Flower:** Blue-white

**Bloom Time:** August- fall

**Fruit:** Seed head

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Birds and small mammals eat the seeds and pollinators flock to the flowers. Asters are a great source of nectar and pollen late in the season. Herbivores love this species.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Pearl Crescent

**Special Note:** Asters are a must in any landscape. Along with their ecological impact, the flowers are fragrant and stunning.

**Deer Resistant:** No. There is a lot of feeding pressure on this species, so it can be difficult to establish in areas high in rabbits, deer and ground hogs. Consider repellent and plant in quantity until established.



# Smooth Aster (*Aster laevis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Will grow in most soil types.

**Size:** 1.5-3 Ft

**Flower:** Blue-white

**Bloom Time:** August- fall

**Fruit:** Seed head



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Birds and small mammals eat the seeds and pollinators flock to the flowers. Asters are a great source of nectar and pollen late in the season. Herbivores love this species.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Pearl Crescent

**Special Note:** Asters are a must in any landscape. Along with their ecological impact, the flowers are fragrant and stunning. Smooth Aster is very similar to Sky Blue Aster.

**Deer Resistant:** No. There is a lot of feeding pressure on this species, so it can be difficult to establish in areas high in rabbits, deer and ground hogs. Consider repellent and plant in quantity until established.

# Southern Blue Flag Iris (*Iris virginica*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet



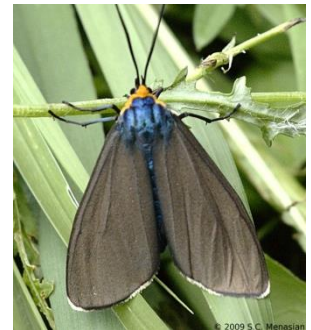
**Soil Type:** Prefers wet soils but can also handle moist soils.

**Size:** 2-3ft

**Flower:** Blue

**Bloom Time:** May-July

**Fruit:** Seed pod



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** This is a great source of pollen and nectar, but most visitors come for nectar. Various insects feed on the leaves and roots.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Virginia Ctenucha Moth

**Special Note:** Plant this in wet or moist areas, along pond and creek edges, in rain gardens, marshy areas and bio swales.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes

# Spicebush(Lindera benzoin)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun (not afternoon)- shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average-wet

**Soil Type:** Various soils that holds moisture with high organic content.

**Size:** 10-15 Ft

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** April-May

**Fruit:** Red berries

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar early in the season. Berries are eaten by various birds and foliage eaten by larvae of other species.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Spicebush Swallowtail

**Special Note:** This is a great species for wet/moist and shady areas of your habitat. It has great spring flowers and is very well-behaved. Great replacement for the invasive Forsythia shrub.

**Deer Resistant:** Moderate-yes. If browsing is noticed, it is recommended that Spicebush be protected.



# Spiderwort (Tradescantia ohioensis)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type: Forb**

**Light Requirement: Full sun- partial**

**Soil Moisture: Average**

**Soil Type: Various soil types that retain moisture.**

**Size: 3 feet**

**Flower: Blue**

**Bloom Time: May-July**

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects: Spiderwort is great source of nectar and pollen for a variety of pollinators and the leaves are eaten by herbivores including Box Turtle.**

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note: Readily self-sows. This species can over-whelm a small landscape. Inter-plant with other opportunistic forbs to keep in check and to keep the landscape in bloom.**

**Deer Resistant: Yes. If given the opportunity to establish, this persistent perennial will withstand browsing by animals.**



# Spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun (not afternoon sun)- shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Rich loamy soil with high organic content.

**Size:** 3-6 feet

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** July-August

**Fruit:** Reddish/purple berries

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Attracts many beneficial insects and pollinators to its many flowers including many wasps. Birds, mammals and other creatures eat the berries that this plant produces in large quantities. Offers great cover for wildlife.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** As one of the tallest woodland plants Spikenard is a unique species with high ecological value.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Various well-drained soils.

**Size:** 100ft

**Flower:** Green

**Bloom Time:** April

**Fruit:** Green/Brown/Red

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** An early source of pollen in the male flowers (female flowers have no nectar nor pollen). Almost all parts of this tree are used for food, for cover, for nesting and other habitation. Species that use this tree range from insects to mammals to birds. This tree has high ecological value

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** Fantastic canopy tree and the source of maple syrup. This tree is highly recommended.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Protect this tree until it gets older and larger when it can handle animal grazing.



# Swamp Buttercup (*Ranunculus hispidus*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist soils with good amount of organic matter

**Soil Type:** Various loamy soils

**Size:** 1.5 Ft

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** May

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** This plant is a source of pollen and nectar. Also offers cover and protection to small animals.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** This plant forms an awesome ground cover in moist areas, and it is adaptable to sunnier locations.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes





# Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet

**Soil Type:** Various moist to wet soils with good amounts of organic matter

**Size:** 4 feet

**Flower:** Purple-pink

**Bloom Time:** June-August

**Fruit:** Seed pod

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Swamp Milkweed attracts a tremendous amount of pollinators and other beneficial insects. These visitors include hummingbirds, butterflies, wasps and bees.

**Larval Host:** Monarch

**Special Note:** Great for wet areas, water's edge, rain gardens and wet naturalized areas in general. This species will grow in average soil as well if it holds enough moisture but is will be smaller. Swamp Milkweed readily reseeds.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Tall Tickseed (*Coreopsis tripteris*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- average

**Soil Type:** Various. Adaptable to most well drained soils.

**Size:** 6 feet

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** July-September

**Fruit:** Seed cluster

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** A magnet for pollinators and beneficial insects, this plants offers both pollen and nectar. A variety of insects also feed off other parts of the plants. Small song birds consume the seeds.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** A very tall and showy plant. It makes a great background planting or privacy screen, but can be spread and take over a space. May not be well-suited for small areas. Long bloom period is of great benefit.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes. Deer and rabbit only occasionally feed on young plants from which most regrow.



# Tamarack (*Larix laricina*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial  
**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet.

**Soil Type:** Various soils with high organic materials that are consistently moist.

**Size:** 40-75 feet

**Flower:** Reddish purple (female) Pale yellow (male)

**Bloom Time:** April

**Fruit:** Cone

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** A variety of birds use this tree as a nesting site and as a food source. Likewise, one will find a range of insects living off and living on Tamarack. Small mammals eat the seeds of this tree. Offers cover when needles are on the tree.

**Larval Host:** Columbia Silk Moth

**Special Note:** This tree actually loses its needles every season, turning a stunning yellow in fall. Tamarack typically grows in boggy ground which is not usual in residential settings, but this tree is adaptable to other sites that stay consistently moist. Good ecological value.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Tall Thimbleweed (*Anemone virginiana*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- average

**Soil Type:** Various soils with good organic content that hold moisture.

**Size:** 3 feet

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** June-August

**Fruit:** Seed heads

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** This species is a good pollen and nectar source and it offers cover for small animals when colonies are formed.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** In addition to the nice white flowers, the plant produces a very interesting seed head that then gives way to a white fluff as seeds are dispersed in the fall. Great species to interplant with other species.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Sun-partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Loamy with organic matter

**Size:** 80-120 Ft

**Flower:** Yellow w/ orange marks at the base

**Bloom Time:** Late spring

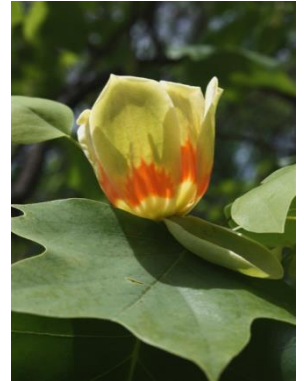
**Fruit:** Seeds in a cone structure

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar for a wide variety of pollinators. Seeds are eaten by birds and small mammals and leaves and twigs are browsed by larger mammals and ground dwelling mammals like rabbits.

**Larval Host:** Tiger Swallowtail, Tulip Tree Beauty, Promethea Moth

**Special Note:** One of our tallest trees. Southern Michigan (Flint and south) is its northern range. This is a great shade tree in addition to the awesome floral display and the cool bark on mature trees. Great specimen tree for a habitat.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Recommend caging until it grows to a larger size.



# Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Shrub

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet

**Soil Type:** Various soils with high organic matter

**Size:** 2-3 Ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** August-September

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of nectar and pollen for many insects and hummingbirds.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Baltimore

**Special Note:** This wetland species should be planted in consistently moist-wet areas. Although it does not like standing water, it can tolerate temporary flooding. Areas that dry out will not suit this plant. Plant at water's edge or other wet locations.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun(not afternoon sun)- shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-average.

**Soil Type:** Various well-drained soils that contain high amounts of organic material.

**Size:** 1-2ft

**Flower:** Blue

**Bloom Time:** May

**Fruit:** Small fruit/seed pod

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** A very wide range of insects and pollinators visit this species for pollen and nectar. Visitors include hummingbirds. It blooms early in the season providing food when wildlife is emerging. It also provides a great early ground cover allowing small animals protection as they forage.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** This grows in large low growing colonies that are incredible to see. Companion plant with other species since Bluebells goes dormant soon after blooming. Is one of the best signs that spring has arrived.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Vine

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- shade.

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Various well-drained

**Size:**

**Flower:** Green/yellow

**Bloom Time:** July-August

**Fruit:** Blue grape-like fruit

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** It is a minor source of pollen and nectar. Leaves are a food source for many insects, and fruits are a great source of food for many birds and small animals.

**Larval Host:** Yes

**Special Note:** This is a very robust vine (a climber and rambler) that will quickly spread. Not the best choice for small landscapes. Great ecologically, but please consider your space. This is an awesome species for large areas, especially wooded areas.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes





# Virginia Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Partial-sun to shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-average

**Soil Type:** Soil with good organic content that holds moisture well.

**Size:** 1-2ft

**Flower:** Lavender. Showy

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Good source of pollen and nectar.  
Also offers cover for woodland creatures.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** This is a great plant for moist woodland (shady) settings or woodland edges. As its habit is to spread, it may over-whelm small gardens, but, as a ground cover, it will grow well with strong plants that can push through.

**Deer Resistant:** Deer may browse occasionally.



# Virgins Bower (*Clematis virginiana*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Vine

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average. Must retain moisture.

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 12 feet. Roots where it touches soil to start a new vine.

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** July- August

**Fruit:** Seed tufts

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** It is primarily a pollen and nectar source for a wide range of insects. It also offers sanctuary and cover for smaller creatures.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** A fast grower that will spread, it acts as a ground cover when it cannot climb. Consider your space before planting. Does best in partial sun settings. Very showy indeed!

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Western Sunflower (*Helianthus occidentalis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various. Best in sandy well drained soil.

**Adapts to other well-drained soils**

**Size:** 2-4 feet

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** August-September

**Fruit:** Seed head

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** This species is a great source of pollen and nectar which attracts many pollinators. Many birds and small mammals eat the seeds of this plant, and many insects consume other parts of the forb. Herbivores like deer will eat the foliage.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Gorgone Checkerspot, Painted Lady, Sunflower Bud Moth

**Special Note:** A more well-behaved sunflower. Highly recommended. Plant in larger quantities to protect from loss as a result of grazing.

**Deer Resistant:** No. Once established, this plant should hold up well to grazing by animals. Repellants can be helpful.



# White Flat-top Aster (*Doellingeria umbellata*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb



**Light Requirement:** Sun-partial-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-wet

**Soil Type:** Loamy

**Size:** 2-5 ft

**Flower:** White ray flower



**Bloom Time:** Late summer-early fall

**Fruit:** Small seed clusters on spent flower heads

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar late in the season. Attracts a wide range of pollinator species. This plant is a great food source for many other insects and mammals.

**Larval Host:** Harris' Checkerspot

**Special Note:** Asters are very important as late season bloomers and as food sources. Inter-plant as a way to protect from over-grazing. Not best for small landscapes as it can be an aggressive spreader.

**Deer Resistant:** No

# White Oak (Quercus alba)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun

**Soil Moisture:** Average

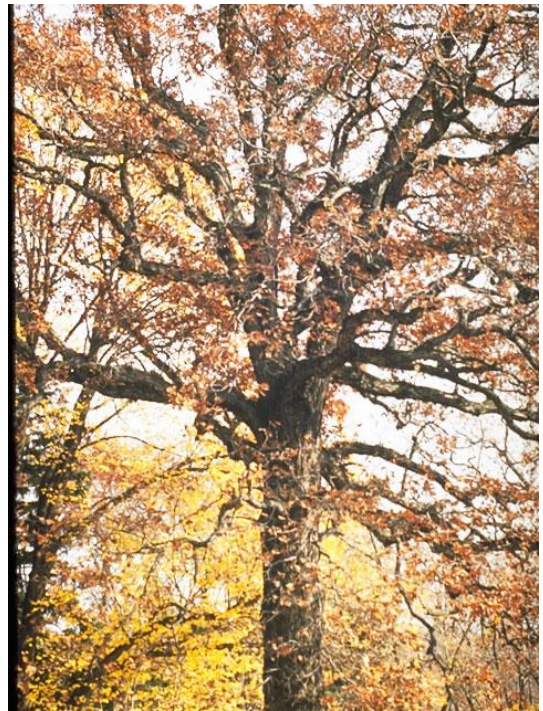
**Soil Type:** Various. Adaptable

**Size:** 100 Ft

**Flower:** Green

**Bloom Time:** May

**Fruit:** Acorn



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Oak is one of the most important species of tree. It is a food source, nesting site and larval host for over 400 species.

**Larval Host:** Many butterflies and moths

**Special Note:** Oak trees are incredibly important ecologically. White Oak is very long-lived (600 years). Highly recommended!

**Deer Resistant:** Not really. Fence young trees until they are large enough to handle grazing by mammals.

# White Snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Ford

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun (not afternoon sun)- shade

**Soil Moisture:** Moist-average

**Soil Type:** Various loamy soils.

**Size:** 2-4 feet

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** August-fall

**Fruit:** Wind-blown seeds.

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Pollinators are attracted to this species for both its pollen and its nectar. Moth caterpillars are known to feed on the leaves.

**Larval Host:** Yes.

**Special Note:** This is an important species as its late bloom time offers when it becomes scarce late in the year. It spreads by seed and rhizomes which form good sized colonies that are stunning when in bloom.

**Caution:** This plant does contain a toxin that is poisonous to mammals in certain quantities. Wild animals know not to eat this plant, but household pets may not. It is recommended not to plant this if your pet browses on vegetation in the garden.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# White Wild Indigo (Baptisia Alba)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Well-drained and loamy

**Size:** 3-5 feet

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** June-July

**Fruit:** Pods

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Pollinators are attracted to this species and various insects consume the foliage.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Wild Indigo Duskywing, Orange Sulphur

**Special Note:** A great vibrant addition to the landscape. As a part of the pea family, it fixes nitrogen in the soil.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Whorled Milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various well drained soils

**Size:** 2 Ft

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** July-August

**Fruit:** Seed pod

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Like other Milkweed, Whorled attracts a wide range of pollinators to its flowers for both pollen and nectar. Other insects eat the leaves of this plant.

**Larval Host:** Monarch

**Special Note:** Although it is a lower growing Milkweed, it will readily spread. The smaller stature makes the spread less of an issue. Interplant with other hardy species.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes





# Wild Black Currant (*Ribes americanum*)

## Plant Characteristics

Plant Type: Shrub

Light Requirement: Partial-sun

Soil Moisture: Moist (Consistently moist)

Soil Type: Various as long as it holds moisture

Size: 3-5 Ft.

Flower: Yellow

Bloom Time: May

Fruit: Small black berry



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** This small shrub is of great ecological value. It provides nectar and pollen for many pollinator species, leaves are a food source for many insects and many species of birds and mammals consume the berries.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Green Comma, Orange Barred Carpet Moth

**Special Note:** Berries are edible to humans. Wild Black Currant can host White Pine Blister Rust, but this disease is more of an issue in western parts of the US- <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/fact-sheets/white-pine-blister-rust-ribes-species>. That said it can affect Eastern White Pine. Consider as well that White Pine and Wild Black Currant are already living side by side throughout their ranges. May pose a issue if White Pine are being grown for production. If the goal is ecological restoration, I do not see an issue.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes (mostly)

# Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun- shade.

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- dry

**Soil Type:** Well-drained sandy or loamy. Does not do as well in heavy soils.

**Size:** 2 feet

**Flower:** Red and yellow

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:** Seed capsule

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** This species primarily provides pollen and nectar to bumble bees, humming birds and other pollinators. Some insects feed off the foliage.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Columbine Sawfly, Columbine Duskywing

**Special Note:** This is a great plant to have in a woodland habitat. It is very attractive in bloom and has very interesting leaves. Although plants can handle sun, it is not recommended that they receive hot afternoon sun.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Shade- partial sun

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- Average

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 1-2 feet (low and mounding)

**Flower:** Violet

**Bloom Time:** April-June

**Fruit:** Seed pods

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** As a colony forming species, it covers for many small woodland animals. Also offers pollen and nectar to many pollinators. Seeds are eaten by small mammals and some song birds.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Ebony Bug, Bridled Arches

**Special Note:** Spreads very well. Use this awesome plant to create a base layer in a woodland setting. Companion plant with woodland species that bloom at different times. Can tolerate partial sun, but does best if not exposed to afternoon sun.

**Deer Resistant:** Moderate. Deer do graze this plant, but not to a troubling extent.



# Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Shade- partial sun (not afternoon sun)

**Soil Moisture:** Moist- Average

**Soil Type:** Various loamy soils that are well-drained

**Size:** >1ft

**Flower:** Purple/Brown

**Bloom Time:** May

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Insects, specifically ants, will eat the seed coat and disperse them at their colonies. W. Ginger is a good source of pollen and nectar for beetles and flies. A low growing ground cover, it offers protection and hiding for small creatures.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Pipevine Swallowtail

**Special Note:** This is a great ground cover for a woodland garden. Can be used as the base layer or a living mulch.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun, Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Well-drained soils. Sandy soils are best

**Size:** 2 feet

**Flower:** Blue-purple

**Bloom Time:** May- June

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Hummingbirds, bumble bees and butterflies. Attracts many other pollinators and beneficial insects. Deer, rabbits and ground hogs will also browse on Lupine but somewhat rarely.

**Larval Host:** Karner Blue butterfly (endangered), Frosted Elfin

**Special Note:** Fixes nitrogen in the soil. This species can be either short-lived or long depending on environmental conditions. Can be a difficult species to establish.

**Deer Resistant:** No.



# Wild Petunia (Ruellia humilis)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 1-2 feet

**Flower:** Violet-purple

**Bloom Time:** June-August

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar

**Larval Host:** Larval food plant for the Buckeye and several other butterfly species.

**Special Note:** Readily reseeds. As a low growing plant, interplant with others of similar stature and use in mass plantings.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Wild Senna (Senna hebecarpa)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average- moist

**Soil Type:** Various

**Size:** 3-5 feet

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** July-August

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** It attracts bees and butterflies that come for the pollen and nectar. Also brings in ants and lady bugs which protect the plant from pests. Some birds will also eat the seeds of the plant. It fixes nitrogen in the soil.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Cloudless Sulphur, Sleepy Orange

**Special Note:** Some landscapers grow this as a hedgerow as it has a bushy appearance and is very showy when in bloom. Does best in bigger landscapes as it may over-whelm small spaces.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full-sun- Partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average-dry

**Soil Type:** Various loamy soils.

**Size:** ~6 inches

**Flower:** White

**Bloom Time:** April-June

**Fruit:** Red berry



**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** A very high number of pollinators visit this plant when in bloom. It offers both pollen and nectar.

**Additionally,** the fruit is eaten by birds, mammals and turtles. Rabbits eat the leaves of this plant as well. Offers protective cover to small creatures.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Gray Hairstreak, Grizzled Skipper

**Special note:** This is one of the best native ground covers one can plant. This species has high ecological value. Highly recommended!

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Wood Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Loamy with high organic matter.

**Size:** 2 feet

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** April-May

**Fruit:** Large pods

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** It is a good source of pollen and nectar for various bees. Small mammals and ants eat the seeds of this species.

**Larval Host:**

**Special Note:** Spreads quickly and stays low. It is a great ground cover for a woodland setting. Its showy flowers are a welcome sight in spring.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Woodland Joe-Pye (Eutrochium purpureum)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun (not hot afternoon sun)

**Soil Moisture:** Average-moist

**Soil Type:** Various moist loamy soils with high organic content.

**Size:** 4-7 Ft

**Flower:** Pale purple

**Bloom Time:** July-early fall

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Attracts many pollinators and beneficial insects.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Common Plum Moth, Red Groundling

**Special Note:** Best planted in a woodland edge habitat. Partial sun planting locations give the best blooms and plant size. This is a stately and tall plant. Spreads by reseeding. Highly recommended.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Woodland Phlox (Phlox divaricata)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Shade

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Various well-drained with high organic content.

**Size:** 1ft

**Flower:** Blue

**Bloom Time:** May-June

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** This woodland species attract many pollinators including Sphinx moths. Other insects feed off the foliage and stems. Offers cover to small creatures.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Stalk Borer Moth, Spotted Straw Moth

**Special Note:** This is an important species to have in a woodland habitat. Also adds color in the spring which is much needed. There is some leaf die back after blooming, but some leaves are actually semi-evergreen. It is important to interplant with other species to support the ecology of the space.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Yellow Coneflower (Ratibida pinnata)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Full sun- partial

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Various loamy soils.

**Size:** 4-5 Ft

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** July-August

**Fruit:** Large seed head.

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** This species is a great source of pollen and nectar for a wide range of pollinators. In addition, Birds eat the seeds which are a great food source for bird seeking food in the winter. Insects will also eat the leaves, as will ground hogs.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Wavy-Lined Emerald, Silvery Checkerspot

**Special Note:** Spreads readily so it may overwhelm small landscapes. Good source of food for birds over the winter. Do not cut back until spring.

**Deer Resistant:** Yes



# Zigzag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*)

## Plant Characteristics

**Plant Type:** Forb

**Light Requirement:** Partial sun- Shade (not hot afternoon sun)

**Soil Moisture:** Average

**Soil Type:** Various with high organic content that holds moisture.

**Size:** 2 feet

**Flower:** Yellow

**Bloom Time:** August-November

**Fruit:**

**Benefit for Wildlife and Insects:** Great source of pollen and nectar late in the season when other species are not in bloom. Deer will graze on this species as will rabbits.

**Larval Host:** Yes. Copy the link below to see them.

<http://illinoiswildflowers.info/woodland/tables/table26.htm>

**Special Note:** Zigzag Goldenrod will spread, but its smaller size makes it less imposing. It is an important species to plant, so it is highly recommended. It is easy to inter-plant with this species to add diversity to the space.

**Deer Resistant.** No and yes. Once this species establishes in a habitat, it can hold up to animal grazing without much long-term effect.

