
Lakescaping is the opportunity to restore and preserve natural shorelines for today and future generations. Transforming your lawn into a garden of wildflowers and native grasses improves water quality by filtering runoff, preventing erosion, providing needed natural habitat, and by eliminating the need for mowing and fertilization. Consider making your shoreline into **something more** than another lawn.



Purple Coneflower

Great References:

Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality
Nongame Wildlife Program – Section of Wildlife
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1999 By: Henderson, Dindorf, and Rozumalski
ISBN 0-9647451-2-7

Restore Your Shore
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
CD ROM 2002

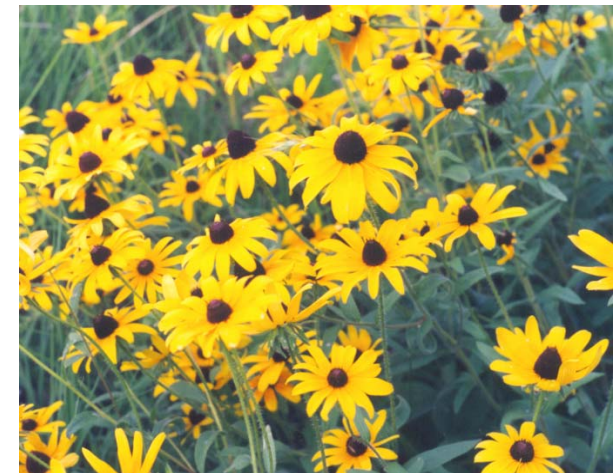
Both available at Minnesota's Bookstore
117 University Avenue, Room 110A
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: (800) 657-3757
Fax: (651) 215-5733
<http://www.minnesotasbookstore.com>



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Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District

Lakescaping
*Restoration with
native vegetation to
preserve Minnesota waters*



Black-eyed Susan

Protect water quality.
Provide natural habitat.
Beautify your shoreline.

How is it done?



Mowing to the lake removes natural habitat and filtration. Could your lawn be more?

Lakeshore restoration begins with evaluating what you want out of your shoreline. Determine what uses are important and necessary to properly enjoy your shoreline by asking if you like sitting by the water, watching sunsets, or really only want a walking path to your dock. Once you decide what you need for your uses, evaluation of your site's physical conditions can begin. Examine sun and moisture conditions and determine the size of your planting area.

Resources and recommendations are available from the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District and MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to help you with your site design.

What to Plant?

Wildflowers, grasses, sedges, shrubs, and trees are available in many sizes, shapes and colors. Select the plants that are most appropriate for your area using the DNR's Landscaping for Wildlife and Water Quality book or Restore Your Shore CD ROM. Additional technical assistance is also available from greenhouses and agencies. Select some grasses to help support the wildflowers and take into consideration desired heights and colors. Once the plant list is put together, you are ready to order and begin the next part of the process.

You will need to prepare your site for the new plantings. Here, it is important to determine potential problems and obstacles. Invasive plants, such as reed canary grass, are sometimes difficult to control. Keep in mind what your site looks like throughout the year. Consider frequent ice heaves, spring flooding, or springs. Wave action may best be corrected by planting aquatic vegetation. Contact the DNR for more information and a permit with any in-lake work.

Planting is relatively simple and goes quickly with help from friends.



A good mulch cover protects the plants from lawn grasses returning.

Finally,

Your native plants are in the ground and growing. You have restored native vegetation to your shoreline and are ready to enjoy your carefree days of no mowing. Some maintenance is still needed to preserve your investment. Frequent watering immediately after planting is just as important as continued "weeding" after establishment. Be sure to keep a few of each plant type labeled so it will be easier to identify your plants from any invasive species that try to take advantage of your shoreline.



Enjoy your new shoreline and watch for many types of wildlife returning to the area.

The **best** projects are not overly large or expensive, they are the ones that evaluate the site well, use existing features, keep up with maintenance, and examine the whole area, from the land out into the water.