

Message from Steve Tressler (Lake Management Committee)

One of the things I wanted to bring at the last Lake Management Committee meeting, goes along with the DEC Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program's Urban Nutrient Management program. Since we're not going to see any type of community sewer system we have to deal with the onsite septic system around the lake. A friend suggested we educate the lake residence on the benefit of planting native flower species and grasses over their leach fields. Shallow rooting native plants and grasses that do not need a great deal of water, but do require high nutrients work best. Studies have shown that these plants can reduce nutrient loading from onsite septic systems. This type of planting will also benefit pollinators and butterflies. Using these types of plants would require no mowing over the leach field therefore less chance of grass clipping going into the lake. Below is a list of recommended plants and grasses for NY.

Suggested New York Native Plants for Use on Septic Drain Fields

Wildflowers

Alumroot (*Heuchera americana*)
Barren Strawberry (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*)

Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*)
Big Leaf Aster (*Eurybia macrophylla*) *
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
Canada Anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)
Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)
Hyssopleaf Thoroughwort (*Eupatorium hyssopifolium*)

Labrador Violet (*Viola labradorica*) *
Nodding Onion (*Allium cernuum*)
Oxeye Sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*)

Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*) *

Prairie Phlox (*Phlox pilosa*)
Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*)
Smooth Aster (*Symphotrichum laeve*)
Tall White Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)

Three-toothed Cinquefoil (*Sibbaldiopsis tridentata*)

Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
Wild Blue Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)
Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) *
Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*) *
White Wood Aster (*Eurybia dicaricata*) *
Woodland Sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*)
Zig Zag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*)

Grasses

Tufted Hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)
Poverty Oat Grass (*Danthonia spicata*) Purple Love Grass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)