

Sample Pond Buffer Strip Planting



Buffer strips of native plants, shrubs and trees around retention ponds provide numerous benefits to landowners. Native plants are well suited to our climate, have better insect and disease resistance than imported ornamentals, are typically not invasive, provide superior wildlife habitat, have extensive root systems which help to control erosion & sedimentation, they filter out lawn chemicals for decreased algae and pond weeds, and for those buffers which are at least 3 feet tall, they provide a deterrent to nuisance geese.

Below is a sample planting guide for a typical residential retention pond where homeowners wish to have lower growing plants with a variety of flowering times. Shrubs and trees suited to the location can be added but should not be planted on pond dams or within 25 feet of the control structure, inlets or outlets.

For more information visit these websites:

<https://marionswcd.org/streams-ponds/>

<https://indiananativeplants.org/landscaping/where-to-buy/>

<https://spencenursery.com/communities/>

Normal to High Waterline Zone

Sweet Flag	Water Plantain	Marsh Marigold	Marsh Milkweed
Sedges	Buttonbush	Pink Turtlehead	Joe-Pye Weed
Swamp Rose Mallow	Blue Flag Iris	Fox Sedge	Blue Joint Grass

High Water to Saturation Zone

Sullivants Milkweed	Common Milkweed	Blue False Indigo	Yellow Fox Sedge
Sedges	Bottle Gentain	Sawtooth Sunflower	Prairie Sundrops
Switch Grass	Obedient Plant	Rudbeckia	New England Aster
Grassed Leaved Goldenrod		Prairie Blazing Star	Foxglove Beardtongue

Above Saturation Limit Zone

Leadplant	White False Indigo	Yellow Fox Sedge	Prairie Oval Sedge
New Jersey Tea	Purple Prairie Clover	Purple Coneflower	Downy Sunflowers
Rough Blazing Start	Obedient Plant	Rudbeckias	Bergamot

Erosion Control Blankets are often needed to protect banks until vegetation is well established. IDNR recommends wildlife safe netting for ponds & streams which is biodegradable and has a rectangular, flexible mesh weave.