

TOP TEN NATIVE PLANTS



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2018 'BEST PLANTS' FOR BIRDS AND POLLINATORS IN OUR AREA

YOU CAN HELP!

Add these plants to your garden or landscape and become part of a community-wide effort to improve habitat for our local birds, bees and butterflies.

Every garden is important and no effort is too small.

See back of flyer for more information →

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Our 2018 “**Top Ten Native Plants**” are a selection of locally-adapted species important to birds, bees, and butterflies. Add them to your yard or garden; but don’t forget to look around and see if they are already growing in the wilder areas of your yard. You might be surprised!

Early season wildflowers

1. **Wild Geranium** (*Geranium maculatum*) 1-2’ ☀️ ☀️
Unlike most other spring bloomers, wild geranium retains its attractive foliage all season long. Long-lived, it expands slowly to form a nice clump. It prefers shade but will grow in full sun in a rich, slightly damp soil. Native bees visit the flowers for nectar and pollen. The blooms also attract pollinating flies, butterflies and skippers.
2. **Red Columbine** (*Aquilegia canadensis*) 1-3’ ☀️ ☀️
Columbine is attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, and hawk moths. The nectar of red columbine provides a hummingbird with high sugar content and amino acids - twice the amount of any other columbine species native to North America. It does very well in a home garden, preferring shadier sites but does tolerate sun

Mid-season wildflowers

3. **Grey-headed Coneflower** (*Ratibida pinnata*) ☀️ ☀️
2-4’ These bright yellow flowers lure bees and butterflies with both pollen and nectar. The plants host caterpillars of Silvery Checkerspot butterflies and several moths. Goldfinches, chickadees and other birds eat the seeds. Gray-headed coneflower grows well with other flowering prairie plants that prefer average, well-drained soil, such as Giant Blue Hyssop.
4. **Giant Blue Hyssop** (*Agastache foeniculum*) ☀️ ☀️
2-4’ Reaching a height of two to four feet, Giant blue hyssop can tolerate part shade to full sun and prefers moist to well-drained soil. Characteristic of the mint family, the leaves are fragrant when crushed. The lavender flowers attract butterflies and many species of bees. Left in the garden, the flower heads will last through the winter.

Late season wildflowers

5. **Wild Bergamot** (*Monarda fistulosa*) 1-3’ ☀️ ☀️
Bergamot is an excellent garden plant. Lavender flower heads top aromatic foliage. As a member of the mint family, the nectar of this perennial plant attracts bees, bee flies, butterflies, skippers and hummingbird moths (see picture on front of flyer). It is easy to grow in a perennial border, wildflower garden or meadow.
6. **Smooth Blue Aster** (*Symphyotrichum laeve*) ☀️ ☀️
1-3’ This aster produces a profusion of lavender-blue, star-like flowers in late autumn. Extremely hardy, the plant defies frosts and keeps on blooming often into November. The attractive flowers attract butterflies, bees, flies, and beetles. It is easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil in full sun.

Trees and Shrubs

7. **Basswood** (*Tilia americana*) 60-80’ ☀️ ☀️
One of the top ten trees for bees, basswood is a prolific nectar producer and provides a choice grade of honey. Observe a basswood in bloom and you’ll see bumblebees, sweat bees, and even nectar-loving flies and wasps visiting its flowers. Older trees (especially past 120 years) produce cavities used by wood ducks, pileated woodpeckers, other birds, and mammals.
8. **Nannyberry** (*Viburnum lentago*) 10-20’ ☀️ ☀️
This native viburnum has 2-3” clusters of white flowers in the spring providing excellent pollinator support. The glossy, green leaves are 1½” wide and up to 4” long. Fall color is deep maroon to red. Prolific clusters of blue-black fruits are very persistent late into the fall and winter. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard.
9. **Wild Rose** (*Rosa blanda*) 1-6’ ☀️
This species is distinguished by its smooth, largely thornless stems. Showy pink flowers with yellow centers provide a pleasant fragrance and attract a multitude of pollinators. Nutrient rich rosehip fruits turn bright red in late summer and are popular with birds and a variety of wildlife.
10. **Red-osier Dogwood** (*Cornus sericea*) 5-12’ ☀️ ☀️
This shrub is known for its colorful red twigs. Dense, flat-topped clusters of creamy-white blossoms are followed by pea-sized white berries. The fruit is eaten by birds and small and large mammals. This dogwood is very adaptable and can be planted in any site as long as very acidic soils and full shade are avoided.

Here are fact sheets on several of the Top Ten Native Plants from MN Board of Water and Soil Resources:

- [Great Blue Hyssop](#)
- [Basswood](#)
- [Red-osier Dogwood](#)
- [Wild Bergamot](#)
- [Nannyberry](#)
- [Smooth Blue Aster](#)
- [Wild Rose](#)

Flyer photo credits and sources:

1. Wild Geranium <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/wild-geranium>
2. Columbine (female ruby throated hummingbird) <https://dodsonfarm.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/hummer-large-0563-edit.jpg>; <https://dodsonfarm.wordpress.com/2014/05/30/female-ruby-throated-hummingbird-feeding-on-columbine/>
3. Gray-headed coneflower https://webapps8.dnr.state.mn.us/images/assistance/backyard/shorelandmgmt/restoreyourshore/photos/slides/rati_pinn_004.jpg
4. Great Blue (Anise) Hyssop <http://amp.coastalliving.com/homes/top-10-plants-for-coastal-gardens?source=dam>
5. Monarda (Hummingbird clearwing moth) http://onnaturemagazine.com/wp-content/uploads/hummingbird_clearwing_moth_v2_Andy_Reago_and_Chissy_McClarren_CC_BY_2.0.jpg; <http://onnaturemagazine.com/butterfly-and-moth-guide.html#hummingbird>
6. Smooth Blue Aster https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=syla3
7. Basswood (bumble bee) https://objects.liquidweb.services/images/201611/bill_harms_30463272990_31ff76c4ac_b.jpg; <https://www.marylandbiodiversity.com/viewSpecies.php?species=1372>
8. Nannyberry <https://newfs.s3.amazonaws.com/taxon-images-1000s1000/Adoxaceae/viburnum-lentago-fl-ahaines-a.jpg>; <https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/species/viburnum/lentago/>
9. Wild Rose <https://80d2853cc4def76b377d-54344bc01a8b066c84096a8e7a3499ac.ssl.cf1.rackcdn.com/original/660916.JPG>; <https://www.summitpost.org/wild-rose/660916>
10. Red Osier Dogwood (fall leaves and fruit) <http://arbordayblog.org/treeoftheweek/redosier-dogwood-winters-glory/>