

Wildflowers & Grasses for Pond Edges

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Soil Type/Location	Blooms	Height	Comments
Blue Verbena / Blue Vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	near springs, seep areas, stream banks, moist porous & heavy loam soils	June-Sept	5 ft	attracts sparrows and finches who eat the seeds
Wooly Verbena	<i>Verbena stricta</i>	dry soils	June-Aug	3-4 ft	use on the upper edge, where dry, roots extend down to 12ft - great for infiltration
New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	stream banks, moist or dry sandy soils	Sept-Oct	4 ft	attracts butterflies
Common Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	wet soils, stream banks, pond edges	June-Oct	1 ft	
False Indigo	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	low water requirements	Spring	8 ft	woody perennial
Western Ironweed	<i>Vernonia baldwinii</i>	upland sites, disturbed areas	July-Sept	2-5 ft	plant on upper shore,
Smooth Milkweed	<i>Asclepias sullivantii</i>	moist soils	June-Aug	3 ft	
Purple Coneflower, Black Samson	<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	dry soils	June-July	2 ft	use on the upper edge, where dry, tap root extends 5-8ft, great for drought and infiltration
Trumpet Creeper	<i>Campsis radicans</i>	stream banks	June-Aug	20 ft viney	attracts hummingbirds and long-tongued bees
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	stream banks, wet soils, needs some shade	Aug-Sept	3 ft	
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	stream banks, moist soils	May-July	6 ft	
Rough-Leaved Dogwood	<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	stream banks, wet or dry soils	May -June	6 ft	does well in drought, cover for wildlife and attracts birds
Illinois Bundle-Flower	<i>Desmanthus illinoensis</i>	stream banks, rocky, clay or sandy soils	May-July	5 ft	winter hardy, drought resistant,
Wild Licorice	<i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i>	stream valleys, moist soils	May-Aug	3 ft	attracts deer, and game birds
Virginia Knotweed	<i>Polygonum virginianum</i>	stream banks	July-Sept	3 ft	forms clumps

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Riverbank Grape	<i>Vitis riparia</i>	rocky stream banks	May-June	20 ft viney	attracts wildlife
Tall Joe-Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium altissimum</i>	open areas, disturbed sites	Aug-Oct	3-6 ft	plant on upper shore,
Golden Alexanders	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	along streams, moist soils	May-June	3 ft	
Beggarticks	<i>Bidens connata</i>	stream banks, moist soils	July-Sept	4 ft	
Plains Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>	moist, sandy soils	June-Sept	2-4 ft	
Clasping Coneflower	<i>Dracopis amplexicaulis</i>	moist, clayey soils	May-July	1-2 ft	
Sawtooth Sunflower	<i>Helianthus grosseserratus</i>	stream and wetland edges	Aug-Sept	8 ft	
Maximilian sunflower	<i>Helianthus maximilianii</i>	low moist areas, sandy soils	Aug-Sept	7 ft	excellent wildlife food
Common Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	stream and lake edges, damp or dry soils	July-Oct	5 ft	flowers open in evening
Wild oats, Indian Woodoats	<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	along streams, moist soils	July-Sept	2 ft	
Canada Wild Rye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	stream banks, moist or dry soils	July-Aug	3 ft	
Virginia Wild Rye	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	stream banks, moist, fertile soils	May-July	3 ft	
Eastern Gama Grass	<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	stream banks, moist soils	June-Sept	4-8 ft	attracts birds
Bottlebrush sedge	<i>Carex hystericina</i>	shorelines	May-June	2 ft	
Tape-leaf Flat-sedge	<i>Cyperus acuminatus</i>	wet areas, edges ponds, lakes	July-Sept	2-14 in	
Common Spike Rush	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	pond and lake edges, wet soils, shallow water	April-July	4 ft or less	
Torrey's Rush	<i>Juncus torreyi</i>	stream and pond edges	July-Aug	3 ft	
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	prairies, dry hills	July-Sept	2-4 ft	deeply rooted, increased infiltration, resists drought, colorful grass, clump grass, plant on upper shore
Big Bluestem / Turkey-foot	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	lowland prairies, deep, fertile dry soils	July-Sept	7 ft	attracts birds, colorful, plant on upper shore
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	wet soils, stream banks, pond edges	June-Aug	6 ft	shrub