

# **Recommended Plants for the Lake Ontario Shoreline Property Owner**

**Trees and Shrubs**

**Ground covers**

**Aquatic Plants**

**Wildflowers**

Trees and Shrubs for the Lake Ontario Shoreline				
Evergreen Trees				
Common Name	Botanical Name	Height (ft)	Used by:	Plant Characteristics
White Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>	40-75	Squirrels, songbirds, deer, chipmunk	Moist soil; sun. Insignificant flowers, fruits are 2" cones, light green foliage.
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	210	Squirrels, songbirds, deer, chipmunks, game birds	Moist soil; sun. Insignificant flowers, fruits are 5-8" cones, picturesque, soft, green foliage, subject to blister rust.
Eastern White Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	40-60	Deer, rabbit, red squirrel, songbirds	Moist soil, partial shade. Insignificant flowers, fruits are 1/2' cones, light green, soft, scale-like foliage.
Eastern Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	75	Songbirds, deer, squirrel, chipmunk	Moist soil, shade. Insignificant flowers, fruits are 3/4" cones, soft, feathery foliage.
Evergreen Shrubs				
Common Name	Botanical Name	Height (ft)	Used by:	Plant Characteristics
Inkberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	6-8	Birds, small mammals	Moist to dry, acid to neutral soil; tolerates occasional flooding; sun or shade. Inconspicuous male and female flowers on separate plants; lustrous green foliage year round; blackberry like fruit.
Canada Yew	<i>Taxus canadensis</i>	1-3	Birds, deer	Moist, sandy soil; shade; will not tolerate heat or drought. Glossy, dark green needles; prostrate habit.
Tall Deciduous Trees				
Common Name	Botanical Name	Height (ft)	Used by:	Plant Characteristics
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	40-60	Game birds, squirrel, chipmunk, beaver, deer, bear	Moist, acid soil; tolerates poor drainage; sun to semi-shade. Red flowers, fruits are winged samaras; yellow, orange or red fall color; salt sensitive.
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	75-100	Songbirds, deer, raccoon, waterfowl, squirrel, mice	Rich, moist soil; shade. Yellow flowers; fruits are winged samaras; yellow, orange, or red fall color, salt and stress sensitive.
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	60-75	Songbirds, squirrel, turkey, mice, deer	Moist soil; tolerates poor drainage; sun. Insignificant flowers, fruits are winged samaras; orange to purple fall color; dioecious (male and female plants).
Black Ash	<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>	50-75	Wood duck, birds, deer	Moist to wet soil; tolerates poor drainage; sun. Dark green compound leaves, yellow fall color; non-ornamental, good for streamside plantings.
Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	50-75	Wood duck, birds, deer, mice beaver	Dry to wet soil; tolerates poor drainage; sun. Insignificant flowers; fruits are winged samaras; yellow fall color; salt tolerant; weak wood.
Black Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	30-60	Birds, bees	Moist to wet soil; sun to part shade; Insignificant flowers; blue-black fruit; brilliant, red fall color; pyramidal shape, spreads by suckers.
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	75-125	Raccoon, songbirds, game birds, hare, mice	Moist to dry soils; sun. White flowers, red berries; yellow-red fall color; good tree for bluffs.
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	75-100	Wood duck, songbirds, squirrel, deer	Moist to wet soil; tolerates poor drainage; sun. Insignificant flowers; fruits are acorns; no fall color.
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	70-100	Chipmunk, moths, mice, beaver	Moist to dry soil; full sun. Fringed acorns; Yellow to brown fall color; large, inspiring tree.
Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	60-100	Bees, squirrel, chipmunk, mice, deer	Rich, moist soil; sun or shade. Fragrant, tiny white flowers in early summer; nut-like, pea sized fruits; yellowish or no fall color; salt sensitive.

<b>Medium Deciduous Trees</b>				
Common Name	Botanical Name	Height (ft)	Used by:	Plant Characteristics
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	50-70	Songbirds, hare	Wet to dry acid soil; tolerates poor drainage, sun. Catkins; small cone-like fruits; yellow fall color, cinnamon colored, peeling bark.
Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	35-60	Grouse, deer, rabbits, game birds, squirrels, mice	Dry to moist soil, shade. Catkins; hop-like fruits; yellowish fall color, elm like leaves.
<b>Low Deciduous Trees</b>				
Common Name	Botanical Name	Height (ft)	Used by:	Plant Characteristics
Speckled Alder	<i>Alnus rugosa</i>	15-30	Rabbits, muskrat, grouse, beaver	Wet soil; tolerates poor drainage; sun. Catkins; small cone-like fruits; no fall color.
Shadblow Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	6-20	Birds	Wet to moist soil; tolerates drought; sun to shade, white flowers, dark purple fruit;
Allegheny Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	20-30	Birds, squirrels, chipmunks, deer	Moist soil; partial shade. White flowers; edible red to blue-black fruits; orange to red fall color.
American Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	20-30	Game birds, deer, rabbits, squirrels	Moist soil, shade. Catkins; fruits are small nutlets; orange fall color, smooth gray muscle-like trunk.
Alternate Leaf Dogwood	<i>Comus alternifolia</i>	25	Birds, deer, rabbits, beaver	Cool, moist soil, shade. White flowers; blue-black fruits on red stalks; maroon fall color.
Hawthorns	<i>Crataegus sp.</i>	15	Songbirds, deer, squirrels	Dry to moist soils; sun. White flowers; red fruits; yellow to orange fall color; thorns; some species can be aggressive.
Tall Pussy Willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>	15-20	Deer, rabbits, grouse, beaver, birds	Moist to wet soil; prefers full sunlight. Flowers in showy catkins; shrub or tree; native along streams and swamps. Bankcover.
Shining Willow	<i>Salix lucida</i>	30	Deer, beaver	Moist to wet soil; sun to partial shade. Shiny green foliage; shrub or small tree; native along streams and in wet meadow. Bankcover.
American Mountain Ash	<i>Sorbus americana</i>	10-30	Birds, deer squirrels, mice	Moist to wet soil, sun to partial shade. White flowers; brilliant orange-red fruit; short-lived.
<b>Tall Deciduous Shrubs</b>				
Common Name	Botanical Name	Height (ft)	Used by:	Plant Characteristics
Smooth Alder	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	15-20	Birds	Moist soil; tolerates poor drainage. Yellow brown catkins provide interesting color in winter.
Common Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	6-12	Hummingbirds, deer, ducks, birds, beaver	Moist to wet soil; sun to partial shade, tolerates full shade. Fragrant, white flowers in dense clusters resembling buttons, hummingbird plant, nutlet food for waterfowl.
Common Witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	15-25	Birds, winter moths	Moist soil; shade. Yellow flowers in October; insignificant fruits; yellow fall color.
Swamp Azalea	<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	6-12		Moist to wet, acidic soils; sun or shade. Fragrant white-pink flowers; orange-purple fall foliage; spreads by stolons; found along streambanks.
Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	12	Birds, bears, chipmunks, mice deer	Moist, acid, well-drained soil; full sun or partial shade. White flowers; Delicious blueberries; yellow, bronze, orange, red fall color.
Beaked Hazelnut	<i>Corylus cornuta</i>	15	Squirrels, chipmunks, birds, rabbits, deer, mice	Moist, well drained soils; sun or shade. Nut has frilly extension that is irritating to skin. Nuts are rich in protein and fat. Provides good cover for wildlife.

<b>Medium Deciduous Shrubs</b>				
Common Name	Botanical Name	Height (ft)	Used by:	Plant Characteristics
Red Chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	6-10	Birds	Wet soil; tolerate poor drainage; shade. White flowers; red fruits; red fall color.
Coastal Sweet Pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	3-8	Butterflies, bees	Moist to wet acid soil; sun or partial shade; tolerates full shade. White fragrant flowers; yellow to golden brown fall color; spreads by suckers.
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	3-12	Birds, deer, squirrel, mice, raccoon	Moist to wet acid soil; tolerate poor drainage; sun to partial shade. Dioecious, red fruits; yellowish fall color.
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	6-12	Birds, butterflies	Moist soil, sun to partial shade, tolerates dry soil. Greenish yellow flowers; red fruits eaten by birds, lemon yellow fall color; spicy aroma, can be difficult to transplant, but very attractive.
Mountain Holly	<i>Nemopanthus mucronatus</i>	8-10	Birds, raccoon, deer	Moist to wet acid soil; shade. Inconspicuous flowers; dark red fruits; showy fall color; thicket forming, stoloniferous shrub.
Swamp Rose	<i>Rosa palustris</i>	5-7	Birds	Wet soil; full sun. Pink flower; red fruit.
Blackberry	<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>	1.5-7	Deer, rabbit, game birds, turtles, songbirds, fox	Moist soil; Sun to shade. White flowers; sweet black fruit; suckering habit; good for naturalized planting.
<b>Low Deciduous Shrubs</b>				
Common Name	Botanical Name	Height (ft)	Wildlife Value	Plant Characteristics
Running Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier stolonifera</i>	4-5	Birds, chipmunks, beaver	Dry soil; shade. White flowers; edible red fruits; orange fall color; suckering habit.
Black Chokeberry	<i>Photinia melanocarpa</i>	3-6	Songbirds, upland game birds, small mammals	Wet soil; shade. White flowers; black fruits; red fall color; groundcover or shrub.
Black Huckleberry	<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>	1-4	Birds	Dry or moist, acidic, sandy soil; partial shade. Red flowers; black, edible berries.
Hill-of-Snow	<i>Hydrangea aborescens</i>	3-5	Turkey, deer	Moist or dry soils, prefers sun or partial shade; tolerates deep shade. White flowers.
Sweetgale	<i>Myrica gale</i>	4	Birds	Moist to wet soil; sun to part shade; Glossy, dark green, aromatic foliage.
Shrubby Cinquefoil	<i>Dasiphora floribunda</i>	1-3	Insects	Medium to dry soil, good drainage; sun to part shade; very adaptable; yellow flowers; light ferny leaves.
Carolina Rose	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	3-6	Birds	Well drained to dry soil; Sun-partial shade; Single pink flower; red fruit; spreads by suckers and forms dense thickets.
White Meadowsweet	<i>Spirea alba</i>	2-5	Deer, songbirds, butterflies, moth, insects	Moist to wet slightly acid soil; sun. White flowers; erect shrub; can form thickets.
Steeplebush	<i>Spirea tomentosa</i>	4	Songbirds, game birds, waterfowl, small mammals	Moist to wet slightly acid soil; sun. Purple-rose flowers; upright shrub; native along streams and in meadows; thicket forming.



<b>Ground covers</b>				
Common Name	Botanical Name	Height (ft)	Used by:	Plant Characteristics
Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	0.5	Raccoon, chipmunks, turkey, wood ducks	Dry, acid soil; sun to partial shade. Small, terminal, white flowers in spring; small red berry, paddle-shaped, evergreen leaves; trailing shrub.
Canadian Wild ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	0.5	Ants	Rich, moist soil; shade. Ground level, cup-shaped, 3 pointed red- brown flowers in spring, large, heart-shaped leaves.
Canada Mayflower	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	.3-.7	Birds	Moist, humus rich soil; partial shade to shade. Tiny, white flower spikes; shiny green arched leaves.
Cinnamon Fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	3-4	Ruffed grouse, hummingbirds	Moist acidic soil, sun to partial shade; Fertile fronds shoot up as "cinnamon sticks" among rich green foliage;
Royal Fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	2-6	Ruffed grouse, deer	Moist to wet acid soil; partial shade. Regal clumps of bright green fronds.
Three-toothed Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla tridentata</i>	.1-.9		Dry soil; sun. White flowers in early summer; wine-red fall color; ground cover.
Barren Strawberry	<i>Waldsteinia fragaroides</i>	.25-.7		Dry soil; sun to partial shade. Yellow flowers, shiny green leaves resembling those on strawberry plants; groundcover.
<b>Aquatic Plants</b>				
Common Name	Botanical Name	Height (ft)	Used by:	Plant Characteristics
Soft-stem bulrush	<i>Scirpus validus</i>	4-6	Waterfowl, muskrat	Light-green erect stems, yellow-brown scale flowers in spring.
Hard-stem bulrush	<i>Scirpus acutus</i>	4-6	Waterfowl, muskrat	Dark-green erect stems,
Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	2-3	Waterfowl, beaver, muskrat, turtles, porcupine	Arrowhead-shaped leaves, showy white flowers.
Water-shield	<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	Floating	Muskrat, ducks	Floating oval leaves, rose-purple flowers.
Pickernelweed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	2-4	Waterfowl, deer, fish, muskrat, frogs	Purple flowers June-August. Thrives in mucky bottom.
<b>Wet Meadow Plants</b>				
Sensitive Fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	1-3	Mice, voles, chipmunks, deer, game birds	Opposite pairs of light-green leaflets with wavy edges.
Woolgrass	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	5-6	Waterfowl, muskrat	Slender leaves and stems; flower looks like tufts of wool – clusters of brown spikelets at ends of drooping stems.
Lake sedge	<i>Carex lacustris</i>	1-3	Waterfowl, marsh birds, upland game birds, songbirds	Coarse, long, wide bluish-green leaves with open reddish featherlike fibers at the ends.

Flowers for the Lake Ontario Shoreline						
Wildflowers for Wet Meadows						
Common Name	Botanical Name	Height (ft)	Blooms	Light needs	Flower color	Used by:
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	2-4	July-August	Full sun	Red	Hummingbirds, butterflies, moths
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	3-4	July	Full sun	Pink	Birds, butterflies, muskrat, insects
Great lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	1-3	Aug-Sept	Full sun to partial shade	Blue	Deer, hummingbirds
Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	1-6	July-August	Partial shade	Orange	Hummingbirds, orioles, mice, frogs, grouse
Blue vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	2-7	July-August	Full sun	Blue	Muskrat, mice, rabbits, songbirds
Marsh-marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	1-2	April-June	Full sun to shade	Yellow	Deer, game birds, frogs, insects
Blue flag	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	2-3	June-July	Full sun to partial shade	Blue	Fish, frogs, birds, butterflies, muskrat
Joe-pye weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	2-4	July-Sept	Full sun to partial shade	Purple/pink	Butterflies, moths, bees
Wildflowers for Woodlands						
Wild geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	1-2	May	Partial shade to shade	Pink or violet	Songbirds, chipmunks
Bunchberry	<i>Cornus Canadensis</i>	2-8	July	Shade	White	Birds
Violets	<i>Viola species</i>	.5-1	May-June	Shade	White, blue, violet, yellow	Rabbits, mice, deer, game birds, butterflies
Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	.5-1	May	Shade	White	Ants
Dutchman's breeches	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	1	May	Shade	White	Bumblebees, ants
Trillium	<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>	1	May-June	Shade to partial shade	White	Deer
Wildflowers for Open Meadows						
Fireweed	<i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	2-6	June-Aug	Full sun	Magenta	Mice, deer
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago species</i>	.5-5	Aug-Sept	Full sun	Yellow	Mice, rabbit, songbirds, deer, butterflies, insects
Thimbleweed	<i>Anemone cylindrical</i>	1.5-3	July	Full sun	White	Insects
Butterfly milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	1.5-2	July-Aug	Full sun	Orange to yellow	Butterflies, birds, insects
Lance-leaf coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	1-3	June-Sept	Full sun	Yellow	Butterflies
Asters	<i>Aster species</i>	1-5	Aug-Sept	Full sun	Variety	Birds, butterflies, mice, chipmunks, rabbit, deer
Bee balm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	2-3.5	June-July	Filtered or partial	Red	Hummingbirds, butterflies, bees
Bottle gentian	<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	1-2	Aug-Sept	Partial shade	Blue	Bees

Information from:

*Stewardship in the Thousand Islands: A guide to help landowners care for their lands.* The Canadian Thousand Islands Heritage Conservancy and St. Lawrence Islands National Park.

*Lakescaping for wildlife and water quality.* Nongame Wildlife Program – Section of Wildlife, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.