

LAKEs

like less lawn





Why Do Lakes Like Less Lawn?

Whether you have lakefront property or live many feet from the lake, you can help protect lake water quality by reducing your lawn and making your property more beautiful and more valuable at the same time. The goal of this publication is to show you how!

When it rains, most of the water runs off smooth surfaces, such as lawns, instead of soaking in. And shallow grass root systems do little to prevent soil erosion. This means fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns end up in the lake where they feed algae and degrade water quality. Eroded soil also feeds algae and too much algae in a lake can make the water murky and green. Studies have shown that property values are lower on lakes with less clear water. Too much algae in a lake also lowers oxygen levels in the water which can threaten cold water fish species, other wildlife, and a healthy lake habitat.

By planting a variety of trees, shrubs, ground covers, and flowering perennials you can protect the lake. All of these have deeper root systems that hold soil in place, absorb more runoff, and filter out more pollutants than grass. Native plant species are the best to use because they are adapted to local conditions. This means they require little maintenance once established, so you'll have more time to relax and enjoy the lake. Plus, they provide important habitat and food for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.



How do I install plants on my property?

Select plants suitable to the growing zone, light, and soil conditions of the planting area. Ideally, native plants should be selected since these are better adapted to local conditions, fit in with the natural landscape, and do not require chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Be sure to plant a mix of trees, shrubs, and groundcover plants. Fall and spring are ideal planting times, but anytime during the growing season is acceptable. Step by step planting instructions are described below (from www.odonaldsnurseries.com). The materials you will need, such as plants and bags of compost and loam, can be purchased from local nurseries.

- 1 Water the plant while it is still in its container. Dig a hole 2 times the width of the container and as deep as the soil level in the container.
- 2 Remove the root ball from the container and loosen the outside layer of the root system either by scoring with a knife or pulling by hand.
- 3 Set the plant in the middle of the hole. The top of the root ball should be at or slightly below normal ground level. If not, remove the plant and adjust the hole. Keep in mind that planting too deeply can kill the plant.
- 4 Backfill 2/3 of the planting hole with soil. If the original soil is very poor and the plant requires better soil conditions, mix in no more than 25% loam and/or compost with the original soil.
- 5 Fill the planting hole with water. This will result in a “moat” around the soil ball. When this drains completely, re-fill with water again.
- 6 After the water has drained, backfill the rest of the hole to ground level, and gently press the soil down to remove air pockets.
- 7 Water thoroughly once more to remove any remaining air pockets.
- 8 Place no more than 2” to 4” of mulch around the plant, but keep the mulch a few inches away from the trunk or branches emerging from the root ball. For the first year after planting a tree or shrub, keep a mulch ring around the outer edge of the hole to allow water to soak into the soil. Cover leftover bare soil with additional mulch or move to areas where it will not erode into the lake.



How do I maintain plants once they're installed?

YEAR ONE

Deep, weekly watering is a must during the first year of planting. Most plants that die in the first season do so because of inadequate watering. Make sure the water reaches the depth of the root ball. Planting areas can be weeded, but should not be raked.

AFTER ONE YEAR

After the first year, you should only need to water if there is a lack of normal rainfall. Once the plants are well established, you can let the planted area naturalize so that you do not need to replenish mulch or weed. The “duff” layer of leaves and pine needles will serve as natural mulch.

SHOULD I APPLY FERTILIZER?

If plants appear to be growing well, they should not require fertilization. Fertilizer can actually harm newly developing roots, and summer/fall applications can prevent shrubs and trees from hardening off in time for winter. Applying compost is the best way to fertilize plants on shorefront properties.

Can I transplant plants rather than purchase them?

You can save money by transplanting native plants onto your property. Keep in mind, however, that mortality rates of transplants are relatively high. Here are some general transplanting guidelines:

- 1 Make sure to ask for landowner permission before harvesting and do not take too many plants from any one area. Do not remove plants next to lakes or streams.
- 2 Transplant in the early spring or late fall when the plants are dormant. This reduces trauma to their root systems.
- 3 Choose sturdy-looking plants. Dig up the root ball as much as possible (extend your digging area at least to the width of the plant's branches.)
- 4 Once your transplant has been replanted, water frequently until well established.



Native Plants of the Northeast

Vines and Groundcovers



BEARBERRY
(*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)



Evergreen foliage is bright green and glossy. Spreads to form a mat. Blooms with small pink flowers in spring followed by bright red berries in fall. Does well in poor, sandy soils.

WILD GINGER
(*Asarum canadense*)



Easy to grow ground cover with shiny, heart shaped leaves.



WINTERGREEN
(*Gaultheria procumbens*)



Evergreen leaves are fragrant when crushed. Bright red berries are edible.

CREeping JUNIPER
(*Juniperus horizontalis*)



Evergreen, blue-green foliage. Easy to grow, spreading plant.



CRESTED IRIS
(*Iris cristata*)



This iris grows to 6 inches tall and spreads, but not rapidly. Showy, lilac-blue flowers in late spring.

HONEYSUCKLE
(*Lonicera dioica*)



Low climbing vine with pale yellow, orange, or purple flowers that bloom in late spring.

TRUMPET HONEYSUCKLE
(*Lonicera sempervirens*)



High climbing vine with red, tubular flowers that bloom in late spring/early summer. Attracts birds, hummingbirds, and butterflies.



VIRGINIA CREEPER
(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)



Climbing and spreading hardy vine that tolerates a wide range of conditions. Foliage turns maroon in fall.

VIOLET
(*Viola labradorica*)



Blooms with purple flowers in spring.



MOSS PHLOX
(*Phlox subulata*)



Easy to grow, mat forming ground cover with needle like foliage. Blooms in spring with pink, lavender, or white flowers.



LOWBUSH BLUEBERRY
(*Vaccinium angustifolium*)



Easy to grow, mat forming shrub with white bell shaped flowers in the spring followed by edible, blue fruit in late summer. Attractive red foliage in the fall.

KEY TO SYMBOLS:



Full Sun
Part Sun
Shade



Dry soil
Moist soil
Wet soil



Deer resistant
Deciduous
Evergreen

Perennials

BIG BLUESTEM

(*Andropogon gerardii*)



Easy to grow ornamental grass, green foliage turns red in the fall.



COLUMBINE

(*Aquilegia canadensis*)



Blooms mid to late spring with orange to reddish bell shaped flowers.

BUTTERFLY WEED

(*Asclepias tuberosa*)



Blooms in the summer with clusters of bright orange flowers. Does not transplant well due to taproot. Attracts bees and butterflies.



NEW ENGLAND ASTER

(*Aster novae-angliae*)



Blooms in fall with daisy like purple or pink flowers.

MARSH MARIGOLD

(*Caltha palustris*)



Leaves are round in shape, blooms in the spring with bright yellow flowers.

PINK TURTLEHEAD

(*Chelone lyonii*)



Dark green foliage, blooms in late summer with pink flowers.

BUGBANE, BLACK COHOSH

(*Cimicifuga racemosa*)



Dark green foliage, blooms in mid summer with white bottlebrush-like flowers.

PURPLE CONEFLOWER

(*Echinacea purpurea*)



Blooms in summer with pink daisy-like flower that has an orange-brown center. Attracts bees and butterflies.



JOE PYE WEED

(*Eupatorium maculatum*)



Blooms in late summer with clusters of pink flowers. Attracts bees and butterflies.



WILD GERANIUM

(*Geranium maculatum*)

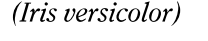


Blooms in late spring to early summer with rose purple flowers.



NORTHERN BLUE FLAG IRIS

(*Iris versicolor*)



Blooms in late spring with bluish-purple flowers. Thrives in wetland areas.

GAYFEATHER

(*Liatris spicata*)



Blooms in late summer with spikes of pinkish-purple flowers. Foliage is grasslike.



CARDINAL FLOWER

(*Lobelia cardinalis*)



Blooms in late summer to early fall with tall spikes of crimson flowers. Does best along the edges of wet areas. Attracts hummingbirds.

KEY TO SYMBOLS:



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Moist soil
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Perennials



BEE BALM

(*Monarda didyma*)



Blooms in summer with red showy flowers. Attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.



SWITCHGRASS

(*Panicum virgatum*)



Easy to grow ornamental grass, green foliage turns yellow in the fall. Provides winter interest.

BEARD TONGUE

(*Penstemon digitalis*)



Blooms in summer with white tubular, bell shaped flowers. Attracts bees and hummingbirds.



SOLOMON'S SEAL

(*Polygonatum pubescens*)



Blooms in spring with bell shaped white flowers. Graceful plant with arching stems.



BLACK EYED SUSAN

(*Rudbeckia hirta*)



Blooms in summer with daisy like golden yellow flowers with a dark brown center. Attracts butterflies.

BLOODROOT

(*Sanguinaria canadensis*)



Blooms in spring with a white flower with a yellow center.

LITTLE BLUESTEM

(*Schizachyrium scoparium*)



Easy to grow ornamental grass, green foliage turns bronze-orange in the fall.

INDIAN GRASS

(*Sorghastrum nutans*)



Easy to grow ornamental grass, blue-green foliage turns orange-yellow in the fall, feathery seed stalks.



FOAMFLOWER

(*Tiarella cordifolia*)



Blooms in spring with delicate white flowers.

Ferns

LADY FERN

(*Athyrium filix-femina*)



Easy to grow, ornamental fern with bright green, lacy fronds.

OSTRICH FERN

(*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)



Easy to grow fern with edible fiddleheads.



CINNAMON FERN

(*Osmunda cinnamomea*)



Easy to grow, cinnamon-colored fertile frond present in spring. Leaf fronds turn yellow-gold in the fall.

INTERRUPTED FERN

(*Osmunda claytoniana*)



Easy to grow, hardy fern that spreads well. Frond is "interrupted" by reproductive spore sacs.



HAYSCENTED FERN

(*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*)



Easy to grow, spreading fern with lacy, fragrant fronds.

KEY TO SYMBOLS:



Full Sun
Part Sun
Shade



Dry soil
Moist soil
Wet soil



Deer resistant
Deciduous
Evergreen

Small Shrubs (Less than 6ft tall)



BLACK CHOKEBERRY

(*Aronia melanocarpa*)



White flowers in clusters, large, showy black berries, and excellent red fall foliage. Attracts birds.



BUTTONBUSH

(*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)



Deciduous shrub that grows best in wet areas. Blooms in the summer with fragrant white flowers that appear in dense spherical heads. Flower heads become ball-like fruits.

SWEET PEPPERBUSH

(*Clethra alnifolia*)



Deciduous shrub that blooms in late summer with fragrant white flowers. Flowers attract bees and butterflies.

SWEET FERN

(*Comptonia peregrina*)



Deciduous, hardy shrub with fragrant foliage. Does well in dry, sandy soil.

COMMON JUNIPER

(*Juniperus communis*)



Evergreen shrub that tolerates drought, cold temperatures, and windy sites. Produces small white berries that turn blue.



REDOSIER DOGWOOD

(*Cornus sericea*)



Deciduous shrub with attractive red stems in winter.



BUSH HONEYSUCKLE

(*Diervilla lonicera*)



Deciduous, hardy shrub with light and dark green foliage. Blooms in summer with yellow flowers in clusters.



SHEEP LAUREL

(*Kalmia angustifolia*)



Evergreen shrub that tolerates a range of soils but does best in acidic soils. Blooms in late spring with bright pink flowers.

SWEETGALE

(*Myrica gale*)



Deciduous shrub that is extremely hardy and has fragrant foliage and stems.

SHRUBBY CINQUEFOIL

(*Potentilla fruticosa*)



Deciduous shrub that blooms with bright yellow flowers late summer into fall. Foliage is blue-green to dark green in color.



FRAGRANT SUMAC – ‘GRO-LOW’

(*Rhus aromatica*)



Deciduous shrub that is fast growing and has attractive red or orange fall foliage.

SNOWBERRY

(*Symphoricarpos albus*)



Deciduous shrub with large snow white berries.

KEY TO SYMBOLS:



Full Sun
Part Sun
Shade



Dry soil
Moist soil
Wet soil



Deer resistant
Deciduous
Evergreen

Tall Shrubs (Greater than 6ft tall)



COMMON WITCH HAZEL
(*Hamamelis virginiana*)



Grows to 15 feet tall. Yellow flowers in October. Yellow fall foliage.

INKBERRY
(*Ilex glabra*)



Evergreen shrub with small greenish white flowers in early summer and black berries in fall.



WINTERBERRY
(*Ilex verticillata*)



Bright red berries persist into mid winter. Excellent wetland plant. Attracts birds.

SPICEBUSH
(*Lindera benzoin*)



Deciduous shrub with small yellow flowers in spring before the foliage emerges. Red fruit and yellow foliage provide color in fall.



NORTHERN BAYBERRY
(*Myrica pensylvanica*)



Glossy-green, aromatic foliage. Tolerates poor soils with its ability to fix nitrogen. Gray berries used to make candles; important food for the yellow rumped warbler.

BEACH PLUMB
(*Prunus maritima*)



Grows wider than tall. White flowers in spring, orange - red foliage in fall. Excellent stabilizer of dry, sandy soil. Edible fruit, attracts birds and bees.



HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY
(*Vaccinium corymbosum*)



Deciduous shrub with white bell shaped flowers in early summer followed by edible, blue fruit in late summer. Attractive red foliage in fall.



NANNYBERRY
(*Viburnum lentago*)



Large, dense shrub or small tree is hardy and performs well in most soils. Shiny, dark green foliage turns purple and red in fall. White flowers in flat clusters about 4 inches wide in spring. Fruit initially pinkish turns bluish black on pinkish red stalks.

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Deer resistant
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Evergreen

Trees



BALSAM FIR

(*Abies balsamea*)



Evergreen with aromatic leaves. Favored for Christmas trees and greens. Grows to 70 feet.

RED MAPLE, SWAMP MAPLE

(*Acer rubrum*)



Fall foliage ranges from yellow to brilliant red. Withstands wet soils. Grows to 60 feet.

SUGAR MAPLE

(*Acer saccharum*)



Foliage is orange-yellow. Best maple for syrup production. Avoid wet soils or where road salts are a problem. Grows to 80 feet.

YELLOW BIRCH

(*Betula alleghaniensis*)



Shiny, yellow-bronze bark. Foliage is golden-yellow in fall. Grows to 80 feet.

AMERICAN HORNBEAM, MUSCLEWOOD

(*Carpinus caroliniana*)



A small, slow-growing tree, often with leaning trunk. Foliage turns a brilliant scarlet in fall. Grows to 25 feet.

HAWTHORN

(*Crataegus crus-galli*)



Glossy green leaves, 2 inch thorns, persistent dark red fruits. Grows to 30 feet.

GREEN ASH

(*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)



Fast grower, tolerates salty, dry, and alkaline soils. Grows to 60 feet.

TAMARACK

(*Larix laricina*)



Also called eastern larch or hackmatack. Our only native deciduous conifer, fast growing. Grows to 60 feet.

WHITE SPRUCE

(*Picea glauca*)



Good for windbreak. Does not tolerate shade. Grows to 60 feet.



BLACK SPRUCE

(*Picea mariana*)



Will grow rapidly on a good site. Grows to 70 feet.

RED PINE

(*Pinus resinosa*)



Fast-growing, good for screening/blocking wind. Also called Norway pine for its original finding in Norway, Maine. Grows to 80 feet.

SWAMP WHITE OAK

(*Quercus bicolor*)



Orange foliage in fall. Adapted to poorly drained soils but is drought tolerant as well. Ducks often feed on its acorns. Grows to 75 feet.

NORTHERN RED OAK

(*Quercus rubra*)



Fast growing oak. Prefers well drained, moist soil. Transplants readily. Good fall red leaf color. Grows to 75 feet.

NORTHERN WHITE CEDAR

(*Thuja occidentalis*)



Commonly used as hedge plant. Source of food for deer in winter. Grows to 60 feet.



EASTERN HEMLOCK

(*Tsuga canadensis*)



Partial shade preferred. Does not tolerate drought or windy sites. Grows to 75 feet.

KEY TO SYMBOLS:



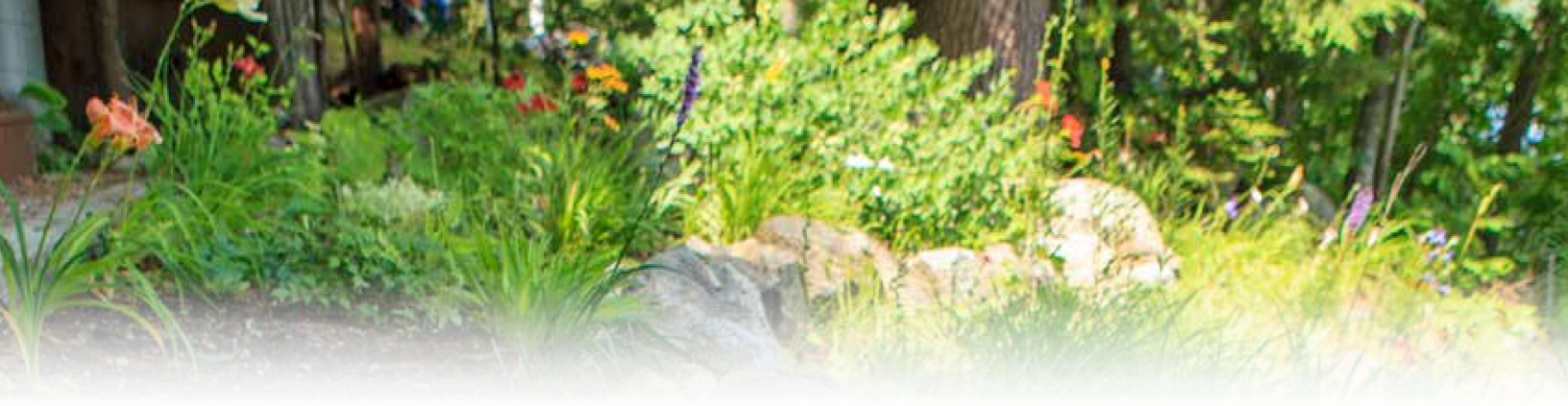
Full Sun
Part Sun
Shade



Dry soil
Moist soil
Wet soil



Deer resistant
Deciduous
Evergreen



Plants to Avoid

From the Maine Invasive Species Network, University of Maine

<https://extension.umaine.edu/invasivespecies/home/id-resources2/>

AMUR MAPLE (*Acer ginnala*)

NORWAY MAPLE (*Acer platanoides*)

BISHOP'S WEED (*Aegopodium podagraria*)

TREE OF HEAVEN (*Ailanthus altissima*)

GARLIC MUSTARD (*Alliaria petiolata*)

FALSE INDIGO (*Amorpha fruticosa*)

PORCELAIN BERRY (*Ampelopsis glandulosa*)

COMMON MUGWORT (*Artemisia vulgaris*)

JAPANESE BARBERRY (*Berberis thunbergii*)

COMMON BARBERRY (*Berberis vulgaris*)

ASIATIC BITTERSWEET (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

AUTUMN OLIVE (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)

WINGED EUONYMUS OR BURNING BUSH (*Euonymus alatus*)

CYPRESS SPURGE (*Euphorbia cyparissias*)

CHINESE BINDWEED (*Fallopia baldschuanica*)

JAPANESE KNOTWEED (*Fallopia japonica*)

GLOSSY BUCKTHORN (*Frangula alnus*)

DAME'S ROCKET (*Hesperis matronalis*)

ORNAMENTAL JEWELWEED (*Impatiens glandulifera*)

YELLOW IRIS (*Iris pseudacorus*)

COMMON PRIVET (*Ligustrum vulgare*)

JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE (*Lonicera japonica*)

AMUR OR BUSH HONEYSUCKLE (*Lonicera maackii*)

MORROW'S HONEYSUCKLE (*Lonicera morrowii*)

TATARIAN HONEYSUCKLE (*Lonicera tatarica*)

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE (*Lythrum salicaria*)

JAPANESE STILT GRASS (*Microstegium vimineum*)

PAULOWNIA (*Paulownia tomentosa*)

MILE-A-MINUTE WEED (*Persicaria perfoliata*)

AMUR CORK TREE (*Phellodendron amurense*)

WHITE COTTONWOOD (*Populus alba*)

BLACK LOCUST (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)

MULTIFLORA ROSE (*Rosa multiflora*)

Sebago Lakescaping Program



What is Sebago Lakescaping?

The Sebago Lakescaping Program helps you minimize the impact of runoff on lake water quality and enhance the value of your property at the same time.

Who can receive a Lakescaping Consultation and Grant?

You are eligible for a Lakescaping Consultation and Grant if you are in one of the 7 towns that border the lake (Standish, Sebago, Naples, Casco, Raymond, Windham, and Frye Island) and within 250 feet of Sebago Lake or one of the following rivers or streams: Crooked River, Songo River, Muddy River, North West River, Panther Run, Rich Mill Outlet, Smith Mill, Sticky River, or Standish Brook. Priority is given to those properties closest to the lake or a major tributary and projects that will do the most for water quality. Individuals, camps, road associations, businesses, municipalities, non-profit organizations, and other groups are encouraged to apply.

How much funding can I receive from a Lakescaping Grant?

Available funds will be awarded to qualifying applicants on a first-come, first-serve basis. Grant awards require a dollar for dollar match, meaning your project cost could be reduced by up to 50%. The amount of grant funding is determined as follows:

PRIVATE LANDOWNERS: The Portland Water District will contribute up to 50% of the total project cost for a grant of up to \$1,000.

ASSOCIATIONS, MUNICIPALITIES, BUSINESSES, OR OTHER GROUPS: The Portland Water District will contribute up to 50% of the total project cost for a grant of up to \$2,000.



BEFORE



AFTER

Contact the Portland Water District to schedule a FREE consultation today!

Published by:



**Portland
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In partnership with:



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