



McCloud Aquatics



Native Plant Alternatives to Cattail Populations

A diverse planting palette for wetland edges, shallow water benches, and saturated soils.



Replacing dense cattail stands with a diverse native plant community can improve habitat complexity, support pollinators and wildlife, increase seasonal interest, and create more balanced wetland structure.



Habitat
diversity



Pollinator
value



Shoreline
resilience



1 American Sweetflag

Acorus americanus

Best zone:
shallow water to
saturated soil

Value:
aromatic emergent



2 Swamp Milkweed

Asclepias incarnata

Best zone:
moist to wet soil

Value:
pollinator favorite



3 Buxbaum's Sedge

Carex buxbaumii

Best zone:
wet meadow to
saturated soil

Value:
fine-textured sedge

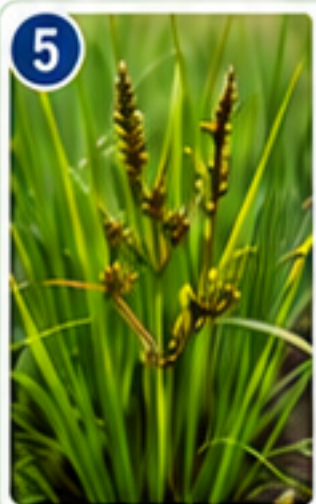


4 Lake Sedge

Carex lacustris

Best zone:
shoreline to
saturated soil

Value:
erosion control



5 Awn-fruited Sedge

Carex stipata

Best zone:
wet meadow to
saturated soil

Value:
dense clumping sedge



6 White Turtlehead

Chelone glabra

Best zone:
moist to wet soil

Value:
pollinator host



7 Spotted Joe-Pye Weed

Eutrochium maculatum

Best zone:
moist to wet soil

Value:
tall pollinator plant



8 Blue Flag Iris

Iris virginica
var. *shrevei*

Best zone:
saturated soil to
shallow water

Value:
showy bloom



9 Soft Rush

Juncus effusus

Best zone:
saturated soil to
shallow water

Value:
strong structure



10 Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis

Best zone:
moist to wet soil

Value:
hummingbird favorite



11 Winged Loosestrife

Lythrum alatum

Best zone:
moist to wet soil

Value:
native bloomer



12 Allegheny Monkeyflower

Mimulus ringens

Best zone:
wet soil to
shallow water

Value:
nectar source



13 Riddell's Goldenrod

Solidago rigidella

Best zone:
moist to wet soil

Value:
late-season bloom



14 Arrow Arum

Peltandra virginica

Best zone:
shallow water

Value:
broad aquatic foliage

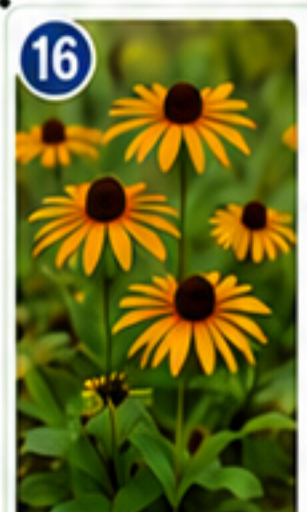


15 Pickerelweed

Pontederia cordata

Best zone:
shallow water

Value:
emergent flower spikes



16 Orange Coneflower

Rudbeckia fulgida

Best zone:
moist to wet soil

Value:
long bloom season



17 Broadleaf Arrowhead

Sagittaria latifolia

Best zone:
shallow water

Value:
wildlife food



18 Hardstem Bulrush

Schoenoplectus acutus

Best zone:
shallow water

Value:
emergent structure



19 River Bulrush

Schoenoplectus fluviatilis

Best zone:
shallow water

Value:
robust cover



20 Giant Bur-reed

Sparganium eurycarpum

Best zone:
shallow water

Value:
waterfowl habitat

Why diversify beyond cattails?



Reduces
monoculture
dominance



Increases
habitat
complexity



Extends seasonal
bloom and visual
interest



Supports a wider
range of wildlife