

1-2013

Species for Iowa Woodland Planting and Restoration

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Recommended Citation

Gerken Golay, Michaeleen E., "Species for Iowa Woodland Planting and Restoration" (2013). *Leopold Center Pubs and Papers*. 99.
http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/leopold_pubspapers/99

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Species for Iowa Woodland Planting and Restoration

Abstract

This list of plant species offers a guide for planting flowers and grasses that help restore woodland function, retain nutrients in the soil and reduce stream pollution.

Disciplines

Environmental Health and Protection | Forest Sciences | Natural Resources and Conservation

SPECIES FOR IOWA WOODLAND PLANTING AND RESTORATION

Compiled by Michaeleen Gerken for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture



FORBS														
<i>V= vegetation, F=flowers</i>														
Common name	Latin name	Propagation method	Propagation ease	Iowa restoration potential from seed	Retail availability	Spring	Summer	Fall	Clonal spread	Biomass bulk	Sun/ shade	Site moisture	Width	Height
Ramps, Wild leek	<i>Allium tricoccum</i>	seed	easy to mod. difficult	high	yes	V	F		yes	high	part sun, shade	moist (at least in spring)	8 in.	6-12 in.
Canada anemone	<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	division	easy to mod. difficult		yes		V, F			high	sun to shade	moist to dry	3-6 ft.	1-2 ft.
Jack-in-the-pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	seed, division	easy	proven	yes	V	V, F			med	shade	moist, organic soils	12-16 in.	12-28 in.
Wild ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	division	easy	med	yes	V, F	V	V	yes	high	shade	moist	12-16 in.	6-8 in.
Blue heart-leaved aster	<i>Aster cordifolius</i>	seed		proven	yes	V	V, F	V		med	part sun, shade	moist to dry	12 in.	1-4 ft.
Tall bellflower	<i>Campanula americana</i>	seed		high	yes		V, F	V		med	part sun, shade	moist to med-dry	12 in.	1-4 ft.
Blue cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	seed	moderate to difficult	low	yes	V, F	V	V		med	shade	moist, neutral	2 ft.	2-3 ft.
Spring beauty	<i>Claytonia virginica</i>	seed, division	easy	med	yes	V, F				med	part sun, shade	moist	2-6 in.	4-6 in.
Cut-leaf toothwort	<i>Dentaria laciniata</i>	division	easy	low	yes	V, F				med	shade	moist	8-12 in.	3-5 in.
Dutchman's breeches	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	division	easy	low	yes	V, F			yes	high	part sun, shade	moist in spring	6-8 in.	3-6 in.
White trout lily	<i>Erythronium albidum</i>	division	easy	low	yes	V, F			yes	med	shade	moist in spring	6-12 in.	3-6 in.
Sweet Joe-pye weed	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	seed, division		proven		V	V, F	V		high	shade	moist to med-dry	12-18 in.	3-7 ft.
Wild geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	seed	easy	med	yes	V, F	V			med	sun to light shade	moist in spring	12 in.	1-2 ft.
Sharp-lobed hepatica	<i>Hepatica nobilis acuta</i>	division	easy	med	yes	V, F	V	V		med	shade	moist	8-12 in.	3-6 in.

Woodland plants, pg. 2

Common name	Latin name	Propagation method	Propagation ease	Iowa restoration potential from seed	Retail availability	Spring	Summer	Fall	Clonal spread	Biomass bulk	Sun/ shade	Site moisture	Width	Height
Virginia waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i>	seed, division	moderately difficult	proven	yes	V, F	V	V	yes	high	part sun, shade	moist	12-18 in.	12-16 in.
False rue anemone	<i>Isopyrum biternatum</i>	seed		med	yes	V, F	V	V	yes	high	part sun, shade	moist	12-16 in.	4-8 in.
Great blue lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	seed, cuttings	easy	med	yes		V, F	V		med	sun, part shade	moist to wet	12-16 in.	2-3 ft.
Virginia bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	seed	moderately difficult	med	yes	V, F				high	part sun, shade	moist in spring	12-16 in.	14-20 in.
Wild blue phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	seed, cuttings	easy	med	yes	V, F	V	V	yes	med	part sun, shade	moist	12-16 in.	12-14 in.
Mayapple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	division	easy	med	yes	V, F			yes	high	part sun, shade	wet to dry	4-6 ft.	8-16 in.
Solomon's seal	<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	division	easy	med	yes	V	V, F	V	yes	med	shade	moist	16-24 in.	1-3 ft.
Hispid buttercup	<i>Ranunculus hispidus</i>	seed		med	yes	V, F	V		yes	high	part sun, shade	moist to dry	2-3 ft.	1-2 ft.
Gray-headed coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	seed	easy		yes	V	V, F	V		high	sun	dry to moist, well drained	18-24 in.	2-4 ft.
Fasle Solomon's seal	<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>	division	easy	med	yes	V, F	V	V		high	part sun, shade	moist	3-4 ft.	1-3 ft.
Zigzag goldenrod	<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	seed, cuttings	easy	proven	yes	V	V	V, F	mod.	med	sun to shade	moist to dry	12 in.	1-4 ft.
Elm-leaved goldenrod	<i>Solidago ulmifolia</i>			proven		V	V	V, F		med	part sun, shade	moist to dry	12 in.	1-4 ft.
Downy yellow violet	<i>Viola pubescens</i>	seed	easy	med	yes	V, F	V	V	yes	high	part sun to shade	moist	12 in.	8-16 in.
Woolly blue violet	<i>Viola sororia</i>	seed	easy	high	yes	V, F	V, F	V	yes	high	sun to shade	moist	12 in.	8-18 in.
Creamy violet	<i>Viola striata</i>	seed	easy		yes	V, F	V, F	V	yes	high	sun to light shade	moist	8 in.	8-12 in.

Woodland plants, pg. 3

Common name	Latin name	Propagation method	Propagation ease	Iowa restoration potential from seed	Retail availability	Spring	Summer	Fall	Clonal spread	Biomass bulk	Sun/ shade	Site moisture	Width	Height
GRASS-LIKE PLANTS														
James' sedge	<i>Carex jamesii</i>	seed, division		med	yes	V, F	V	V	mod.	high	part sun, shade	moist to med-dry	12-16 in.	6-12 in.
Field oval sedge	<i>Carex molesta</i>	seed		proven	yes	V	V, F	V		med	sun, shade	moist to dry	2-3 ft.	12-16 in.
Oak sedge	<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	seed, division		low	yes	V, F	V	V		med	sun, shade	moist to dry	12 in.	6-12 in.
Starry sedge	<i>Carex rosea</i>	seed, division		med	yes	V	V, F	V		high	part sun, shade	moist to dry	1-2 ft.	12-16 in.
Bur reed sedge	<i>Carex sparagnoides</i>	seed, division		proven	yes	V	V, F	V		high	part sun, shade	moist	2-3 ft.	1-2 ft.
Beak grass	<i>Diarrhena americana</i>	seed		proven	yes	V	V, F	V		high	part sun, shade	moist to med-dry	2-3 ft.	1-2 ft.

Plants available from Prairie Moon Nursery and others.

Data compiled from W. Cullina, 2000, *Guide to growing and propagating wildflowers of the United States and Canada*; L. Mottl and C. Mabry, 2004, *Native Iowa Woodland Understory Restoration: A Guide to Collecting and Germinating Seeds* database; and M. Gerken field data.

