



Powerhouse Native Plants For Michigan Landscaping

Over thousands of years, wild plants have grown naturally, adapting to each region's unique environmental conditions. When grown in your garden, native plants bring beauty and excitement to your yard, creating a welcoming sanctuary that can be enjoyed at home along with many other benefits. Native plants are the foundation of life and provide quality food for wildlife like butterflies and caterpillars, as well as shelter for birds and other wildlife. They support pollinators with pollen and nectar rewards. This list of Native "Keystone" plants support the largest diversity of species at important stages of their life cycle.

- Lepidoptera (Butterflies/Moths) caterpillars are host plant specific for food
- Specialist bees use pollen from only specific plants to feed their young

A genus is a taxonomic category of plants that contain one or more species with similar characteristics. While some non-native species may be in the same genus, they have enough differences that the wildlife can not use them the same as the native species. Some example species are listed, but there may be more available for different site conditions.

Genus	Perennials/Biennials - Native	# Species Caterpillar that Use as a Host Plant	# of Pollen Specialist Bee species that Rely On Plant	Bloom Time
Solidago	Stiff Goldenrod (<i>Solidago rigida</i>), Showy Goldenrod (<i>Solidago speciosa</i>)	135	42	Fall
Symphyotrichum	Blue wood Aster (<i>Symphyotrichum cordifolium</i>), Smooth Aster (<i>S. laeve</i>)	100	33	Fall
Fragaria	Wild Strawberry (<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>)	82		Spring
Helianthus	Woodland sunflower (<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>), Maximilian Sunflower (<i>H. maximiliani</i>)	77	50	Fall
Eupatorium	Joe-Pye (<i>Eutrochium maculatum/purpureum</i>), Boneset (<i>E. perfoliatum</i>)	32		Summer
Viola	Common Blue Violet (<i>V. sororia</i>), Birdfoot Violet (<i>V. pedata</i>)	31		Spring
Lupine	Wild Lupine (<i>Lupinus perennis</i>)	31		Spring
Geranium	Wild Geranium (<i>Geranium maculatum</i>)	26		Spring
Erigeron	Fleabane (<i>E. annuus</i>), Robin's Plantain (<i>E. pulchellus</i>)	21	12	Summer
Rudbeckia	Black-eyed Susan (<i>R. hirta</i>), Showy (<i>R. fulgida</i>), Green Coneflower (<i>R. laciniata</i>)	20	28	Summer
Verbesina	Wingstem (<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>)	20	17	Fall
Coreopsis	Lanceleaf coreopsis (<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>), Tall coreopsis (<i>C. tripteris</i>)	6	22	Summer
Monarda	Wild bergamot (<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>), Spotted (<i>M. punctata</i>)	13		Summer
Asclepias	Milkweed (<i>A. tuberosa</i> , <i>A. incarnata</i> , <i>A. exaltata</i> , <i>A. verticillata</i>) Monarch Host	13		Summer
Helenium	Helen's Sunflower (<i>Helenium autumnale</i>)	7	5	Fall
Agastache	Anise Hyssop (<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>), Purple Hyssop (<i>A. scrophulariifolia</i>)	2		Summer
Heliopsis	False Sunflower (<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>)	2	5	Summer

Genus	Ground Covers - Native			
Antennaria	Pussytoes (<i>A. howellii/parlinii</i>)	3		Spring
Fragaria	Wild Strawberry (<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>)	82		Spring
Carex	Sedge (<i>Carex pensylvanica</i> , <i>bicknellii</i> , <i>grayii</i> , many species!)			Spring
Bearberry	Bearberry (<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>)			Spring

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Trees - Native		# Species Caterpillar that Use this as a Host Plant	# of Pollen Specialist Bee species that Rely on this Plant	Bloom Time
Genus				
Quercus	White Oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>), Black Oak (<i>Q. velutina</i>), Red Oak (<i>Q. rubra</i>)	452		
Salix	Black Willow (<i>Salix nigra</i>)	427		Spring
Prunus	American Plum (<i>Prunus americana</i>), Black Cherry (<i>P. serotina</i>)	418		Spring
Betula	River Birch (<i>Betula nigra</i>), Paper Birch (<i>B. papyrifera</i>)	403		
Populus	Cottonwood (<i>Populus deltoides</i>), Quaking Aspen (<i>P. tremuloides</i>)	367		
Acer	Red Maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>), Silver (<i>A. saccharinum</i>), Sugar Maple (<i>A. saccharum</i>)	281		Spring
Pinus	Eastern White Pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>), Red Pine (<i>P. rugosa</i>)	247		
Malus	Sweet Crabapple (<i>Malus coronaria</i>), Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus sp</i>)	237		Spring
Shrubs - Native				
Genus				
Prunus	Chokecherry (<i>Prunus virginiana</i>)	340		Spring
Salix	Prairie Willow (<i>Salix humilis</i>), Pussy Willow (<i>S. discolor</i>)	289	14	Spring
Vaccinium	Highbush Blueberry (<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>), Lowbush (<i>V. angustifolium</i>)	217	14	Spring
Rubus	Blackberry (<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>), Black Raspberry (<i>R. occidentalis</i>)	156		Summer
Corylus	American Hazelnut (<i>Corylus americana</i>)	108		Spring
Rosacea	Pasture Rose (<i>Rosa carolina</i>), Prairie Rose (<i>R. setigera</i>), <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	120		Summer
Cornus	Red Twig Dogwood (<i>Cornus sericea</i>) Alternate Leaved Dogwood (<i>C. alternifolia</i>)	121		Summer
Amelanchier	Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier laevis</i> , <i>Amelanchier arborea</i>)	115		Spring
Tsuga	Eastern Hemlock (<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>)	110		
Viburnum	Arrowwood (<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>), Nannyberry (<i>V. lentago</i>), (<i>V. trilobum</i>)	102		Summer
Myrica	Sweetfern (<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>), Myrica sp	98		
Thuja	Eastern White Arborvitae (<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>)	47		
Juniperus	Eastern red cedar (<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>) Common Juniper (<i>Juniperus communis</i>)	34		
Ornamental Grass - Native (Habitat/Cover and Bird Seeds)		# Species Caterpillar that Use as a Host Plant	# of Pollen Specialist Bee species that Rely On Plant	Bloom Time
Genus				
Schizachyrium	Little Bluestem (<i>Schizachyrium scoparius</i>)	7		Fall
Sorghastrum	Indian Grass (<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>)	4		Fall
Sporobolus	Prairie Dropseed (<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>)	3		Fall
Elymus	Bottlebrush Grass (<i>Elymus hystrix</i>), Virginia wild-rye (<i>Elymus virginicus</i>)	2		Summer
Eragrostis	Purple Love Grass (<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>)	1		Summer
Koeleria	June Grass (<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>)	1		Summer

Adapted from NWF Garden for Wildlife Ecoregion 8 (Eastern Temperate Forest)

Entomologist Dr. Doug Tallamy - University of Delaware research team has identified the Keystone plants that support butterfly and moth species. Native host plants of pollen specialist bees were researched by Jarrod Fowler. Full listing of Michigan Native Plants at MichiganFlora.net.

More information: www.northoakland.wildones.org