Plants for Riparian Zones
What to Plant Near Rivers and Lakes

Vegetation in the riparian zone provides many benefits including erosion control, shade, habitat and inputs into streams. The following lists of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants are native in Michigan and could be used when restoring vegetation along streams and lakes.

Common Name	Latin Name	Plant Type	Planting Location
Red Maple	*Acer rubrum*	Tree	Above Flood Zone
Yellow Birch	*Betula alleghaniensis*	Tree	Above Flood Zone
Hackberry	*Celtis occidentalis*	Tree	Above Flood Zone
Honey Locust	*Gleditsia triacanthos*	Tree	Above Flood Zone
White Spruce	*Picea glauca*	Tree	Above Flood Zone
Balsam Poplar	*Populus balsamifera*	Tree	Above Flood Zone
Swamp White Oak	*Quercus bicolor*	Tree	Above Flood Zone
Hemlock	Tsuga canadensis	Tree	Above Flood Zone
Balsam Fir	*Abies balsamea*	Tree	Flood zone
Silver Maple	*Acer saccharinum*	Tree	Flood zone
Black Spruce	*Picea mariana*	Tree	Flood zone
Sycamore	*Platanus occidentalis*	Tree	Flood zone
Eastern Cottonwood	*Populus deltoides*	Tree	Flood zone
Peachleaf Willow	*Salix amygdaloides*	Tree	Flood zone
Black Willow	*Salix nigra*	Tree	Flood zone
Northern White Cedar	*Thuja occidentalis*	Tree	Flood zone
Basswood	*Tilia americana*	Tree	Flood zone

Common Name	Latin Name	Plant Type	Planting Location
Winterberry	*Ilex verticillata*	Shrub	Above Flood Zone
Spicebush	*Lindera benzoin*	Shrub	Above Flood Zone
Ninebark	*Physocarpus opulifolius*	Shrub	Above Flood Zone
American Elderberry	*Sambucus canadensis*	Shrub	Above Flood Zone
Meadowsweet	*Spiraea alba*	Shrub	Above Flood Zone
Nannyberry	*Viburnum lentago*	Shrub	Above Flood Zone
Highbush Cranberry	*Viburnum trilobum*	Shrub	Above Flood Zone
Speckled Alder	*Alnus incana*	Shrub	Flood zone
Silky Dogwood	*Cornus amomum*	Shrub	Flood zone
Red-osier Dogwood	*Cornus sericea (stolonifera)*	Shrub	Flood zone
Sweet gale	*Myrica gale*	Shrub	Flood zone
Pussy Willow	*Salix discolor*	Shrub	Flood zone
Sandbar Willow	*Salix exigua (interior)*	Shrub	Flood zone
Buttonbush	*Cephalanthus occidentalis*	Shrub	Water

Common Name	Latin Name	Plant Type	Planting Location
Canada anemone	*Anemone canadensis*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Tall flat-top white aster	*Aster umbellatus*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Canada blue-joint grass	*Calamagrostis canadensis*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Fox sedge	*Carex vulpinoidea*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Turtlehead	*Chelone glabra*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Sweet woodreed	*Cinna arundinacea*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Riverbank wild rye	*Elymus riparius*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Rattlesnake grass	*Glyceria canadensis*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Sneezeweed	*Helenium autumnale*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Tall sunflower	*Helianthus giganteus*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Torrey rush	*Juncus torreyi*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Sensitive fern	*Onoclea sensibilus*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Royal fern	*Osmunda regalis*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Obedient plant	*Physostegia virginiana*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Mountain mint	*Pycnanthermum viginianum*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Cut-leaved coneflower	*Rudbeckia laciniata*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Green bulrush	*Scirpus atrovirens*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Wild senna	*Senna hebecarpa*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Swamp goldenrod	*Solidago patula*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Prairie cordgrass	*Spartina pectinata*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Tall meadow-rue	*Thalictrum dasycarpum*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Blue vervain	*Verbena hastata*	Herbaceous	Above Flood Zone
Swamp milkweed	*Asclepias incarnata*	Herbaceous	Flood zone
Swamp aster	*Aster puniceus*	Herbaceous	Flood zone
Water sedge	*Carex aquatilis*	Herbaceous	Flood zone
Swamp loosestrife	*Decodon verticillatus*	Herbaceous	Flood zone
Virginia wild rye	*Elymus virginicus*	Herbaceous	Flood zone
Joe-Pye weed	*Eupatorium maculatum*	Herbaceous	Flood zone
Boneset	*Eupatorium perfoliatum*	Herbaceous	Flood zone
Baltic rush	*Juncus balticus*	Herbaceous	Flood zone
Great blue lobelia	*Lobelia siphilitica*	Herbaceous	Flood zone
Monkey flower	*Mimulus ringens*	Herbaceous	Flood zone
Ditch stonecrop	*Penthorum sedoides*	Herbaceous	Flood zone
Water smartweed	*Polygonum amphibium*	Herbaceous	Flood zone
Showy coneflower	*Rudbeckia fulgida*	Herbaceous	Flood zone
Lizard's tail	*Saururus cemuus*	Herbaceous	Flood zone
River bulrush	*Scirpus fluviatilis*	Herbaceous	Flood zone
Swamp aster	*Symphyotrichum puniceum*	Herbaceous	Flood zone

Developed by Rachel Frantz, rachel.frantz@gvmc.org, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, June, 2019.

Additional Resources

For more information about how forests provide abundant clean water and quality fish habitat, visit www.ForestsForFish.org.

Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership – www.MiShorelinePartnership.org

Michigan Flora – www.MichiganFlora.net

Michigan Natural Features Inventory of Rare Plants – www.mnfi.anr.msu.edu/species/plants

Nature Serve Explorer – www.explorer.natureserve.org

Plants Database – www.plants.usda.gov

Native Plant Guild – www.NativePlantGuild.com

Tree Planting in Michigan – MSUE Bulletin E-771 - https://pollinators.msu.edu/sites/ pollinators/assets/File/Tree_Planting_in_Michigan.pdf

Creating a Forest - https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestmanagement/documents/pub/fr-426.pdf

Plant Michigan Green – www.PlantMichiganGreen.com

Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds – Plant List - www.lgrow.org/rainscaping

Department of Natural Resources – Forest Resources Division

DIRECTORY OF MICHIGAN SEEDLING NURSERIES

This is a directory of Michigan nurseries that grow seedlings for forestry and wildlife plantings. The list is organized by region, but all nurseries ship statewide. The DNR Wyman Nursery grows seedlings for planting on State land only and does not sell trees to the general public. The USFS J. W. Toumey Nursery primarily grows seedlings for US Forest Service land.

Nursery	Address	Phone	Email	Website
Southern Lower Peninsula				
Alpha Nurseries	3737 65th Street, Holland, MI 49423	269-857-7804	info@alphanurseries.com	www.alphanurseries.com
Badger Seedling	902 26th Street, Allegan, MI 49010	269-673-2662	badger@bciwildblue.com	
Bosch's Countryview Nursery	10785 84th Avenue, Allendale, MI 49401	616-892-4090	brian@boschsnursery.com	www.boschsnursery.com
Cold Stream Farm	8585 N Stephens Rd, Freesoil, MI 49411	231-464-5809	info@coldstreamfarm.net	www.coldstreamfarm.net
Engel's Nursery	6432 120th Avenue, Fennville, MI 49408	269-543-4123	info@engelsnursery.com	www.engelsnursery.com
Kerkstra Nursery	6985 54th Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426	616-669-3832	kerkstranurseries@sbcglobal.net	kerkstranurseries.weebly.com
New Life Nursery	3720 64th Street, Holland, MI 49423	269-857-1209	sgenzink@newlifenursery.com	www.newlifenursery.com
Newaygo Conservation District	1725 E 72nd Street, Newaygo, MI 49337	231-652-7493	newaygocd@macd.org	www.newaygocd.org
Peterson's Riverview Nursery	873 26th Street, Allegan, MI 49010	269-673-2440	info@petersons-riverview.com	www.petersons-riverview.com
PRT	4653 Bishop Lake Road, Howell, MI 48843	810-626-7009	chad.fields@prt.com	www.prt.com
Vans Pines Nursery	14731 Baldwin Street, West Olive, MI 49460	616-399-1620	info@vanspinesnursery.com	www.vanspinesnursery.com
Wahmhoff Farms Nursery	23090 M-40 Hwy, Gobles, MI 49055	269-628-4308	info@mitrees.com	www.mitrees.com
Wildtype Native Plant Nursery	900 North Every Road, Mason, MI 48854	517-244-1140	info@wildtypeplants.com	www.wildtypeplants.com
Northern Lower Peninsula				
Fox Farm Nurseries	7615 Eleven Mile, Bear Lake MI 49614	231-887-4454	tom@foxfarmnurseries.com	www.foxfarmnurseries.com
Hramor Nursery	2267 Merkey Road, Manistee, MI 49660	231-723-4846	hramor@jackpine.com	www.hramornursery.com
Needlefast Evergreens	4075 Hansen Road, Ludington, MI 49431	231-843-8524	nickel@needlefastevergreens.com	www.needlefastevergreens.com
Newell's Evergreen Nursery	7140 West Blue Road, Lake City MI 49651	231-510-1030	newelltrees@yahoo.com	www.newellsevergreennursery.com
Northern Pines Nursery	2300 South Morey Road, Lake City, MI 49651	231-468-6018	scott@northernpinesnursery.com	www.northernpinesnursery.com
Porcupine Hollow Farm	8593 West State, Central Lake, MI 49622	231-544-6769	porkyfarm@charter.net	www.porkyfarm.com
Upper Peninsula				
Evergreen Nursery	E 1843 Pantti Road, Rumely, MI 49826	906-387-4350	cnolta@evergreennurserymi.com	www.evergreennurserymi.com
Lake Superior Tree Farms	Rt. #1, Box 360, Baraga, MI 49908	906-523-6200	treefarm@up.net	www.lakesuperiortreefarms.com
Statewide Associations				
MI Christmas Tree Association	PO Box 377, Howell, MI 48844	517-545-9971	marsha@mcta.org	www.mcta.org
MI Nursery and Landscape Assn.	2149 Commons Parkway, Okemos, MI 48864	517-381-0437	amy@mnla.org	www.mnla.org
MI Seedling Growers Association	4075 Hansen Road, Ludington, MI 49431	231-843-8524	J71nick@hotmail.com	