

Native Aquatic Vegetation

Native lakeshore buffers are quickly becoming an accepted method to control erosion on the shoreline and prevent sediments and contaminants from entering the lake. These native plantings along the shoreline also provide important wildlife habitat, create privacy screening and discourage Canada Geese from your shoreyard.

The addition of near-shore native aquatic plants to create an aquatic buffer zone will also provide many benefits. Naïve aquatic vegetation will not only protect your shoreline from erosion by dissipating waves, they also help stabilize sediments, and provide essential food and habitat for fish, insects and waterfowl.



Derek Anderson

Common Arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*) and Stiff Arrowhead (*S. rigide*)

Also known as duck potato. Arrowhead grows in water depths from very shallow to 3ft. and generally reach a mature height of 2-3ft.

Arrowhead provides shoreline erosion protection and food for waterfowl.

Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*)

Grows in water depths from a few inches to 3ft; tolerates a variety of sediments but rich mud sediments are best. Pickerelweed is a source of food for waterfowl, insects and muskrats and is important habitat for fish. Can be aggressive.



Michael Clayton

Hardstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*)

Grows in water up to 7 ft deep; prefers firm substrate with good water movement in the root zone. It is a food source for waterfowl, marsh birds and muskrats and it provides habitat for young fish and invertebrates. Grows 3-10 ft tall

Softstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*)

Grows in water up to 6 ft deep; prefers soft substrates; does not withstand heavy wave action. Provides food for waterfowl, marsh birds, upland birds. Provides habitat for fish and invertebrates and nesting material for waterfowl and marsh birds. Mature height up to 10ft.



Robert W Freckmann

Three-square bulrush (*Schoenoplectus pungens*)

Grows in water up to 3ft deep. Provides food and cover for waterfowl. Mature height 2-9 ft. **River Bulrush (*Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*)** tolerates part shade, grows 2-6 ft.



Kenneth Sytsma

Blue Flag Iris (*Iris virginica shrevei*)

Can be found on wetlands, lake and stream edges. Provides food for waterfowl and other wildlife. Exhibits showy 2 ½ - 3" lavender - blue flowers from May to July.

Common Bur-reed (*Sparganium eurycarpum*)

Can grow on moist shorelines and in water up to 3ft. deep. Provides food for waterfowl and deer. Provides habitat and nesting sites for waterfowl and shorebirds. This is an aggressive plant and plantings should be monitored.



Robert W. Freckmann

A permit is required from the WI DNR before planting any (including native) aquatic plants in any water of the state. WI State Statute 23.24 prohibits introducing any nonnative aquatic plant into waters of the State. Penalties range from \$389.50 to \$2,643.00. Chapter NR 40 also prohibits or restricts many aquatic invasive species. For more information please see <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/>