

Native Plant Lists for Polk County



Wet Meadow

Moist to wet soils

Full sun 8 hours

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Butterflies	Hummingbirds	Songbirds	Waterfowl	Game Birds	Reptiles/Amphibians	Small Mammals	Deer
<i>Grasses and Sedges</i>												
Blue joint grass	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	3-5'	NA	NA			•	•				•
Bottlebrush sedge*	<i>Carex comosa</i>	1-2'	NA	NA	•		•	•			•	•
Broad-leaved cattail*	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	5-9'	NA	NA	•		•	•			•	
Caterpillar/Fringed sedge*	<i>Carex crinita</i>	2-5'	NA	NA			•	•	•		•	•
Fox sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	1-3'	NA	NA			•	•			•	•
Green bulrush	<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	3-5'	NA	NA			•	•			•	
Hard-stem bulrush*	<i>Schoenoplectus acutus</i>	3-9'	NA	NA			•	•				
Lake sedge*	<i>Carex lacustris</i>	24-42"	NA	NA	•		•	•	•	•	•	•
Path rush	<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	2-14"	NA	NA			•		•			
Pointed broom sedge	<i>Carex scoparia</i>	6-30"	NA	NA	•		•	•	•		•	•
Prairie cordgrass	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	4-8'	NA	NA	•			•			•	•
Rattlesnake manna grass*	<i>Glyceria canadensis</i>	2-3'	NA	NA								
Retorse sedge	<i>Carex retrorsa</i>	16-40"	NA	NA			•	•	•		•	•
River bulrush*	<i>Scirpus fluviatilis</i>	3-6'	NA	NA			•	•			•	•
Soft rush*	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	18-48"	NA	NA			•	•	•		•	•
Soft-stem bulrush*	<i>Scirpus validus</i>	3-9'	NA	NA			•	•			•	
Spike rush*	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	2-3'	NA	NA			•				•	
Sweet flag*	<i>Acorus calamus</i>	2-3'	NA	NA			•				•	
Switch grass ^o	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	3-5'	NA	NA	•		•	•	•			•
Tussock sedge*	<i>Carex stricta</i>	1-4'	NA	NA			•	•	•		•	•
Wool grass	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	3-5'	NA	NA			•	•			•	
<i>Wildflowers</i>												
Bergamot ^o	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	2-4'	Lavender	July -Aug	•	•		•				
Blue flag iris	<i>Iris virginica</i>	18-30"	Blue	June-July	•		•	•	•			
Blue vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	2-6'	Blue	June-Sept	•		•				•	
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	3-4'	White	June-Aug	•		•	•	•	•	•	
Bottle gentian	<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	18-30"	Blue	Aug -Oct	•	•	•					•
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	2-5'	Red	July -Oct	•	•	•					
Culver's root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	3-6'	White	June -Sept	•							

^o = Clay tolerant plant

* = Best for wettest sites where standing water exists for extended periods of time

NA = Not Applicable, no flowers or inconspicuous flowers

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Butterflies	Hummingbirds	Song Birds	Water Fowl	Game Birds	Reptile/Amphibians	Small Mammals	Deer
<i>Wildflowers (cont.)</i>												
Cup plant°	<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	3-8'	Yellow	July -Sept	•	•	•		•	•	•	•
Fireweed	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	2-6'	Pink	June-Aug	•	•					•	•
Flat-topped aster°	<i>Aster umbellatus</i>	1-5'	Cream	July -Aug			•		•		•	•
Golden alexander	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	1-3'	Yellow	May-July	•							
Great blue lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	1-4'	Blue	July -Oct	•	•	•					•
Green headed coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	3-12'	Yellow	July -Sept	•		•		•			
Ironweed	<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>	4-6'	Purple	July-Sept	•							
Joe pye weed°	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	4-6'	Pink	July -Sept	•		•		•	•	•	
Grassleaf goldenrod	<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	2-3'	Yellow	July -Oct					•		•	•
Monkey flower	<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	1-3'	Violet	July -Sept	•		•					
Mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	20-36"	White	July-Sept	•							
Narrow-leaf loosestrife°	<i>Lysimachia quadriflora</i>	1-2'	Yellow	July -Aug								
New England aster°	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	2-5'	Purple	Aug-Oct	•		•	•	•		•	•
Northern blue flag iris	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	1-3'	Blue	June-July	•	•		•		•	•	
Obedient plant°	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	2-5'	Pink	July -Oct	•	•						
Orange coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	2-3'	Orange -Yellow	July -Oct	•							
Panicled aster°	<i>Aster lanceolatus</i>	2-3'	White	Aug -Oct	•		•	•	•		•	•
Sawtooth sunflower	<i>Helianthus grosseserratus</i>	3-12'	Yellow	July-Oct	•		•		•		•	•
Showy tick trefoil ¹	<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	2-5'	Pink	June-Sept	•				•		•	•
Sneezeweed°	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	2-5'	Yellow	July-Oct	•		•		•			
Swamp aster°	<i>Aster puniceus</i>	2-6'	White	Aug-Oct	•		•	•	•		•	•
Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	3-4'	Pink	June-Aug	•		•					
Tall blazing star°	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	2-4'	Purple	July-Sept	•						•	•
Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	3-4'	Cream	July-Oct	•	•						
<i>Shrubs</i>												
Bog birch	<i>Betula pumila</i>	4-12'	NA	NA			•		•		•	•
Meadowsweet°	<i>Spiraea alba</i>	3-6'	White	June-Aug	•		•		•			•
Steeplebush°	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	2-4'	Pink	July-Aug	•		•		•			•

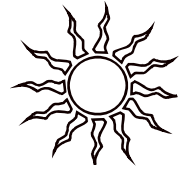
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¹ Note: Showy tick trefoil has beautiful pink flowers that bloom from June – September. Be aware that later in the season the seeds that form will stick to clothing and pets and are difficult to remove.

Select Species



Wet Meadow

Moist to wet soils

Full sun 8 hours



Bottlebrush sedge
Carex comosa



Blue joint grass
Calamagrostis canadensis



Indian grass
Sorghastrum nutans



Prairie cordgrass
Spartina pectinata



Lake sedge
Carex lacustris



Bergamot
Monarda fistulosa



Blue flag iris
Iris virginica



Blue vervain
Verbena hastata



Boneset
Eupatorium perfoliatum



Culver's root
Veronicastrum virginicum



Fireweed
Epilobium angustifolium



Cardinal flower
Lobelia cardinalis










 <p>Joe pye weed <i>Eupatorium maculatum</i></p>	 <p>Monkey flower <i>Mimulus ringens</i></p>	 <p>New England aster <i>Aster novae-angliae</i></p>
 <p>Obedient plant <i>Physostegia virginiana</i></p>	 <p>Sneezeweed <i>Helenium autumnale</i></p>	 <p>Swamp milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i></p>
 <p>Tall blazing star <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i></p>	 <p>Meadowsweet <i>Spiraea alba</i></p>	 <p>Steeplebush <i>Spiraea tomentosa</i></p>

Photo Source: "Wisconsin Botanical Information System" by the UW Madison Wisconsin State Herbarium

Wildlife information sources:

Craven, Scott R. and Edward R. Hasselkus. *Landscape Plants that Attract Birds*. University of Wisconsin Extension.

Martin, Alexander C. et.al., *American Wildlife and Plants, a Guide to Wildlife Food Habits; the Use of Trees, Shrubs, Weeds, and Herbs by Birds and Mammals in the United States*. 1951.

Shaw, Daniel and Rusty Schmidt. *Plant Species Selection for the Upper Midwest*. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. 2003.

Connecticut Botanical Society web site: www.ct-botanicalsociety.org

Illinois Wildflowers web site: www.illinoiswildflowers.info

NPIN: Native Plant Database: www.wildflower.org