



Grand Erie Master Gardeners



Brant

Haldimand

Norfolk



Wild Senna (*Senna hebecarpa*)

Wild Senna, also known as American Senna, is a member of the “Legume” plant family and is native to regions of Eastern North America from the Carolinian Region in Ontario south to Georgia and west to Minnesota. It is a clumping species that with time can produce several tall, flowering stems.



Photo credits: Kevin Kavanagh



Plant Type:

Long-lived, deep rooted, clumping perennial.



Light Conditions:

Thrives in full sun but will tolerate part sun (minimum 6 hours of sun)



Soil/Moisture:

Wet to moist soil conditions preferred but will tolerate dry soil. Adaptable to various soil types.



Size/Height:

1 to 2 metres (3 to 6 feet)



Flowers:

Yellow flower clusters in late July and August.



Wildlife Benefits:

Seeds provide excellent late fall and winter food for native birds. Flowers attract large numbers of native bees and other pollinators.



Cautions:

In ideal growing conditions, this plant can sometimes seed in and spread through the garden. If this occurs, dead-heading in early fall can help limit seed spread.



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GREAT BLUE LOBELIA (*Lobelia siphilitica*)

Great Blue Lobelia is a member of the “Bellflower” plant family and is native to regions of Eastern North America from Ontario south through the Appalachian Mountains to Alabama and westward to Colorado and Wyoming. This woodland plant develops upright stems with clusters of lavender/blue flowers surrounding the upper part of the stem. Interestingly, Great Blue Lobelia is the “Blue” counterpart to the Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) with its red flowers.



Photo credits: Kevin Kavanagh



Plant Type:
Short-lived, clumping perennial. Will seed back under favorable conditions.



Light Conditions:
Does well in full sun, part sun or shade but requires consistent moisture.



Soil/Moisture:
Wet to moist, clay, loam or sandy soils



Size/Height:
0.6 to 1 meters (1 to 3 feet)



Flowers:
Small tubular, lavender/blue flowers form around the upper stem blooming from late July to October, rarely into November. Mature plants can produce several flowering stems.



Wildlife Benefits:
Flowers attract large numbers of native bees and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.



Nativars:
Pure white flower forms of this plant can be found.



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Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*)

Pawpaw is a member of the largely tropical “Custard Apple” plant family and the only one which ranges north to Canada where it is restricted to a small number of stands along the north shore of Lake Erie and in the Niagara Peninsula. Its range extends southward to Georgia, Alabama and eastern Texas. The wine-red flowers are pollinated by native flies in spring and two trees are needed to get good fruit set. In October, large fleshy fruit ripen with the first frosts. They have a soft texture with tropical hints of banana, mango and papaya flavours. The tree produces downward hanging, large leaves resembling those of a magnolia.



Photo credits: Kevin Kavanagh



Plant Type:

Deciduous tree that can slowly spread by sending up sprouts away from the main stem over time. Hardy to USDA Zone 5a (-29C).



Light Conditions:

Requires full sun to flower and fruit well but will survive in the shade.



Soil/Moisture:

Wet to moist soil, a great native plant for heavier soils.



Size/Height:

8-13 metres (25-40 ft.).



Flowers:

Deep wine red, bell-shaped flowers in spring as the leaves emerge.



Wildlife Benefits:

Larval host for the Zebra Swallowtail. Fruit are eaten by many mammals.



Cautions:

Can spread over time by sending up root sprouts. Some recent medical studies are cautioning about eating large quantities of fruit.

Nativars: Many new selections are being introduced (e.g. ‘Mango’, ‘Pennsylvania Gold’, etc.).