

Living with Nature



**A Landowner's Guide to
Native Vegetation
for the Grand Bend to
Port Franks Corridor**

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Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

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Cover Photograph:
Bloodroot *Sanguinaria canadensis* in flower -
D. Bannister

Bloodroot flowers in April. It is shade tolerant and
prefers loamy soils - but suitable where native
sandy soils have been amended.

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Introduction

Guide Objective

This guide is intended for landowners in the Grand Bend to Port Franks corridor ecosystem (refer to map below). The guide provides a source of information for area residents that are interested in learning more about, and using native vegetation in their landscaping. Using native vegetation will enhance and improve the terrestrial ecosystem of this area.

What are Native Plants?

For the purpose of this guide, plants are considered native if prior to European settlement they originated and were naturally occurring within the Grand Bend to Port Franks corridor.

Native plants should not be taken from the wild. Many are becoming threatened through habitat destruction and collection. The best source for native plants to be used in landscaping is a local nursery with plants native to your region, grown by the nursery, and not collected from nature.

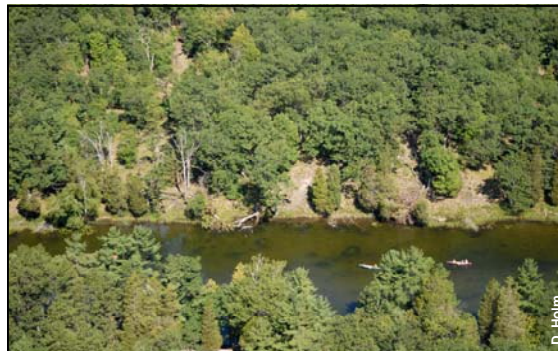


The Local Terrestrial Ecosystem

The Grand Bend and Port Franks areas support rare oak savanna and pine-oak woodland communities that provide habitat for numerous provincially and nationally significant flora and fauna.

Historically, these natural communities developed on the dry, sandy soils and persisted due to periodic fires that prevented forest species from establishing. The oak savanna and pine-oak woodland vegetation that evolved on these dunes are able to tolerate the poor soils and dry conditions.

Property owners can play an important role in helping to preserve the oak woodland communities. Leaving areas of your property undisturbed and natural provides a refuge for plants and animals. When landscaping areas around your home, choosing to use native plants that are adapted to the local environment will compliment the habitat in surrounding natural areas.



Woodland ecosystem along the Old Ausable Channel, Pinery Provincial Park near Grand Bend

Why Use Native Plants?

Habitat

Some wildlife species that depend on native vegetation are rare due to habitat loss.

Incorporating native species into the landscape surrounding your home, may provide habitat for these species and increase declining biodiversity.

Environmental Benefits

Native plants and trees are generally hardy and well adapted to local soil and climate conditions. When properly situated, native plants do not require watering, fertilizer, or soil amendments.

Aesthetics

Native plants provide beauty throughout the year: during blooming times; with attractive leaves and fall colour; and with berries, seed pods and branching that persists throughout the winter months.



Spotted Joe-Pye-weed,
Eupatorium maculatum
Flowers in early August, likes
moist soil and sun

This guide is meant to introduce you to a few naturally occurring plants suitable for use in gardening or landscaping in the Grand Bend and Port Franks areas.




We encourage people to learn more about the local oak savanna and oak woodland communities and associated plant and animal species. For those who wish to learn more, a list of resources is provided at the back of this guide.

Guide Information

Format:


This guide includes selected species that are native to the Grand Bend and Port Franks area. The species shown in photos and listed are recommended for planting and use in landscaping by residents.

All species included in this guide are organized alphabetically by common name (scientific names are also included). Each type of native vegetation is categorized as a plant, shrub or tree with the following symbols:

Plant  Shrub  Tree 

Within each of these categories habitat preferences are noted with the following symbols:

Shade tolerant  Full sun/dry soil 

Full sun/moist
soil (floodplain) 

Suitable soil and light conditions are provided, along with flowering start date, fall colour or other aesthetic value. Not all suitable species are shown in photograph or described in detail, but additional recommended species are included in lists as part of this guide.

Information on types of invasive non-native vegetation is included to highlight those varieties that should not be used in landscaping.

Sources for finding native vegetation suppliers, and selected resources for more information are also provided in this guide.

Black Oak *Quercus velutina*



I. Jean

Soil & Light: dry sand or sandy loam, full sun
Height: grows to 70' in forest, in open is shorter with broad crown
Notes: fall colour is a tan brown
Acorns provide food for squirrels, deer and other wildlife.

Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta*



I. Jean

Soil & Light: tolerates dry sand, requires full sun
Flowering Date: late June, July
Notes: flowering perennial

Bladdernut *Staphylea trifolia*



Soil & Light: rich loamy soils, full sun or part shade
Flowering Date: Late May and June
Notes: shrub to 12' tall. Air filled seed pods remain on branches well in to winter.

Blue Flag *Iris virginica*



Soil & Light: moist, rich, loamy soils and full sun
Flowering Date: June
Notes: yellow flag (*Iris pseudacorus*) is a non-native iris.

Butterfly-weed *Asclepias tuberosa*



Soil & light: well drained sand, sandy loam, full sun
Flowering Date: late June, July
Notes: flowering perennial, attractive to butterflies
and other insects

Buttonbush *Cephalanthus occidentalis*



Soil & Light: prefers rich, moist to wet soils, full sun
Flowering Date: summer (July)
Notes: height - shrub up to 8 ' tall

Choke Cherry *Prunus virginiana* ▲ ● ●



Soil & Light: all soils, well drained, full sun to light shade

Flowering Date: late May, fruit in late summer

Notes: shrub to 10' or small tree to 15' tall

Closed Gentian *Gentiana andrewsii* ▲ ●



Soil & Light: rich, moist soils

Flowering Date: late August

Notes: Flowers are a striking violet blue

Cylindrical Blazing Star *Liatris cylindracea* ▲ ●



Soil & Light: tolerates sandy, well drained soils
 Flowering Date: late July
 Notes: flowering perennial

Eastern Hemlock *Tsuga canadensis* ▲ ●



I. Jean

Soil & Light: prefers sandy loam, part shade
 Height: to 80' but usually much smaller
 Notes: a slow growing, long lived tree; in dense shade trees a few metres tall can be 100 years old

Eastern Red Cedar *Juniperus virginiana* ▲ ●



Pinery Provincial Park Collection

Soil & Light: all soils if well drained
 Height: to 50' but usually much smaller
 Notes: the fragrant wood is used to line blanket boxes and closets

Fragrant Sumac *Rhus aromatica* ▲ ●



Pinery Provincial Park Collection

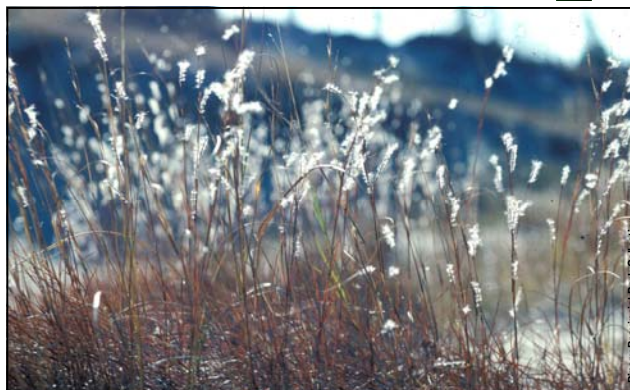
Soil & Light: all soils if well drained, full sun
 Flowering Date: early spring (May) as leaves unfold
 Notes: brilliant orange to red fall colour, grows to a height of around 5'.

Jack-in-the-pulpit *Arisaema triphyllum* ▲ ●



Soil & Light: prefers loamy soils, shade tolerant
Flowering Date: May
Notes: flowering perennial with red fruit

Little Bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium* ▲ ●



Soil & Light: tolerates dry, sandy soils
Flowering Date: Late summer
Notes: feathery seed-heads and rich brown foliage in fall

May-apple *Podophyllum peltatum* ▲ ●



Soil & Light: prefers rich soil, shade
Flowering Date: late May
Notes: Plants usually go dormant by late summer

Michigan Lily *Lilium michiganense* ▲ ●



Soil & Light: prefers moist soils, part shade or sun
Flowering Date: July
Notes: flowering perennial

Nannyberry *Viburnum lentago* ▲ ●



Soil & Light: prefers loamy soils, sun

Flowering Date: early June

Notes: Blue-black fruit and colourful foliage in fall, can reach a height of 10'

New Jersey Tea *Ceanothus americanus* ▲ ●



Soil & Light: dry, sandy soils, full sun or light shade

Flowering Date: late June

Notes: black seedpods mechanically expel seeds when dry, reaches a height of 2'

Running Strawberry *Euonymus obovata* ▲ ●



Soil & Light: tolerates sandy soils, full shade

Flowering Date: early June

Notes: ground cover with orange-red berry like fruit in red seed pod, alternative to English ivy or periwinkle

Serviceberry *Amelanchier arborea* ▲ ● ●



Soil & Light: tolerates dry sand and part shade

Flowering Date: late April, early May

Notes: several species of serviceberry provide early fruit for birds and other animals

Smooth Aster *Symphyotrichum laeve* ▲ ●



Soil & light: all soils if well drained, full sun

Flowering Date: late August

Notes: several native aster species provide late summer and fall colour to our landscape

Starry False Solomon's Seal *Maianthemum stellatum*



Soil & Light: tolerates dry sandy soils, part shade

Flowering Date: late May - June

Notes: spreads by rhizomes and can be used as a groundcover

Swamp Milkweed *Asclepias incarnata* ▲ ●



Soil & Light: prefers rich, moist soils, full sun

Flowering Date: early July

Notes: this wetland plant can be used in landscape gardens if provided with rich, moist soil

Tulip Tree *Liriodendron tulipifera* ▲ ●



Soil & Light: prefers loamy soil, full sun

Height: to 100' tall, our tallest native hardwood

Notes: greenish yellow flowers in June

White Baneberry *Actaea pachypoda*



Soil & Light: loamy soil, shade
Flowering Date: late May and June
Notes: also known as 'Doll's Eyes' due to the unique, berry-like fruit in late summer and fall

White Oak *Quercus alba*



I. Jean

Soil & Light: all soils if well drained
Height: to 80'
Notes: acorns provide food for squirrels, deer and other wildlife

Wild Bergamot *Monarda fistulosa* ▲ ● ●



Soil & Light: all soils, full sun
Flowering Date: late July
Notes: very adaptable perennial

Wild Columbine *Aquilegia canadensis* ▲ ●



Soil & Light: tolerates dry sandy soils, shade tolerant
Flowering Date: late May
Notes: easy to grow by collecting seed pods and scattering on bare soil

Wild Geranium *Geranium maculatum* ▲ ●






Soil & Light: well drained soils, part shade
Flowering Date: late May
Notes: clump forming perennial

Woodland Sunflower *Helianthus divaricatus* ▲ ●



Soil & Light: tolerates dry, sandy soil, sun or light shade
Flowering Date: early August
Notes: usually around 2' tall

Recommended Native Trees for landscaping in the Grand Bend Port Franks Corridor

				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Floodplain	Full Sun	Shade
basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	X	X	X
beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>			X
bitternut hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	X	X	X
black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	X	X	
black oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>		X	
black walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	X	X	
blue beech	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	X	X	X
bur oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	X	X	
hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>			X
ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>		X	X
peachleaf willow	<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>	X	X	
red cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	X	X	
red maple	<i>Acer rubra</i>		X	X
red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	X	X	
red pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>		X	
sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>		X	
shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	X	X	X
silver maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	X	X	
sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>			X
sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	X	X	
tulip-tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	X	X	
white cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	X	X	X
white oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>		X	
white pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>		X	X



Oak woodland, Pinery Provincial Park

Recommended Native Shrubs for landscaping in the Grand Bend Port Franks Corridor

Oak Woodland / Deciduous Forest Species ●

Tolerate dry sandy soils

Shade tolerant

*prefer loamy soils but suitable where native sandy soils have been amended

Flowering / Fruiting Shrubs

Common Name	Scientific Name	Flowering Date
alternate leaved dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	early June
chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	late May
downy arrow-wood	<i>Viburnum rafinesquianum</i>	June
*flowering dogwood	<i>Coruns florida</i>	May
maple-leaved viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	June
purple flowering raspberry	<i>Rubus odoratus</i>	July
*redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	late April
serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier spp</i>	late April
witch hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	late September

Prairie / Meadow Species: ●

Require full sun

Tolerate dry sand

*prefer loamy soils

Flowering / Fruiting Shrubs:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Flowering Date
carolina rose	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	June
common juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	berries in winter
dwarf chinquapin oak	<i>Quercus prinoides</i>	May
fragrant sumac	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	early May
new jersey tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	June
redroot	<i>Ceanothus herbaceous</i>	June
sand cherry	<i>Prunus pumila</i>	late May
serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>	late April
staghorn sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i>	late June

Recommended Native Shrubs for landscaping in the Grand Bend Port Franks Corridor

Floodplain / Wet Meadow Species

These species are appropriate when landscaping in floodplain areas, near water features or where soil has been amended to retain moisture.

Flowering / Fruiting Shrubs

Common Name	Scientific Name	Flowering Date
bladdernut	<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	late May
buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	July
Canada plum	<i>Prunus nigra</i>	late May
highbush cranberry	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	early June
nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	early June
native willow shrubs	<i>Salix spp</i>	early April
ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	late June
red osier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	July
silky dogwood	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	July
spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	late April
swamp rose	<i>Rosa palustris</i>	July
wild crabapple	<i>Malus coronaria</i>	late May



Wild crabapple *Malus coronaria*
Flowers in late May, will grow in all soils

Recommended Native Plants for landscaping in the Grand Bend Port Franks Corridor

Oak Woodland / Deciduous Forest Species ●

Tolerate dry sandy soils

Shade tolerant

*prefer loamy soils but suitable where native sandy
soils have been amended

Common Name	Scientific Name	Flowering Date
ALTERNATIVE TO LAWN		
ebony sedge	<i>Carex eburnea</i>	
Pennsylvania sedge	<i>Carex pennsylvanica</i>	
GRASSES & SEDGES		
mountain rice	<i>Oryzopsis pungens</i>	
plantain-leaved sedge	<i>Carex plantaginea</i>	
woodland sedge	<i>Carex blanda</i>	
GROUND COVERS		
bush honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	late June
Canada mayflower	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	late May
running strawberry	<i>Euonymus obovata</i>	early June
*Virginia creeper	<i>Parthenocissus vitacea</i>	early July
*Virginia waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i>	early June
*wild ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	late May
FLOWERING PERENNIALS		
barren strawberry	<i>Waldsteinia fragarioides</i>	early May
*bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	late August
*blue cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	early May
blue stemmed goldenrod	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	early Sept
*blue violet	<i>Viola</i>	late May
downy yellow violet	<i>Viola pubescens</i>	early May
false solomon's seal	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	early June
*foamflower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	late May
*jack-in-the-pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	early May
*large flowered bellwort	<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	early May
large-leaved aster	<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>	late July
*may-apple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	late May
poke milkweed	<i>Asclepias exaltata</i>	late June
*red baneberry	<i>Actaea rubra</i>	late May
*red trillium	<i>Trillium erectum</i>	early May
round lobed hepatica	<i>Hepatica nobilis var obtusa</i>	early May
sharp lobed hepatica	<i>Hepatica nobilis var. acuta</i>	early May
starry false solomon's seal	<i>Maianthemum stellatum</i>	late May
*white baneberry	<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>	late May
*white trillium	<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	early May
wild columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	late May
wild geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	late May
wild lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	late May
wood anemone	<i>Anemone quinquefolia</i>	early May
woodland sunflower	<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	early August
yellow pimpernel	<i>Taenidia integerrima</i>	late May
*zig zag goldenrod	<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	late August


Recommended Native Plants for landscaping in the Grand Bend Port Franks Corridor

Floodplain / Wet Meadow Species

These species are appropriate when landscaping in floodplain areas, near water features or where soil has been amended to retain moisture.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Flowering Date
GRASSES & SEDGES		
awl-fruited sedge	<i>Carex stipata</i>	
cyperus-like sedge	<i>Carex pseudo-cyperus</i>	
dark green bulrush	<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	
fox sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	
fringed sedge	<i>Carex crinita</i>	
gray's sedge	<i>Carex grayii</i>	
riverbank rye	<i>Elymus riparius</i>	
virginia wild rye	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	
wool grass	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	
GROUND COVER		
Canada anemone	<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	early June
FLOWERING PERENNIALS		
blue flag	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	early June
blue vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	early July
blue lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	early August
boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	early August
cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	early August
closed gentian	<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	late August
golden alexanders	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	late May
spotted joe-pye-weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	early August
marsh marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	early June
Michigan lily	<i>Lillium michiganense</i>	early July
sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	early August
swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	early July
tall sunflower	<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>	early August
turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	late August
violet species	<i>Viola spp</i>	May/June
white snakeroot	<i>Ageratina altissima var. altissima</i>	early August

Recommended Native Plants for landscaping in the Grand Bend Port Franks Corridor

Prairie / Meadow Species: 

Require full sun
Tolerate dry sand
*prefer loamy soils




Common Name	Scientific Name	Flowering Date
GROUND COVER		
bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	late April
common juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	early June
*wild strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	early May
GRASSES		
big bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	
indian grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	
little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	
switch grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	
FLOWERING PERENNIALS		
black-eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	late June
blazing star	<i>Liatris spp</i>	July - August
butterfly-weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	late June
common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	late June
early goldenrod	<i>Solidago juncea</i>	late July
flowering spurge	<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	early June
grey goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	early August
harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	late June
heath aster	<i>Symphyotrichum pilosum</i>	late August
hoary vervain	<i>Verbena stricta</i>	late July
*New England aster	<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>	late August
showy tick trefoil	<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	late August
smooth aster	<i>Symphyotrichum laeve</i>	late August
*sweet ox-eye	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	late July
Virginia mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	late July
wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	late July

Invasive Non-native Species

Invasive non-native species of vegetation are a concern in the Grand Bend to Port Franks corridor.

Invasive non-native plants, shrubs and trees can out-compete and displace native species and their associated wildlife. In many cases a single invasive species can displace dozens of native species over a relatively large area. Displacing native species can permanently alter this fragile ecosystem, directly affecting local wildlife that require these ecosystems for food and habitat. This type of habitat loss can lead to drop in population for many wildlife species, or worse, local extirpation.

Monitor your property for the appearance of unwanted, invasive non-native species and take appropriate steps to manage these species if they appear. If possible prevent and remove these species in your landscaping. Below you will find a list of some invasive non-native species and their preferred habitats within the Grand Bend to Port Franks Corridor. More information regarding invasive non-natives can be found on the Ontario Society for Ecological Restoration's webpage:
www.serontario.org/publications.htm

				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Floodplain	Full Sun	Shade
autumn olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	X	X	X
barberry	<i>Berberis spp.</i>	X	X	X
common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	X	X	
dame's rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	X	X	X
dog-strangling vine	<i>Cynanchum vincetoxicum</i>	X	X	X
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	X		X
Eurasian honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	X	X	X
European buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	X	X	X
garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	X		X
knapweed species	<i>Centaurea spp</i>		X	
multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	X	X	
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	X	X	X
Oregon grape	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>			X
oriental bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculata</i>	X	X	X
periwinkle	<i>Vinca minor</i>	X		X
purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	X	X	

**Some Invasive Non-Native
Species found in the
Grand Bend to Port Franks Corridor**



Brown Knapweed
Centaurea jacea



European Buckthorn
Rhamnus cathartica



Garlic Mustard
Alliaria petiolata



Eurasian honeysuckle
Lonicera tatarica

Find a Native Vegetation Supplier

*Contact or visit your **local nurseries** - they may carry some native species.

*The Ontario Society for Ecological Restoration's **2008 Native Plant Resource Guide for Ontario** is available for a cost of \$5.00 from the Ministry of Natural Resources (1-800-667-1940) or the Ontario Society for Ecological Restoration www.serontario.org

*Carolinian Canada's **Sources of Native Plants in the Carolinian Zone** (Updated September 2007) is available at www.carolinian.org/FactSheets_NativeStock.htm or phone 519-433-7077

*Canadian Wildlife Federation's **Native Plant Suppliers list for Ontario** can be found at: www.wildaboutgardening.org/en/gab/section3/ontario/index.htm or call 1-800-563-9453

*Contact the **Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority** for advice at 519-235-2610 or toll free 1-888-286-2610 or info@abca.on.ca

Select Resources for more Information

Newcomb's Wildflower Guide - Lawrence Newcomb

Photo Field Guide to Some Wildflowers of Southern Ontario - St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club (available at Pinery Visitor's Center)

Pinery Provincial Park Vascular Plant Checklist - Pinery Provincial Park (available at Pinery Visitor's Center)

Shrubs of Ontario - J. Soper *et al.*, published by the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)

The ROM Field Guide to Wildflowers of Ontario - T. Dickinson *et al.* Royal Ontario Museum

The New Ontario Naturalized Garden - L. Johnson

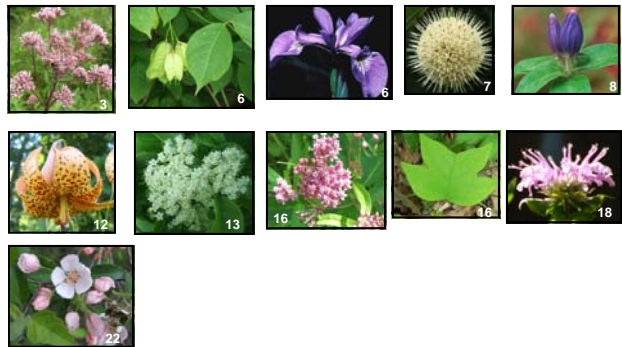
Trees of the Carolinian Forest - G. Waldron

Native Species Pictorial Index by Habitat & Page Number

Shade Tolerant ●



Full Sun, moist soil ●



Full Sun, dry soil ●

