

Native Plants for Midwestern Landscapes*

Selected by Jim McCormac

*These are but a fraction of the native possibilities. They were largely selected for aesthetic values, ability to grow in artificial landscapes, and wildlife values. Many are readily available in nurseries that carry native plants; others will be harder to find. I include the latter because we should encourage greater options in natives in the landscape industry. 🦋 = Butterfly Nectar Source 🐦 = Hummingbird Nectar Source

Ferns

Cinnamon Fern, *Osmunda cinnamomea* (moist shade)
Maidenhair Fern, *Adiantum pedatum* (well-drained shade)

Host Plant For

Conifers

Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginianus* (well-drained sunny)
Pitch Pine, *Pinus rigida* (well-drained sunny)
White Pine, *Pinus strobus* (well-drained sunny)
Eastern Hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis* (moist to well-drained sun or shade)

Water-plantain Family

Northern Water-plantain, *Alisma triviale* (wet sunny)
Broad-leaved Arrowhead, *Sagittaria latifolia* (wet sunny)
Deer's-tongue Arrowhead, *Sagittaria rigida* (wet sunny)

Arum Family

Arrow Arum, *Peltandra virginica* (wet sunny)

Spiderwort Family

Ohio Spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohioensis*

Iris Family

Dwarf Crested Iris, *Iris cristata* (moist shade) 🐦
Southern Blue Flag, *Iris virginica* (wet sunny) 🐦

Virginia Ctenucha Moth
Virginia Ctenucha Moth

Rush Family

Soft Rush, *Juncus effusus* (wet sun)
Torrey's Rush, *Juncus torreyi* (wet sunny)

Lily Family

Nodding Wild Onion, *Allium cernuum* (moist to dry sunny) 🦋
Nodding Mandarin, *Prosartes maculatum* (moist shade)
Turk's-cap Lily, *Lilium superbum* (moist shade to sunny)
Giant Solomon's-seal, *Polygonatum biflorum* (moist sunny; tetraploid giant form)
Starry False Solomon's-seal, *Maianthemum stellatum* (moist shade)
Drooping Trillium, *Trillium flexipes* (moist shade)
Large-flowered Trillium, *Trillium grandiflorum* (moist shade)
Sessile Trillium, *Trillium sessile* (moist to dry shade)
Painted Trillium, *Trillium undulatum* (moist to dry shade)
False Hellebore, *Veratrum viride* (moist shade)

Pickerelweed Family

Pickerelweed, *Pontederia cordata* (wet sunny)

Bur-reed Family

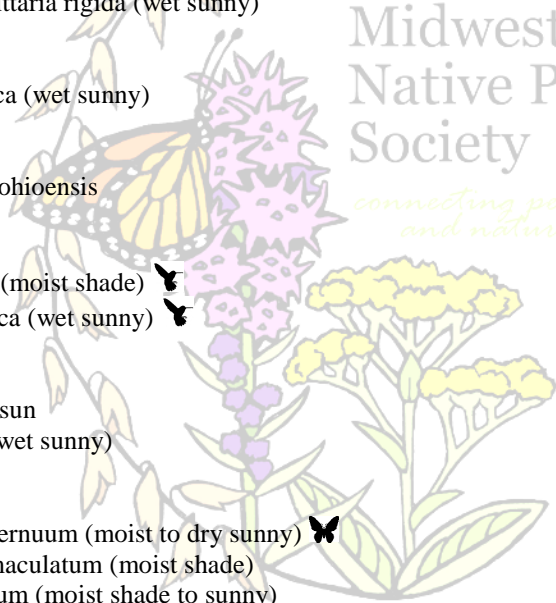
American Bur-reed, *Sparganium americanum*

Pondweed Family

Variable Pondweed, *Potamogeton diversifolius* (standing water)

Midwest
Native Plant
Society

*connecting people
and nature*



Sedge Family

Broad-leaved Wood Sedge, *Carex albursina* (moist to dry shade)
 Brome Sedge, *Carex bromoides* (wet to moist shade)

Buxbaum's Sedge, *Carex buxbaumii* (moist sunny)
 Colonial Sedge, *Carex communis* (well-drained shady)
 Tasseled Sedge, *Carex crinita* (moist to wet sunny to shady)
 Bristle-leaved Sedge, *Carex eburnea* (dry rocky)
 Gray's Sedge, *Carex grayii* (moist shade)
 Pennsylvania Sedge, *Carex pennsylvanica* (well-drained shady)
 Tussock Sedge, *Carex stricta* (wet sunny)
 Twisted Sedge, *Carex torta* (moist to wet shady)
 Red-footed Spikerush, *Eleocharis erythropoda* (wet sunny)
 Three-square Bulrush, *Schoenoplectus pungens* (wet sunny)
 Woodland Bulrush, *Scirpus expansus* (wet sunny)
 Leafy Bulrush, *Scirpus polyphyllus* (wet to moist shady)

Host Plant For**Grass Family**

Big Bluestem, *Andropogon gerardii* (moist to dry sunny)
 Little Bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium* (dry sunny)
 Purple Triple-awned Grass, *Aristida purpurascens* (dry sandy sunny)
 Side-oats Grama, *Bouteloua curtipendula* (dry sunny)
 Canada Wild Rye, *Elymus canadensis* (dry to moist sunny)
 Indian Grass, *Sorghastrum nutans* (dry to moist sunny)
 Prairie Dropseed, *Sporobolus heterolepis* (dry sunny)
 River Oats, *Chasmanthium latifolium* (moist shady)

Leonard's Skipper, Dusted Skipper
 Leonard's Skipper, Dusted Skipper

Acanthus Family

Water-willow, *Justicia americana* (standing water)

Maple Family

Tiger
 Black Maple, *Acer nigrum* (well-drained sunny)
 Striped Maple, *Acer pennsylvanicum* (moist shady)
 Red Maple, *Acer rubrum* (moist to dry sunny)
 Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum* (moist to well-drained sunny)
 Mountain Maple, *Acer spicatum* (moist to well-drained shady)

Moths -Imperial, Io, Luna, Polyphemus, Promehtea

Northern Pearly-Eye

Sumac Family

Fragrant Sumac, *Rhus aromatica* (dry sunny)
 Staghorn Sumac, *Rhus typhina* (dry sunny)

Hickory Horned Devil

Custard-apple Family

Pawpaw, *Asimina triloba* (moist shady)

Zebra Swallowtail, Pawpaw Sphinx

Dogbane Family

Spreading Dogbane, *Apocynum androsaemifolium*

Dogbane Tiger Moth

Holly Family

Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata* (wet shady to sunny)




Harvester

Birthwort Family

Dutchman's-pipe, *Aristolochia macrophylla* (moist to dry shady to sunny)
 Wild Ginger, *Asarum canadense* (moist shady)

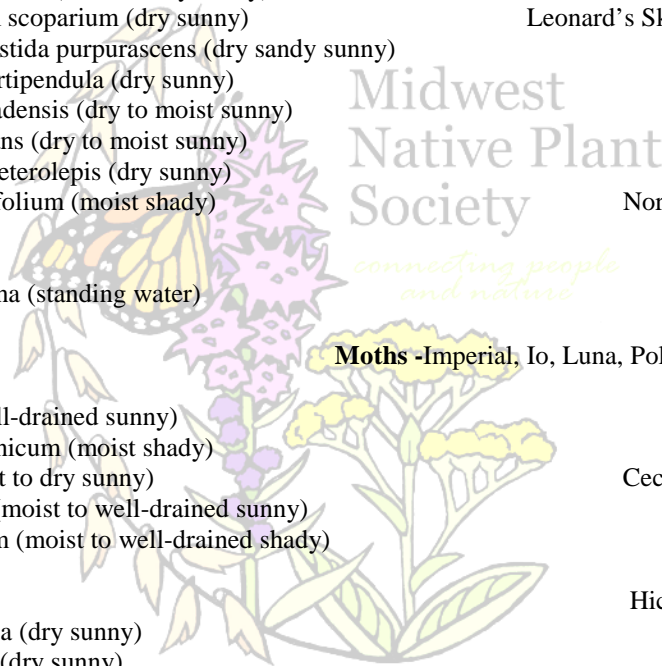
Pipevine Swallowtail
 Pipevine Swallowtail

Milkweed Family

Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata* (moist to wet sunny) 
 Purple Milkweed, *Asclepias purpurascens* (moist to dry sunny) 
 Common Milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca* (dry sunny) 

Monarch

Monarch



Butterfly-weed, *Asclepias tuberosa* (dry sunny) 🦋 🦋

White Milkweed, *Asclepias variegata* (moist to dry shady) 🦋 🦋

Host Plant For

Barberry Family

May-apple, *Podophyllum peltatum*

Variegated Fritillary

Birch Family

Moths – Imperial, Luna, Polyphemus, Promethea, Four-horned Sphinx, Virginia Tiger

Smooth Alder, *Alnus serrulata* (moist to wet sunny)

Yellow Birch, *Betula allegheniensis* (moist shady)

Gray Birch, *Betula populifolia* (moist to dry sunny)

Cecropia Moth

Blue-beech, *Carpinus caroliniana* (moist to dry shady to sunny)

Trumpet Creeper Family

Cross-vine, *Bignonia capreolata* 🦋

Trumpet Vine Sphinx

Borage Family

Hoary Puccoon, *Lithospermum canescens* (dry sunny)

Cactus Family

Prickly-pear, *Opuntia humifusa*

Bellflower Family

Harebell, *Campanula rotundifolia* (rocky sites)

Honeysuckle Family

Trumpet Honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens* (well-drained sunny or shady) 🦋

American Elderberry, *Sambucus canadensis* (moist sunny)

Slender Horse-gentian, *Triosteum angustifolium* (dry shady or sunny)

Hummingbird Clearwing Moth

Maple-leaved Viburnum, *Viburnum acerifolium* (well-drained shady) Henry's Elfin, Hummingbird Clearwing

Arrowwood, *Viburnum dentatum* (moist to well-drained shady)

Pink Family

Carolina Catchfly, *Silene caroliniana* (dry shady to sunny) 🦋 🦋

Starry Champion, *Silene stellata* (moist to dry shady) 🦋

Bittersweet Family

American Bittersweet, *Celastrus scandens* (dry sunny)

Rockrose Family

Canada Frostweed, *Helianthemum canadense* (dry sandy sunny)

Hairy Pinweed, *Lechea mucronata* (dry sandy sunny)

Sunflower Family

White Wood Aster, *Eurybia divaricata* (well-drained shady) 🦋

Smooth Aster, *Symphotrichum laeve* (dry sunny) 🦋 🦋

Stiff aster, *Ionactis linariifolius* (dry sunny) 🦋

Shale-barrens Aster, *Symphotrichum oblongifolium* (dry sunny) 🦋

Purple-stemmed Aster, *Symphotrichum puniceum* (moist to wet sunny) 🦋

Flat-topped White Aster, *Doellingeria umbellata* (moist to dry sunny) 🦋

Pale Indian-plantain, *Arnoglossum atriplicifolium* (moist to dry sunny)

Tall Coreopsis, *Coreopsis tripteris* (dry sunny)

Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea* (dry sunny) 🦋 🦋

Spotted Joe-pye, *Eupatoriadelphus maculatus* (moist sunny) 🦋

Painted Lady

Sneezeweed, *Helenium autumnale* (moist to dry sunny)

Silvery Checkerspot

Small-flowered Sunflower, *Helianthus microcephalus* (dry shady)

Western Sunflower, *Helianthus occidentalis* (dry sunny) 🦋 🦋

False Boneset, *Brickellia eupatorioides* (dry sunny)

Painted Lady

Dense Blazing-star, *Liatris spicata* (moist to dry sunny) 🦋 🦋

Rough Blazing-star, *Liatris squarrosa* (dry sunny) 🦋🦋 **Host Plant For**
 Large-flowered Leafcup, *Polymnia uvedalia* (moist shady)
 Orange Coneflower, *Rudbeckia fulgida* (moist to dry sunny) 🦋🦋
 Round-leaved Ragwort, *Packera obovata* (dry shady)
 Cup-plant, *Silphium perfoliatum* (moist sunny) 🦋 **Painted Lady**
 Whorled Rosinweed, *Silphium trifoliatum* (dry sunny)
 Zigzag Goldenrod, *Solidago flexicaulis* (dry shady) 🦋
 Sweet Goldenrod, *Solidago odora* (dry sunny) 🦋
 Stiff Goldenrod, *Oligoneuron rigidum* (dry sunny) 🦋
 Showy Goldenrod, *Solidago speciosa* (dry sunny) 🦋
 New York Ironweed, *Vernonia noveboracensis* (moist to dry sunny) 🦋

Morning-glory Family

Wild Potato Vine, *Ipomoea pandurata* (dry sunny)

Dogwood Family

Silky Dogwood, *Cornus amomum* (moist sunny) **Spring Azure**
 Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida* (dry shady) **Spring Azure, Cecropia Moth**

Mustard Family

Sea-rocket, *Cakile edentula* (sandy sunny)
 Slender Toothwort, *Cardamine heterophylla* (moist to dry shady) **Falcate Orangetip**

Ebony Family

Persimmon, *Diospyros virginiana* (dry sunny) **Luna Moth, Hickory Horned Devil**

Heath Family

Flame Azalea, *Rhododendron calendulaceum* (dry sunny acidic)
 Highbush Blueberry, *Vaccinium corymbosum* (dry sandy sunny) **Henry's Elfin, Huckleberry Sphinx, Major Datana**

Spurge Family

Flowering Spurge, *Euphorbia corollata* (dry sunny)

Beech Family

Moths – Cecropia, Imperial, Io, Luna, American Dagger, Large tolype
 American Beech, *Fagus grandifolia* (dry shady or sunny) **Harvester**
 White Oak, *Quercus alba* (dry sunny) **Banded Hairstreak**
 Swamp White Oak, *Quercus bicolor* (moist sunny) **Cecropia Moth**
 Scarlet Oak, *Quercus coccinea* (dry sunny) **Cecropia Moth**
 Shingle Oak, *Quercus imbricaria* (dry sunny) **Cecropia Moth**
 Blackjack Oak, *Quercus marilandica* (dry sunny) **Cecropia Moth**
 Chinkapin Oak, *Quercus muehlenbergii* (dry sunny)
 Red Oak, *Quercus rubra* (dry sunny)
 Post Oak, *Quercus stellata* (dry sunny) **Edwards' Hairstreak**

Gentian Family

Bottle Gentian, *Gentiana clausa* (moist shady or sunny)
 Rose-pink Gentian, *Sabatia angularis* (dry sunny)

Geranium Family

Wild Geranium, *Geranium maculatum* (moist to dry shady)

St. John's-wort Family

St. Andrew's Cross, *Hypericum hypericoides* (dry sunny)
 Shrubby St. John's-wort, *Hypericum prolificum* (dry sunny)

Witch-hazel Family

Witch-hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana* (moist shady)
 Sweet-gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua* (moist to dry sunny) **Luna Moth**



Waterleaf Family

Virginia Waterleaf, *Hydrophyllum virginianum* (moist shady)
Miami-mist, *Phacelia purshii* (moist to dry shady)

Host Plant For**Walnut Family**

Shagbark Hickory, *Carya ovata* (dry sunny)

Banded Hairstreak, Luna Moth, Polyphemus Moth

Mint Family

Downy Wood Mint, *Blephilia ciliata* (dry shady)
Dittany, *Cunila origanoides* (dry sunny)
American Water-horehound, *Lycopus americanus* (wet sunny)
Wild Bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa* (moist to dry sunny) 🦋 🦋
Dotted Horsemint, *Monarda punctata* (dry sunny) 🦋
Slender Mountain Mint, *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* (dry sunny) 🦋 🦋
Downy Skullcap, *Scutellaria incana* (moist to dry shady)

Laurel Family

Spicebush, *Lindera benzoin* (moist shady)
Sassafras, *Sassafras albidum* (dry sunny)

Spicebush Swallowtail, Cecropia Moth
Eastern Tiger & Spicebush Swallowtail, Cecropia & Promethea Moth

Caesalpinia Family

Wild Senna, *Cassia hebecarpa* (dry sunny) 🦋
Redbud, *Cercis canadensis* (dry sunny to shady)

Gray Hairstreak, Clouded Sulfur, Orange Sulfur
Henry's Elfin

Pea Family

False Indigo, *Amorpha fruticosa* (dry sunny)
Round-headed Bush Clover, *Lespedeza capitata* (dry sunny)
Wild Lupine *Lupinus perennis* (dry sunny)
Carolina Wood Vetch, *Vicia caroliniana* (moist to dry shady)

Gray Hairstreak, Southern Cloudywing
Karner Blue, Frosted Elfin

Bladderwort Family

Common Bladderwort, *Utricularia vulgaris* (open water)

Lobelia Family

Cardinal-flower, *Lobelia cardinalis* (moist sunny to shady) 🦋 🦋

Magnolia Family

Tulip Tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera* (moist to dry sunny)

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Promethea Moth

Mallow Family

Swamp Rose Mallow, *Hibiscus moscheutos* (wet sunny) 🦋

Water-lily Family

Spatterdock, *Nuphar advena* (open water)
Fragrant Pond-lily, *Nymphaea odorata* (open water)

Olive Family

Fringe-tree, *Chionanthus virginicus* (moist to dry shady to sunny)

Fawn Sphinx

Passionflower Family

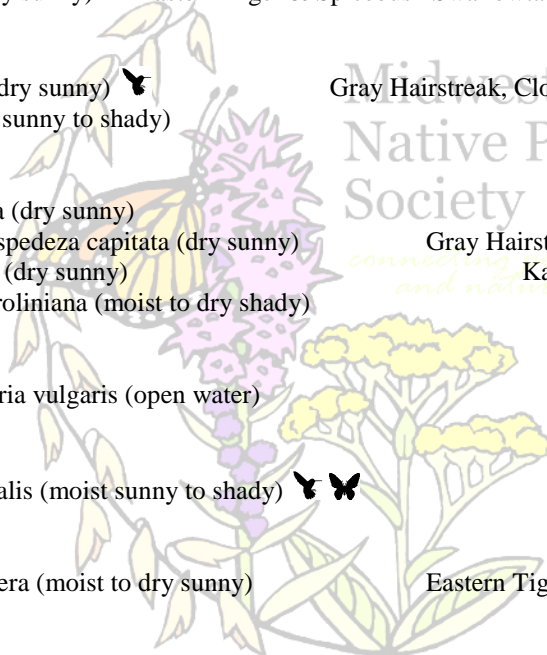
Passionflower, *Passiflora incarnata* (moist to dry sunny)

Sycamore Family

Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis* (moist to dry sunny)

Phlox Family

Smooth Phlox, *Phlox glaberrima* (moist to dry shady) 🦋
Moss Phlox, *Phlox subulata* (dry sunny)



Smartweed FamilyWater Smartweed, *Polygonum amphibium* (wet to standing water sunny)**Host Plant For**

Purplish Copper

Primrose FamilyShooting-star, *Dodecatheon meadia* (dry sunny)**Buttercup Family**Wild Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis* (dry rocky sunny to shady) 🦋🦋Marsh-marigold, *Caltha palustris* (wet shady to sunny)**Buckthorn Family**New Jersey-tea, *Ceanothus americanus* (dry sunny) 🦋 🦋

Spring Azure, Summer Azure

Rose FamilyDowny Serviceberry, *Amelanchier arborea* (dry sunny to shady)

Red-Spotted Purple

Red Chokeberry, *Aronia arbutifolia* (moist sunny) 🦋Goat's-beard, *Aruncus dioicus* (dry shady) 🦋Queen-of-the-prairie, *Filipendula rubra* (moist to dry sunny) 🦋Ninebark, *Physocarpus opulifolius* (moist to dry sunny)American Plum, *Prunus americana* (dry sunny)

Coral Hairstreak, Wild cherry Sphinx

Black Cherry *Prunus serotina* (dry sunny)

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Spring Azure, Summer Azure

Prairie Rose, *Rosa setigera* (dry sunny)Swamp Rose, *Rosa palustris* (wet sunny)

Apple Sphinx

Flowering Raspberry, *Rubus odoratus* (dry sunny)Steeplebush, *Spiraea tomentosa* (moist sunny)**Bedstraw Family**Buttonbush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (wet sunny) 🦋**Rue Family**Wafer-ash, *Ptelea trifoliata* (moist to dry sunny)

Giant Swallowtail

Prickly-ash, *Zanthoxylum americanum* (moist to dry shady)

Giant Swallowtail

Lizard's-tail FamilyLizard's-tail, *Saururus cernuus* (wet shady to sunny)**Figwort Family**Turtlehead, *Chelone glabra* (moist sunny) 🦋

Baltimore Checkerspot

Blue Toadflax, *Linaria canadensis* (dry sandy sunny)Monkey-flower, *Mimulus ringens* (moist sunny) 🦋Hairy Beardtongue, *Penstemon hirsutus* (dry sunny) 🦋**Bladdernut Family**Bladdernut, *Staphylea trifolia* (moist shady)**Linden Family**Basswood, *Tilia americana* (moist shady to sunny)

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Red-spotted Purple, Cecropia Moth

Elm FamilyHackberry, *Celtis occidentalis* (dry sunny) American Snout, Question Mark, Hackberry Emperor, Mourning CloakSlippery Elm, *Ulmus rubra* (dry shady to sunny)

Eastern Comma

Parsley FamilyPurple Angelica, *Angelica atropurpurea* (moist sunny)Hairy Angelica, *Angelica venenosa* (dry shady)Rattlesnake-master, *Eryngium yuccifolium* (dry sunny) 🦋

Black Swallowtail

Nettle FamilyFalse Nettle, *Boehmeria cylindrica* (moist shady)

Eastern Comma, Question Mark, Red Admiral



Vervain Family

Blue Vervain, *Verbena hastata* (moist sunny) 🦋🦋

Host Plant For

Common Buckeye

Violet Family

Birdfoot Violet, *Viola pedata* (dry sunny)

Fritillary Species

