



Prairie & Meadow Plants for Landscaping



*Plant these native wildflowers, grasses and shrubs
to add texture and blooms to sunny areas on your property*

Prairie & Meadow Plants for Landscaping

Prairie and meadow plants need plenty of sunlight. Avoid planting them where they will be shaded from existing trees or nearby structures such as buildings or fences. Maximize colour and interest in your landscaping or garden setting throughout the growing season with wildflowers that bloom at different times. Taller grasses can provide a green backdrop or border through the summer, often turning to a copper colour in fall. Grow species that prefer part-sun in areas that get four to six hours of sunlight each day. For easy care, choose plants that are suited to the conditions in your landscape.

Sun Exposure

Full sun: Six or more hours of direct sunlight.

Part shade/Part sun: Four to six hours of direct sunlight.

Full shade: Zero to four hours of direct sunlight.

Soil Type

Use a shovel to dig down 15 cm (6 inches) and grab a handful of soil. If it is very dry add a small amount of water to moisten it. Rub the soil between your thumb and fingers. How does it feel? Squeeze it together. Does it hold together or form a ball?

Sand: Feels very gritty. Moistened soil doesn't hold together when squeezed.

Loam: Feels fairly soft and smooth with some grit and nearly equal parts of sand, silt and clay.

Some loams will feel slightly more on the smooth side (Clayey-Loam or CL), or slightly more on the gritty side (Sandy-Loam or SL).

Clay: Moistened soil feels smooth and sticky and forms a ball easily when squeezed. Dry soil is hard.

Soils may have other properties such as the addition of gravel or heavy clay soils, sometimes found in new developments. Choose compaction tolerant species to survive in these soils.

Moisture

Sandy soil holds very little water, while clay soil can hold much more. Examine your property throughout the year and note where water accumulates or drains rapidly.

Dry-moist: Soil is cool and damp after rain but water drains quickly. Soil feels dry between rains and water doesn't puddle. Ground may be slightly elevated.

Moist-wet: Soil feels damp most of the year and drains slowly. Water puddles easily. This is common in low-lying sites.

Height

Use plants of different heights in your landscape. Low growing plants such as Wild Strawberry or Little Bluestem (grass) can make an excellent ground cover, either alone, or combined with other low-growing plants. Short plants also work well in rock gardens, bordering a driveway or in small garden beds. Tall plants can provide a great border, hide a fence or add dramatic flair by an entrance or other landscape feature. Add taller plants at the back and shorter plants at the front when combining plants that grow to different heights.

Spread

As plants grow they need space to spread out. Give your plants space by considering how far each one will spread and leave enough space around them for other plants, buildings or structures.



Bebb's Sedge



Sneezeweed

Match plants from this list to your specific site conditions. Consider sun, soil, moisture and more.

Do you have soil that never dries? Try our moist-wet list on page 18.

Do you have dry soil that you don't want to water? Select plants from our dry-moist list on page 6.

Why Native Plants

Native plants have evolved for hundreds, sometimes thousands, of years in our area, becoming accustomed to our climate, soils and other conditions. These plants evolved with local wildlife, such as birds and pollinators who use them for food, shelter and other basic needs – needs that non-native plants often cannot meet.

Many native plants still grow in natural areas within the Credit River watershed. The plants included in this list are all native to southern Ontario and most are native to the watershed. These plants make excellent garden and landscaping plants when planted in the right soil, light and moisture conditions, as described for each plant.

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) recommends using native plants commonly found in the watershed. Native plants that are rare within the watershed have been identified with an asterisk (*). These can be added to gardens and landscaping, but are not appropriate for restoration projects or projects that require a CVC permit.



Eastern Purple Coneflower



Joe Pye Weed

Photo: mwmms1916

Restoration Projects and Planting in Regulated Areas

Restoration projects and those requiring a CVC permit must use common species native to the Credit River watershed. Common native plants on this list are those *without* an asterisk. For a complete list of approved plants for CVC planning applications and restoration projects refer to: www.creditvalleyca.ca/plantselectionguide.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sun	Soil	Height (cm)	Spread (m)	
Dry - Slightly Moist						
Wildflowers	Anemone, Long-fruited*	<i>Anemone cylindrica</i>	☀️🌑	S L	10-60	N/A
	Aster, Calico Other name: Starved Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum lateriflorum</i> Former scientific name: <i>Aster lateriflorum</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	30-90	N/A
	Aster, Sky-blue*	<i>Symphyotrichum oolentangiense</i> Former scientific name: <i>Aster oolentangiense</i>	☀️🌑	S L	30-90	N/A
	Aster, White Heath	<i>Symphyotrichum ericoides</i> var. <i>ericoides</i> Former scientific name: <i>Aster ericoides</i>	☀️	S L C	30-60	N/A
	Beardtongue, Foxglove*	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	90-120	N/A
	Beardtongue, Hairy*	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	30-60	N/A
	Bergamot, Wild	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i> var. <i>fistulosa</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	60-120	N/A
	Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> var. <i>pulcherrima</i> Former scientific name: <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	30-90	N/A

Tolerances	Flower Colour by month											Notes
	Dr	Cp	St	Ju	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	
	●			●		Ⓜ	Ⓜ					Seed head looks like a thimble, matures to a cottony tuft
	●			●				Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ		Attractive clusters of small flowers; Flower centres turn from yellow to purplish-red
	●	●	●	●				Ⓟ	Ⓟ	Ⓟ		Long clusters of flowers
	●			●				Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ		Densely clustered, daisy-like flowers; Bushy habit
	●	●	●			Ⓜ	Ⓜ					Tubular shaped flowers attract hummingbirds; Prefers well-drained soils
	●					Ⓟ	Ⓟ					Tubular shaped flowers attract hummingbirds; Prefers well-drained soils
	●	●	●	●			Ⓟ	Ⓟ				Aromatic leaves; Seed heads provide winter interest
	●	●	●	●			Ⓟ	Ⓟ				Slightly fuzzy leaves; Seed heads provide winter interest; Biennial



Long-fruited Anemone



Calico Aster



Sky-blue Aster



White Heath Aster



Foxglove Beardtongue



Hairy Beardtongue



Wild Bergamot



Black-eyed Susan

☀️ Full sun: 6 or more hours of sunlight; 🌑 Part shade: 4-6 hours of sunlight; 🌑 Shade: 4 or less hours of sunlight

Soil: **S** Sand; **L** Loam; **C** Clay

* Not for restoration or projects requiring a CVC permit, see p. 5.

Ⓜ red, Ⓜ orange, Ⓟ yellow, Ⓟ green, Ⓟ pale green, Ⓟ blue, Ⓟ purple, Ⓟ pink, Ⓟ brown, Ⓟ silver, Ⓜ white, Ⓟ evergreen

Tolerances: **Cp** Compaction; **Dr** Drought; **St** Salt; **Ju** Juglones (substance produced by walnut trees)

Plants noted as "vigorous" are not recommended for small yards

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sun	Soil	Height (cm)	Spread (m)
Dry - Slightly Moist					
Blazing-star, Dense*	<i>Liatis spicata</i>	☀	S L C	60-150	N/A
Blazing-star, Slender*	<i>Liatis cylindracea</i>	☀	S	20-45	N/A
Blue-eyed-grass, Strict*	<i>Sisyrinchium montanum</i>	☀☾	S	15-30	N/A
Bluets, Long-leaved*	<i>Houstonia longifolia</i> Former scientific name: <i>Hedyotis longifolia</i>	☀	S	10-30	N/A
Bush-clover, Round-headed*	<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	☀	S L	60-120	N/A
Cinquefoil, Prairie* Other name: Tall Cinquefoil	<i>Drymocallis arguta</i> Former scientific name: <i>Potentilla arguta</i>	☀	S	20-70	N/A
Compass Plant*	<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	☀	S	90-250	N/A
Coneflower, Eastern Purple*	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	☀☾	S L C	60-120	N/A

Wildflowers

Tolerances				Flower Colour by month							Notes
Dr	Cp	St	Ju	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	
							P	P			Feathery spike of flowers; Grass-like leaves; Do not allow soil to dry out
●							P	P			Feathery flower heads
●				B	B						Grass-like, forming small clumps; Flower opens in early morning, closes at midday; Prefers areas with smaller, less competitive plants
●					W	W	W				Dainty tubular flowers
●	●	●					W	W	W		Seed heads provide winter interest; Contributes nitrogen to the soil
●		●			Y	Y	Y				Clusters of long-lasting flowers
●						Y	Y				Leaves grow to point north and south; Multiple large flowers; Long taproot, transplant carefully
							P	P			Large, attractive flowers; Seed heads provide winter interest



Dense Blazing-star



Slender Blazing-star



Strict Blue-eyed-grass



Long-leaved Bluets



Round-headed Bush Clover



Prairie Cinquefoil



Compass Plant



Eastern Purple Coneflower

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R red, **O** orange, **Y** yellow, **G** green, **PG** pale green, **B** blue, **P** purple, **PK** pink, **BR** brown, **SI** silver, **W** white, **EG** evergreen

Tolerances: **Cp** Compaction; **Dr** Drought; **St** Salt; **Ju** Juglones (substance produced by walnut trees)

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Dry - Slightly Moist						
Wildflowers	Coneflower, Gray-headed Prairie*	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	☀	S L C	90-120	N/A
	Coneflower, Pale Purple*	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	☀	S	30-100	N/A
	Coreopsis, Lance-leaved* Other name: Lance-leaved Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	☀	S L C	30-60	N/A
	Evening Primrose, Common	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	☀🌑	S	60-120	N/A
	Fireweed*	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i> Former scientific name: <i>Epilobium angustifolium</i>	☀🌑	S L C	60-150	N/A
	Goldenrod, Early	<i>Solidago juncea</i>	☀	S L C	30-120	N/A
	Goldenrod, Gray Other name: Gray-stemmed Goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis ssp. nemoralis</i>	☀🌑	S L C	30-60	N/A
Goldenrod, Stiff*	<i>Solidago rigida ssp. rigida</i>	☀	S L C	30-150	N/A	

Tolerances				Flower Colour by month							Notes
Dr	Cp	St	Ju	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	
●						Y	Y				Interesting, drooping flower petals; Multiple large flowers
						P	P	P			Narrow, drooping flower petals; Seed heads provide winter interest
●						Y	Y	Y			Long-lasting flowers; Vigorous
●						Y	Y				Flowers open in the evening and close by noon; Biennial; Vigorous
						PI	PI	PI			Dense clusters of flowers with narrow leaves; Seeds dispersed by long, white, silky hairs; Vigorous
●			●			Y	Y	Y			Earliest goldenrod to flower
●	●	●	●					Y	Y		Nodding flower head; Unique hairy stem and leaves
●	●		●					Y	Y		Attractive stiff leaves; Less vigorous than other goldenrods; Clump-forming



Gray-headed Prairie Coneflower
Photo: Dan Mullen



Pale Purple Coneflower
Photo: Joshua Mayer



Lance-leaved Coreopsis
Photo: Eleanor



Common Evening Primrose



Fireweed



Early Goldenrod
Photo: Tom Potterfield



Gray Goldenrod
Photo: Dawn Reinbow



Stiff Goldenrod
Photo: Peter Gorman

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Plants noted as "vigorous" are not recommended for small yards

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sun	Soil	Height (cm)	Spread (m)	
Dry - Slightly Moist						
Wildflowers	Harebell, American* Other name: Giesecke's Bellflower	<i>Campanula gieseckiana</i> Former scientific name: <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>		S	30-45	N/A
	Lupine, Wild* Other name: Sundial Lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>		S	30-60	N/A
	Milk-vetch, Canada*	<i>Astragalus canadensis</i>		S L	60-120	N/A
	Milkweed, Butterfly*	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>		S L C	60-90	N/A
	Milkweed, Common	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>		S L C	60-90	N/A
	Nodding Wild Onion*	<i>Allium cernuum</i>		S L C	20-60	N/A
	Pearly Everlasting	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>		S	30-90	N/A
Prairie Smoke* Other name: Three-flowered Avens	<i>Geum triflorum</i>		S	20-30	N/A	

Tolerances	Flower Colour by month											Notes			
	Dr	Cp	St	Ju	M	J	J	A	S	O	N				
															Nodding, bell-shaped flowers; Effective ground cover; Do not confuse with <i>C. rapunculoides</i> which is non-native and invasive
															Elongated clusters of flowers; Transplant carefully or grow from seed; Vigorous
															Dense, elongated clusters of tubular flowers; Contributes nitrogen to the soil
															Vital to Monarch butterflies; Small seed pods; Long taproot, transplant carefully; Requires good drainage
															Vital to Monarch butterflies; Long taproot, transplant carefully; Requires good drainage; Vigorous
															Mild oniony scent
															Clusters of round flowers; Commonly used in dried flower arrangements; Silvery fuzzy leaves
															Flowers turn into feathery tufts that look like smoke



American Harebell



Wild Lupine



Canada Milk-vetch



Butterfly Milkweed



Common Milkweed



Nodding Wild Onion



Pearly Everlasting



Prairie Smoke

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Sun	Soil	Height (cm)	Spread (m)	
Dry - Slightly Moist						
Wildflowers	Strawberry, Wild	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	10-20	N/A
	Sunflower, False*	<i>Helianthus helianthoides</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	60-150	N/A
	Sunflower, Pale-leaved*	<i>Helianthus strumosus</i>	☀️	S L C	90-150	N/A
	Thimbleweed Other name: Virginia Anemone	<i>Anemone virginiana</i>	☀️🌑	S L	10-60	N/A
	Tick-trefoil, Showy*	<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	60-120	N/A
	Vervain, Hoary*	<i>Verbena stricta</i>	☀️	S	60-90	N/A
Grasses & Sedges	Big Bluestem*	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	90-210	N/A
	Canada Wildrye*	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	60-120	N/A

Tolerances				Flower Colour by month							Notes
Dr	Cp	St	Ju	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	
●	●	●		Ⓜ	Ⓜ						Runners form a ground cover; Edible, small berries
						●	●				Looks like a small, yellow sunflower; Vigorous
●		●	●			●	●	●			Multiple large flowers on each stem, long flowering; Vigorous
●			●			Ⓜ					Seed head looks like a small thimble, matures to a cottony tuft
●	●	●				●	●				Dense, elongated clusters of flowers; Contributes nitrogen to the soil; Plant away from paths as seeds stick to clothing and fur
●					●	●	●				Narrow flowering spikes; Slightly fuzzy leaves; Biennial
●	●	●					●	●			Flowers rise above grass; Looks like a turkey's foot; Bluish-green leaves in summer, red-brown in fall; Emerges summer; Clump-forming
●	●	●					●	●			Attractive flowers resemble wheat; Nodding seed heads turn gold and persist into winter; Effective ground cover; Emerges early spring; Spreading



Wild Strawberry



False Sunflower



Pale-leaved Sunflower



Thimbleweed



Showy Tick-trefoil



Hoary Vervain



Big Bluestem



Canada Wildrye

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	Dry - Slightly Moist					
Grasses & Sedges	Little Bluestem*	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium ssp. scoparium</i>	☀️	S L C	60-90	N/A
	Sand Dropseed*	<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	☀️🌑	S L	45-75	N/A
	Side-oats Grama*	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	☀️	S C	45-75	N/A
	Yellow Indian Grass*	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	90-180	N/A
Shrubs & Small Trees	Cherry, Choke	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	200-300	5-6
	Dogwood, Gray	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	200-300	3-4
	Hawthorn, Cockspur	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	600-1000	6-10
	New Jersey Tea*	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	☀️🌑	S L	60-100	1-1.25

Tolerances	Flower Colour by month											Notes
	Dr	Cp	St	Ju	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	
●	●	●						P BR	P BR	P BR		Fuzzy white seeds provide winter interest; Bronze-orange fall colour; Emerges summer; Clump-forming
●							Y BR	Y BR				Emerges summer; Clump-forming
●		●					P BR	P BR				Drooping oat-like seeds; Golden brown fall colour; Emerges summer; Clump-forming
●	●	●					Y BR	Y BR	Y BR			Orange-yellow leaves and feather-like seed head in fall; Emerges summer; Clump-forming; Vigorous
●		●	●		Ⓜ							Dense, pyramidal clusters of flowers; Purple berries in summer; Vigorous
●	●		●			Ⓜ						Cone-shaped cluster of flowers; White berries on red stems in summer; Stems provide winter interest
●	●		●	Ⓜ	Ⓜ							Flat-topped clusters of flowers; Persistent fruit provides winter interest; Thorns
●		●				Ⓜ						Compact, dense, rounded shrub; Contributes nitrogen to the soil



Little Bluestem



Sand Dropseed



Side-oats Grama



Yellow Indian Grass



Choke Cherry



Gray Dogwood



Cockspur Hawthorn



New Jersey Tea

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	Dry - Slightly Moist					
Shrubs & Small Trees	Plum, American*	<i>Prunus americana</i>	☀	S L C	600-800	4-5
	Rose, Carolina*	<i>Rosa carolina ssp. carolina</i>	☀☾	S	50-150	1.5-2
	Rose, Smooth	<i>Rosa blanda</i>	☀☾	S L C	100-200	1.5-2
	St. John's-wort, Kalm*	<i>Hypericum kalmianum</i>	☀	S L	60-100	0.5-0.6
	Sumac, Fragrant*	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	☀☾	S L C	100-150	1.5-2
	Sumac, Winged*	<i>Rhus copallinum</i>	☀☾	S	100-200	3-5m
	Moist - Wet					
Wildflowers	Alexanders, Golden*	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	☀☾	S L C	30-60	N/A
	Anemone, Canada	<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	☀☾	S L C	30-60	N/A

Tolerances				Flower Colour by month							Notes	
Dr	Cp	St	Ju	M	J	J	A	S	O	N		
●				Ⓜ								Clusters of flowers before leaf-out; Reddish-purple fruit in summer; Vigorous
●	●				PI	PI						Few thorns; Red fruit (rose hips) provides winter interest; Sends out suckers, clip or use in hedge row
●	●	●	●		PI	PI						Thornless but for a few prickles at the base of shoots; Red fruits (rose hips) provide winter interest; Sends out suckers, clip or use in hedge row
●	●	●	●			Y	Y					Papery bark on mature branches; Bluish-green leaves
●		●	●	Y								Aromatic leaves and twigs; Clusters of fuzzy dark-red berries provide winter interest; Sends out suckers, clip or use in hedge row
●		●	●		Y	Y						Glossy leaves with a wing along the stem; Red fruit-clusters provide winter interest; Sends out suckers, clip or use in hedge row
●	●	●		Y	Y							Reddish stems; Leaves and seed turn light purple in fall
●		●	●	Ⓜ	Ⓜ							Effective ground cover; Vigorous



American Plum



Carolina Rose



Smooth Rose



Kalm St. John's-wort



Fragrant Sumac



Winged Sumac



Golden Alexanders



Canada Anemone

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Sun	Soil	Height (cm)	Spread (m)
Moist - Wet					
Aster, Flat-top White*	<i>Doellingeria umbellata</i> var. <i>umbellata</i> Former scientific name: <i>Aster umbellatus</i>	☀	S L C	30-150	N/A
Aster, New England	<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i> Former scientific name: <i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	☀☾	S L C	60-150	N/A
Aster, Swamp	<i>Symphyotrichum puniceum</i> Former scientific name: <i>Aster puniceum</i>	☀	S L C	90-150	N/A
Beggarticks, Devil's	<i>Bidens frondosa</i>	☀☾	S L C	30-120	N/A
Boneset, Common	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	☀☾	S L C	60-120	N/A
Cardinalflower*	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	☀☾	S L	30-150	N/A
Coneflower, Cut-leaved	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	☀☾	S L C	90-180	N/A
Culver's Root*	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	☀☾	S L C	90-150	N/A

Wildflowers

Tolerances	Flower Colour by month											Notes	
	Dr	Cp	St	Ju	M	J	J	A	S	O	N		
								Ⓜ	Ⓜ				Early-flowering aster; Flat-topped cluster of flowers
	●	●	●	●				Ⓟ	Ⓟ	Ⓟ			Clusters of vibrant flowers; Can be staked or pruned to produce shorter plants; Vigorous
			●	●					Ⓟ	Ⓟ			Purple stem; Similar to New England Aster, but flower is lighter in colour
			●					Ⓨ	Ⓨ				Leaves often turn purple in autumn; Plant away from paths as seeds stick to clothing and fur; Self-seeding annual
	●	●						Ⓜ	Ⓜ				Fuzzy clusters of tiny flowers; Leaves joined at stem creating a small cup that holds water for butterflies and birds
				●				Ⓡ	Ⓡ				Spikes of brilliant red tubular flowers
	●	●	●	●				Ⓨ	Ⓨ	Ⓨ			Multiple large flowers; Tall, may require staking; Vigorous
								Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ			Numerous spikes of flowers branch from top; Serrated leaves in whorls up the stem; If plant does not get full sun it can become spindly, requiring support



Flat-top White Aster



New England Aster



Swamp Aster



Devil's Beggarticks



Common Boneset



Cardinalflower



Cut-leaved Coneflower



Culver's Root

☀ Full sun: 6 or more hours of sunlight; ☀☾ Part shade: 4-6 hours of sunlight; ● Shade: 4 or less hours of sunlight

Soil: **S** Sand; **L** Loam; **C** Clay

* Not for restoration or projects requiring a CVC permit, see p. 5.

Ⓡ red, Ⓞ orange, Ⓨ yellow, ● green, ● pale green, ● blue, ● purple, ● pink, ● brown, ● silver, ● white, ● evergreen

Tolerances: **Cp** Compaction; **Dr** Drought; **St** Salt; **Ju** Juglones (substance produced by walnut trees)

Plants noted as "vigorous" are not recommended for small yards

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sun	Soil	Height (cm)	Spread (m)
Moist - Wet					
Cup Plant*	<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	☀️☐	S L C	90-200	N/A
Gentian, Closed Bottle*	<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	☀️	S L C	30-50	N/A
Iris, Blue Flag Other name: Harlequin Blue Flag	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	☀️☐	S L C	60-90	N/A
Joe Pye Weed, Spotted	<i>Eutrochium maculatum var. maculatum</i>	☀️	S L C	120-180	N/A
Lily, Michigan	<i>Lilium michiganense</i>	☀️☐	L C	90-180	N/A
Lobelia, Great Blue	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	☀️☐	S L C	30-150	N/A
Meadow-rue, Tall	<i>Thalictrum pubescens</i>	☀️☐	S L C	100-200	N/A
Milkweed, Swamp	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	☀️	S L C	30-120	N/A

Wildflowers

Tolerances				Flower Colour by month							Notes
Dr	Cp	St	Ju	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	
●							●	●			Multiple large flowers; Leaves joined at stem creating a small cup that holds water for butterflies and birds; Vigorous
								●	●		Late season flowers add vivid colour as other plants die back; Clusters of bottle-shaped flowers
		●	●	●	●						Attractive purple flowers with yellow and white veins; Tall sword-like leaves
●	●						●	●			Large cluster of flowers
			●			●	●				Flower petals curve backward; Tall, sword-like leaves
			●				●	●			Clusters of brilliant blue, tubular flowers
		●	●			Ⓜ					Clusters of delicate flowers; Small, bluish-green leaves
						●	●				Vital to Monarch butterflies; Seed pods provide winter interest; Long taproot, transplant carefully



Cup Plant

Photo: Peter Gorman



Closed Bottle Gentian

Photo: Peter Gorman



Blue Flag Iris



Spotted Joe Pye Weed

Photo: Jon Clayton



Michigan Lily

Photo: Joshua Mayer



Great Blue Lobelia



Tall Meadow-rue



Swamp Milkweed

☀️ Full sun: 6 or more hours of sunlight; ☐ Part shade: 4-6 hours of sunlight; ● Shade: 4 or less hours of sunlight

Soil: **S** Sand; **L** Loam; **C** Clay

* Not for restoration or projects requiring a CVC permit, see p. 5.

● red, ● orange, ● yellow, ● green, ● pale green, ● blue, ● purple, ● pink, ● brown, ● silver, ● white, ● evergreen

Tolerances: **Cp** Compaction; **Dr** Drought; **St** Salt; **Ju** Juglones (substance produced by walnut trees)

Plants noted as "vigorous" are not recommended for small yards

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sun	Soil	Height (cm)	Spread (m)	
Moist - Wet						
Wildflowers	Monkeyflower, Square-stemmed	<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	60-90	N/A
	Obedient Plant* Other name: False Dragon-head	<i>Physostegia virginiana ssp. virginiana</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	30-80	N/A
	Silverweed, Common*	<i>Potentilla anserina ssp. anserina</i> Former scientific name: <i>Argentina anserina, Potentilla anserina</i>	☀️	S	15-20	N/A
	Sneezeweed, Common*	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	☀️	L C	60-150	N/A
	Sunflower, Tall*	<i>Helianthus giganteus</i>	☀️	S L C	90-200	N/A
	Turtlehead, White	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	60-90	N/A
	Vervain, Blue	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	90-120	N/A
Grasses & Sedges	Bebb's Sedge	<i>Carex bebbii</i>	☀️	S L C	30-90	N/A
	Bluejoint Reedgrass	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	☀️	S L C	90-150	N/A

Tolerances				Flower Colour by month							Notes
Dr	Cp	St	Ju	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	
						P	P				Flower looks like a grinning monkey face
						PI	PI				Spikes of dense, tubular flowers; Flowers obediently stay in place when adjusted
					Y	Y	Y				Red-coloured runners form a ground cover; Silvery, feather-like leaves
							Y	Y			Does not cause sneezing; Numerous flower heads; Can get bushy (For photo reference see page 3)
						Y	Y	Y			Multiple large flowers; Plant where height is desired, may require staking; Vigorous
							W	W			Clusters of tubular flowers that look like a turtle's head
					P	P	P				Numerous spikes of flowers branch from top
					G	G					Seed heads look like a cluster of spiked balls; Effective ground cover; Emerges early spring; Clump-forming
					P	P					Blue-green leaves; Erect leaves provide winter interest; Emerges early spring; Clump-forming



Square-stemmed Monkeyflower



Obedient Plant



Common Silverweed



Tall Sunflower



White Turtlehead



Blue Vervain



Bebb's Sedge



Bluejoint Reedgrass

☀️ Full sun: 6 or more hours of sunlight; 🌑 Part shade: 4-6 hours of sunlight; 🌒 Shade: 4 or less hours of sunlight

Soil: **S** Sand; **L** Loam; **C** Clay

* Not for restoration or projects requiring a CVC permit, see p. 5.

R red, **O** orange, **Y** yellow, **G** green, **PG** pale green, **B** blue, **P** purple, **PI** pink, **BR** brown, **SI** silver, **W** white, **EG** evergreen

Tolerances: **Cp** Compaction; **Dr** Drought; **St** Salt; **Ju** Juglones (substance produced by walnut trees)

Plants noted as "vigorous" are not recommended for small yards

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Sun	Soil	Height (cm)	Spread (m)
	Moist - Wet					
Grasses & Sedges	Cottongrass Bulrush	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	90-150	N/A
	Mexican Muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia mexicana var. mexicana</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	30-60	N/A
	Prairie Cordgrass* Other name: Fresh Water Cordgrass	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	☀️	S L C	120-210	N/A
	Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	☀️	S L C	90-180	N/A
Shrubs & Small Trees	Buttonbush, Common*	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	☀️🌑	L	200-300	1.75-2
	Dogwood, Red-osier	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i> Former scientific name: <i>Cornus sericea</i>	☀️🌑	S L C	200-300	2-4
	Meadowsweet, White	<i>Spiraea alba</i>	☀️	S L C	100-150	0.5-1.5
	Willow, Pussy	<i>Salix discolor</i>	☀️	S L C	300-500	2-3

Tolerances				Flower Colour by month							Notes
Dr	Cp	St	Ju	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	
●		●			ⓐ	ⓐ					Seed head bristles look woolly and provide winter interest; Yellow-brown fall colour; Emerges early spring; Clump-forming
●		●				ⓐ	ⓐ	ⓐ			Fine textured leaves; Emerges summer; Fast-spreading
●		●			ⓐ	ⓐ	ⓐ				Attractive seed heads rise above leaves; Yellow fall colour; Emerges summer; Spreading
●		●	●				ⓐ	ⓐ			Finely textured, reddish-purple seed heads rise above leaves; Yellow fall colour; Persistent leaves provide winter interest; Emerges summer; Clump-forming
	●					Ⓜ					Unusual round flowers; Button-like balls of fruit provide winter interest
●	●		●		Ⓜ						Dense flat-topped clusters of flowers; White berries in summer; Red branches provide winter interest; Vigorous
●	●		●		Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ				Cone-shaped clusters of flowers; Mature stems purplish-grey, peeling; Seed heads provide winter interest
●	●	●	●	Ⓢ							Fuzzy grey catkin flowers (resemble cat's toe) appear before spring leaf-out; Commonly used in early spring flower arrangements; Multi-stemmed



Cottongrass Bulrush



Mexican Muhly



Prairie Cordgrass



Switch Grass



Common Buttonbush



Red-osier Dogwood



White Meadowsweet



Pussy Willow

☀️ Full sun: 6 or more hours of sunlight; 🌑 Part shade: 4-6 hours of sunlight; 🌑 Shade: 4 or less hours of sunlight

Soil: **S** Sand; **L** Loam; **C** Clay

* Not for restoration or projects requiring a CVC permit, see p. 5.

Ⓡ red, Ⓞ orange, Ⓜ yellow, ⓐ green, ⓐ pale green, Ⓟ blue, Ⓟ purple, Ⓟ pink, Ⓟ brown, Ⓢ silver, Ⓜ white, ⓐ evergreen

Tolerances: **Cp** Compaction; **Dr** Drought; **St** Salt; **Ju** Juglones (substance produced by walnut trees)

Plants noted as "vigorous" are not recommended for small yards

Prairie & Meadow Plants for Landscaping

Plant Communities

Naturally occurring meadows and prairies are comprised of grasses and wildflowers but they each have a different mix of species, largely due to different site conditions such as soil type.

Tallgrass Prairie

Tallgrass prairie is a distinct ecosystem that once covered large expanses of the southern Ontario landscape, including parts of the Credit River watershed. Usually located on dry, sandy soils, tallgrass prairies host a diverse range of plants and animals, including wildflowers and grasses not commonly found in other locations. Some prairie plants also grow in meadows.

- Nutrient-poor, sandy soils
- Full to part sun
- Mostly dry
- Consist of 50 per cent grasses, 50 per cent wildflowers

Meadows

Meadows exist naturally in wet or dry sunny landscapes, growing in a variety of soils including clay and loam. Dominated by wildflowers and grasses, meadows are often replaced naturally over time by trees and shrubs. Meadows also support many different insects and birds.

- Low-nutrient to richer clayey, loamy soils
- Full to part sun
- Can be wet, moist or dry
- Consist of 30 per cent grasses, 70 per cent wildflowers

Pollinators

Prairie and meadow plants grow in open sunny locations and many wildflowers and grasses support pollinators such as butterflies and bees. If you want to create a pollinator garden, choose plants that will bloom at different times in the growing season so the pollinators will have food and other resources throughout their lifecycles. Adding some grasses for cover is also beneficial. Leave some plants, particularly any with hollow stems, standing through the winter.

Birds

In large landscapes some birds prefer these open sunny areas. Meadow and prairie plants in large or small plantings can also provide food and nesting materials. Choose grasses for seeds and cover and choose wildflowers such as Black-eyed Susan, coneflowers and Joe Pye Weed to attract seed-eating birds such as American goldfinch. For more information on what to plant to attract birds, see CVC's Plant List for Migrating Birds at www.creditvalleyca.ca/plantsformigratingbirds and CVC's Plant List for Breeding Birds at www.creditvalleyca.ca/plantsforbreedingbirds.

Buying Plants

To protect local plant populations, purchase native plants and seeds from nurseries that specialize in native plants. Refer to *CVC's Guide to Native Plant Nurseries & Seed Suppliers* at www.creditvalleyca.ca/nurseries. Rare plants should be sourced locally from nurseries that specialize in native plants.

If you wish to collect seeds, follow seed collection guidelines provided by the North American Native Plant Society at www.nanps.org/index.php/plant-sources/seed-collecting.

Cultivars are developed from naturally occurring or true native species to have specific traits such as larger flowers. CVC recommends avoiding cultivars to avoid cross breeding with true native populations. When in doubt, refer to the scientific name.

Caution

Some plants have parts that may be poisonous in some circumstances. For example, some plants can be poisonous if ingested in large quantities but are an ecologically important part of our watershed and excellent for landscaping. Check the Canadian Poisonous Plants Information System under 'Sources' and ask your supplier for more information. Please exercise caution when you choose plants with poisonous parts.

Sources

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For the most updated version of this list visit: www.creditvalleyca.ca/prairiemeadowplants
Have shade? For CVC's woodland plant list visit: www.creditvalleyca.ca/woodlandplants



Credit Valley Conservation landscaping information and programs

CVC offers programs and resources that support native plant gardening, landscaping and naturalization.

Your Green Yard offers workshops and presentations on native plant gardening and landscaping to local residents within the Credit River watershed.
www.creditvalleyca.ca/ygy

Greening Corporate Grounds offers advice, landscape concept plans and planting events to businesses and institutions within the Credit River watershed.
www.creditvalleyca.ca/gcg

Countryside Stewardship offers workshops as well as technical and financial assistance to support rural environmental stewardship.
www.creditvalleyca.ca/countrysidestewardship

For additional landscaping fact sheets and resources, visit www.creditvalleyca.ca/landscaping

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Photo: Dawn Renfrew



1255 Old Derry Road
Mississauga, Ontario L5N 6R4

Phone: 905-670-1615

Toll Free: 1-800-668-5557

Fax: 905-670-2210

Website: www.creditvalleyca.ca

Email: cvc@creditvalleyca.ca

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