

TOP 10 NATIVE PLANTS

TRY THESE!

Our 2023 favorite drought resistant native grasses, wildflowers, trees & shrubs

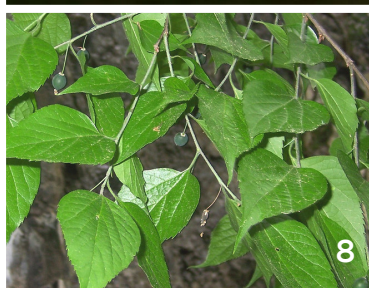
Our 2023 “**Top Ten Native Plants**” are locally-adapted species that are drought resistant and important to birds, bees, and butterflies. Add them to your yard or garden; but don’t forget to look around and see if they are already growing in the wilder areas of your yard!

BIRDS, BEES, & BUTTERFLIES - BEMIDJI

A community-wide effort to support a healthy web of life in Bemidji!



**Every garden is important
and no effort is too small.**



GRASSES & WILDFLOWERS

1. Side-oats Grama

Ojibwe name: **Miinikaanensi-mashkosiw**

Scientific name: *Bouteloua curtipendula*

Height: 1 – 3'

This is a nutritious forage grass that livestock readily graze. It serves as a food source for birds and skipper moths, along with providing nesting material for native bees.

2. Big Bluestem

Ojibwe name: **Mashkodekonayewashk**

Scientific name: *Andropogon gerardii*

Height: 2 – 10'

The roots of Big Bluestem are traditionally used to treat stomach pain. They can also be used as diuretics. Big Bluestem prefer part shade to sunny days, plains, prairies, and average to dry soil. Its flowering parts resemble a turkey's foot which gives it its other common name. This is the iconic grass of the 'Tall Grass Prairie', an ecosystem that once covered 170 million acres from Kansas to Indiana and Canada to Texas.

3. Little Bluestem

Ojibwe name: **Mashkodekonayewashkoons**

Scientific name: *Schizachyrium scoparium* var. *scoparium*

Height: 1 – 3'

This plant is the host for many native butterflies. It has a late fruiting season of August through September. It prefers prairies, dry sandy soil, and plenty of sunshine. It appears light green to blue in the summer and turns golden to reddish in the fall. Little Bluestem is a host plant for the federally threatened Dakota Skipper on Minnesota prairies.

4. Narrow Leaved Purple Cone Flower

Ojibwe name: **Miinaande-waabigwan**

Scientific name: *Echinacea angustifolia*

Height: 2 – 4'

Has been used historically as a cure for colds, scurvy, and snake bites. Still is used today to treat colds. Purple cone flowers prefer full sun and do not require much care to grow and prosper.

5. Black-eyed Susan

Ojibwe name: **Ozaawaa-waabigwan**

Scientific name: *Rudbeckia hirta*

Height: 1 – 3'

Used to treat inflammation and pain for babies. Black-eyed Susan are great drought-resistant plants because they are low maintenance, prefer full sun, and reseed quickly.

6. Goldenrod (Canadian)

Ojibwe name: **Wezaawaasakoneg**

Scientific name: *Solidago canadensis*

Height: 1 – 7'

Historically used to relieve a sore throat, alleviate fatigue, and as a wound healer. Still used today to help treat urinary tract infections and disorders. Canadian Goldenrod prefers disturbed or open ground due to their nature of preferring full sun. This also makes them drought resistant because the soil they prefer to grow in tends to be on the dry side.

7. Heath Aster

Ojibwe name: **Waabishki-waabigwanens**

Scientific name: *Symphotrichum ericoides*

Height: 1 – 3'

Used to make herbal steam and aided in revival of consciousness. Heath Aster are prairie plants that love full sun and dry conditions.

TREES AND SHRUBS

8. Common Hackberry

Ojibwe name: **Babiigowanagamaak**

Scientific name: *Celtis occidentalis*

Height: 50 – 70'

Bark helps regulate menstrual cycles, treat venereal diseases, and sore throats. The Common Hackberry can survive in a variety of upland sites and withstand drought fairly well through the use of a deep rooting system. Hackberry can tolerate moderate shade and will typically grow with other species, rarely dominating any forest.

9. Aronia Berry (Black Chokeberry)

Ojibwe name: **Asasawemin**

Scientific name: *Aronia melanocarpa*

Height: 4 – 8'

Berries are edible and can be eaten as jams, juices, wines, teas, and syrup. Medicinally they are used as a cold remedy, antioxidant, slows growth of cancer, immune support, and heart health. They can survive well in droughts and salty conditions, typically a pioneer species for open environments.

10. Red Elderberry

Ojibwe name: **Baapaashkisiganaak**

Scientific name: *Sambucus racemosa*

Height: 6 – 12'

Berries are edible as jams, syrup and in baked goods. Berries, flowers and bark can be used to treat influenza, respiratory illness and antioxidant properties. Large quantities of raw berries can cause gastrointestinal issues. They can grow well in dry savannah conditions as well as a variety of other spots.