

Common Plants of the Carl T. Johnson Preserve



CADILLAC AREA
Land Conservancy



Artwork by Julie Raabe Gentry

Wildflowers

White Flowers

Great White Trillium <u><i>Trillium grandiflorum</i></u> 8-16 in. tall, HL Flower: 1.5-3 in. Spring Native wildflower with three white petals that turn pink as they age. Protected by Michigan state law! Please help this wildflower flourish!	
Starflower <u><i>Trientalis borealis</i></u> 4-8 in. tall, HL Flower: 0.5 in. Spring Native flower with 5-9 petals that form a star shape. Legends say flowers have ability to attract fairies.	
Canadian Mayflower <u><i>Maianthemum canadense</i></u> 4-10 in. tall, HL Flower: 1 in. cluster Spring Native plant also known as False Lily-of-the-Valley. Starry-shaped flowers grow in clusters; leaves are good ground cover.	
Oxeye Daisy <u><i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i></u> 6 in.-3 ft. tall, ML Flower: 0.8-3 in. Spring, summer Herb found in grasslands and meadows; can be invasive.	
Daisy Fleabane <u><i>Erigeron annuus</i></u> 1-3 ft. tall ML, HL Flower: .04-0.6 in. Spring, summer Native flower and herb that looks like a small daisy. Attracts a host of pollinators including many bees and butterflies.	
Hoary Alyssum <u><i>Berteroa incana</i></u> 1-3 ft. tall ML Flower: 1 in. cluster, Late spring, summer Plant with small white flowers. Can be used to help monitor soil quality. Fruit looks like a small, flat pod and forms late summer. Can be invasive.	
Campion <u><i>Silene sp.</i></u> 15-31 in. tall, ML Flower: 1-1.2 in. Late spring, summer Flowers usually close by midday and open at night for pollination and attracting moths, especially the Lychnis moth.	
White Clover <u><i>Trifolium repens</i></u> 4-12 in. tall ML Flower: 0.3-0.5 in. Spring to early fall Attracts pollinators, especially many types of bees. Enriches soil through nitrogen fixation.	

Wild Strawberry <u><i>Fragaria virginiana</i></u> 4 in. tall, HL Flower: 0.4-0.6 in. Late spring Native plant whose red fruit matures in early summer. Its roots help stabilize soil and prevent erosion.	
White Baneberry <u><i>Actaea pachypoda</i></u> 1-3 ft. tall HL Flower: 1 in. Spring Native plant, also known as "Doll's Eye's." Both the berries and plant are very toxic to humans. Birds disperse seeds from berries.	
Partridge Berry <u><i>Mitchella repens</i></u> 1-3 in tall HL Flower: 1 in. Late spring to early summer Native plant that flowers in pairs; common set of reproductive parts to maximize pollination. Birds disperse seeds late spring to winter. Ground-cover vine 6-12 inches.	
Virginia Creeper <u><i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i></u> 7 in. to 100 ft. tall, HL Flower: 3-8 in. Spring Native climbing vine with 5 leaves, often mistaken for poison ivy. Certain insects use as refuge exchanging for help with pollination. Green-white to yellow-green flower.	
Queen Anne's Lace <u><i>Daucus carota</i></u> 1-3 ft. tall, ML Flower: 0.8-2 in. Late summer to early fall Also known as Wild Carrot; single red flower is often in the center and holds much speculation!	
Eastern Enchanter's Nightshade <u><i>Circaea canadensis</i></u> 1-2 ft. tall HL Flower: 0.1-0.2 in. Summer Native plant that pollinates by planting seeds that "cling" to a white-tailed deer, thus distributing seeds over a broad area.	
Rabbit Tobacco <u><i>Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium</i></u> 6-36 in. tall ML Flower: 0.75 in. Late summer to early fall Native plant, also called Sweet Everlasting; conical budlike flower in clusters. Survives by seeds dispersing in the wind.	
Calico Aster <u><i>Symphyotrichum lateriflorum</i></u> 1-4 ft. tall ML, HL Flower: 0.04-0.05 in. Late summer to fall Native plant with tiny white flowers. Valuable nectar source for late season pollinators. Also called White Woodland Aster.	

Yellow/Orange Flowers

Yellow Trout Lily <u><i>Erythronium americanum</i></u> 3-12 in. tall, HL Flower: 1-3 in. Spring Native plant named after its gray-green leaves, mottled with brown or gray colors resembling a brook trout.	
Cat's Ear <u><i>Hypochaeris sp.</i></u> 4-12 in. tall, ML Flower: 1 in. Late spring to early fall Looks like a tall thin dandelion and develops wind-dispersing seeds. Can be invasive.	

Yellow Salsify <u><i>Tragopogon dubius</i></u> 1-2.5 ft. tall ML Flower: 1-3 in. Late spring to summer Flower shuts by noon as a survival defense. Later forms a seed head that looks like a big dandelion.	
St John's Wort <u><i>Hypericum perforatum</i></u> 1-3 ft. tall ML Flower: 1-2.5 in. Summer Leaves have translucent dots that when held up to the sun look like twinkling stars. Can be invasive.	
Curly Dock <u><i>Rumex crispus</i></u> 1-5 ft. tall, ML Flower: 0.1 in. Late spring, early summer Yellow flower; easier to identify by its red-brown seeds and curled stalk. Seeds are a good source of fiber and used to make "Rumex crisp." Seeds will survive extreme conditions.	
Silvery Cinquefoil <u><i>Potentilla argentea</i></u> 6-12 in tall ML Flower: 0.4-0.6 in. Late spring to summer Pollinator with a deep root system. Its silver, flecked foliage reflects sunlight and reduces water loss. Very adaptable.	
Sulfur Cinquefoil <u><i>Potentilla recta</i></u> 6 in.-2 ft. tall ML Flower: 0.6 in. Late spring to summer Valuable pollinator for preventing erosion. Disperses its seeds by latching onto animals or through the wind.	
Lance-leaved Coreopsis <u><i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i></u> 1-2 ft. tall ML Flower: 2 in. Late spring to summer Native pollinator. Also called tickseed because the seeds resemble ticks.	
Great Mullein <u><i>Verbascum Thapsus</i></u> 5-6 ft. tall ML Flower: 0.8 in. Summer Mullein has a two-year lifespan. The first year soft, wooly leaves are formed. The second year a tall stalk with yellow flowers grows. Stalk turns brown in fall/winter.	
False Sunflower <u><i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i></u> 1.3-5 ft. tall, ML Flower: 1.6-2.5 in. Summer to early fall Native flower attracting vital pollinators; seeds nourish various birds.	
Black-eyed Susan <u><i>Rudbeckia hirta</i></u> 1-3 ft. tall ML Flower: 2-3 in. Summer to early fall Native flower with black center that creates a bold contrast with its petals and guarantees pollination.	
Slender Yellow Woodsorrel <u><i>Oxalis dillenii</i></u> 6-12 in. tall HL Flower: 0.1-0.3 in. Mid spring to early fall Native plant whose leaves are a treasure trove of citric acid. Its seeds burst for dispersal.	

Tall Goldenrod <u><i>Solidago altissima</i></u> 1.5-6 ft. ML Flower: Ray, 0.08–0.12 in. Late summer, fall Native plant sustains insects with pollen, nectar, and refuge for egg-laying. Leaves less serrated, may have ball galls, and blooms later than Canadian Goldenrod.	
Grass-leaved Goldenrod <u><i>Euthamia graminifolia</i></u> 2-4 ft. tall ML Flower: clusters Late summer to early fall Native plant with slender grass-like leaves. Good nectar source for pollinators.	
Grey-headed Coneflower <u><i>Ratibida pinnata</i></u> 3 ft. tall ML Flower: 1-2 in Summer Native pollinator attracting bees and butterflies; gray cone center; drooping petals are affectionately known as “a bad hair day.”	
Common Ragweed <u><i>Ambrosia artemisifolia</i></u> 8 in.-5 ft. tall ML Flower: Late summer to early fall Native plant known for triggering allergies with its high pollen count. Being researched for ability to control aquatic pests, and preserve water quality.	
Orange Hawkweed <u><i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i></u> 6-24 in. tall ML Flower: 1 in. Late spring to summer Bright orange flowers with 3-7 clusters on a stem; also called Devil's Paintbrush. Sometimes referenced as <i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i> or Fox-and-Cubs.	

Butterfly Weed <u><i>Asclepias tuberosa</i></u> 1-3 ft. tall ML Flower: 0.4 in. cluster Summer Native plant whose leaves feed Monarch caterpillars with cardiac glycosides (a natural defense against predators).	
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Blue/Pink/Purple Flowers

Common Blue Violet <u><i>Viola sororia</i></u> 2-12 in. tall HL Flower: 0.7 in. Late spring to early summer Native self-pollinator, dispersing its seeds through assistance of ants.	
Herb Robert <u><i>Geranium robertianum</i></u> 4-12 in. HL Flower: 0.3 to 0.6 in. Spring to early summer Native plant also called “Stinking Rob,” as an unpleasant odor is released if disturbed.	
Red Clover <u><i>Trifolium pratense</i></u> 4-30 in. tall ML Flower: 0.5-1.5 in. Late spring to summer Good pollen and nectar source for bees. Valued for soil enrichment through for nitrogen fixation.	



Grasses

Canada Wild Rye <u><i>Elymus canadensis</i></u> 2-5 ft. tall ML Native grass known for soil stabilization and land reclamation. Adapts after fires and may have potential for energy solutions. Flowers are greenish in summer.	
Timothy-grass <u><i>Phleum pratense</i></u> 1.6- 5 ft. tall ML Pinkish/green flowers in summer. Also known as “Herdgrass” and grown extensively for hay. Plant may be left from the farm that previously existed at Johnson Preserve.	
Little Bluestem <u><i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i></u> 1-4 ft. tall ML Native prairie grass whose fibers may provide an eco-friendly solution for paper production. Will survive wildfires. Dark yellowish flowers in late summer.	
Purple lovegrass <u><i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i></u> 1-2.5 ft. tall ML Native grass that can have a role in soil remediation. Attracts many bees and butterflies for pollination. Flowers are a whorl of purplish color in late summer.	
Big Bluestem <u><i>Andropogon gerardii</i></u> 3-12 ft. tall ML Native grass also called “Turkeyfoot.” has adapted to surviving wildfires. Good forage for cattle and horses and being researched for biofuel production.	
Yellow Indiangrass <u><i>Sorghastrum nutans</i></u> 5-7 ft. tall ML Native grass with ability to restore disturbed land, such as from fire. Seeds are a valuable food source for birds and hooved animals. Golden, yellow flowers in late summer.	
Smooth Brome <u><i>Bromus inermis</i></u> 1.5 -3 ft. tall ML This grass provides a staple food for meat-producing animals. Plays a major role in preventing soil erosion.	

Ferns and Fern Allies

Bracken Fern

Pteridium aquilinum

1-3 ft. tall

HL, PL

One of the oldest ferns; this native plant looks like a fiddlehead when immature. Adapts well and colonizes quickly after forest fires or logging.



Christmas Fern

Polystichum acrostichoides

1-3 ft. tall

HL

Native plant traditionally believed to ward off evil, especially when picked on Christmas Eve. Remains green year round and spot in winter.



Intermediate Wood Fern

Dryopteris intermedia

1-3 ft. tall

HL

Hardy native plant also known as Fancy Wood Fern. Has adapted to survive in full sunlight to full shade.



Flat-Branched-Tree-Clubmoss

Dendrolycopodium obscurum

5-8 in. tall

HL

Native plant looks like a small pine tree. Prefers shady and moist forest understories. Also called "Princess Pine."



Sensitive Fern

Onoclea sensibilis

1-3 ft. tall

HL

Native plant also known as Bead Fern. Very sensitive to frost and will quickly dry when touched by it to form "beads."



Shrubs and Trees

Red Raspberry

Rubus idaeus

5-10 ft. tall

ML, HL

Flower: 0.4-0.6 in.

Late spring

Native plant with bright red summer berries. Also called "Brambles;" stems have short prickles or bristles; dense foliage provides shelter for small animals and birds.



Allegheny Blackberry

Rubus allegheniensis

5-8 ft. tall

ML, HL

Flower: 0.7 in.

Late spring

Native plant providing a significant nectar source. Purple fruit matures in late summer. Green to red-brown branch; dense, short, prickly thorns.



Tatarian Honeysuckle <u><i>Lonicera tatarica</i></u> 4-10 ft. tall ML Flower: 0.7-1 in Late Spring Sweet-smelling blooms in spring provide an early nectar source for pollinators. Berries are early food source for various birds. Considered invasive.	
Autumn Olive <u><i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i></u> 3-13 ft. tall ML Flower: 0.3 in. Spring Considered invasive at the Preserve. Spreads aggressively, competing with more desirable native plants. Red berry in fall, alternate leaves.	
Eastern White Pine <u><i>Pinus strobus</i></u> To 220 ft. tall PL Native pine and Michigan's state tree. Has fine, feathery needles in bundles of five. Sheds its needles on lower branches in shaded areas to ensure the upper branches will receive sun.	
Red Pine <u><i>Pinus resinosa</i></u> To 115 ft. tall PL Native tree that prospers after forest fires. Red squirrels are fond of its pine cones. Red Pine's coarse needles come in bunches of two.	
White Spruce <u><i>Picea glauca</i></u> To 131 ft. tall ML, PL Native tree integral to production of high-quality paper products and musical instruments. This hardy tree can live 300 years, but is very susceptible to forest fires. Four-sided needles.	
Eastern Hemlock <u><i>Tsuga Canadensis</i></u> To 174 ft. tall HL Native tree that can live 500 years. Wood is used for railroad ties; bark is an important source of tannin for leather tanning industry. Flat, short, and dark green needles; two white stripes underneath.	
American Basswood <u><i>Tilia Americana</i></u> To 121 ft. tall HL Native fast-growing tree with soft wood many artisans seek for carving. Inner bark is used for ropes and mats. Many large Basswood exist in the preserve.	
American Beech <u><i>Fagus grandifolia</i></u> To 98 ft. tall HL Native tree with hard, strong wood that's highly valued for fine furniture and flooring. Produces beechnuts, an important source of food for wildlife. Most brown leaves remain on tree in winter.	
American Chestnut <u><i>Castanea dentate</i></u> To 75 ft. tall HL Native tree with ability to re-sprout from its stumps and known for chestnuts. Has symbiotic relationship with squirrels to help with dispersal of seeds. Only a few saplings found.	
Black Cherry <u><i>Prunus serotina</i></u> To 79 ft. tall HL Native tree with strong, fine-grained wood used in crafting furniture; host plant for various butterfly species. Mature tree's bark looks like "burnt potato chips."	

White Ash <u><i>Fraxinus Americana</i></u> To 82 ft. tall PL, HL Native tree whose wood is robust with elastic qualities. Used to produce baseball bats and tools such as hammers and shovels. Some seedlings on Pine Loop.	
Apple <u><i>Malus sp.</i></u> Up to 46 ft. ML Species planted by a nursery for the preserve. Sapling's white flowers produce nectar for bees and its small apple seeds attract birds.	
Northern Red Oak <u><i>Quercus rubra</i></u> To 92 ft. tall HL Native tree whose reddish color wood is very strong and resilient. Many small saplings at Johnson Preserve while mature trees are easiest to spot in fall.	
Box Elder <u><i>Acer negundo</i></u> Up to 80 ft. ML, HL Native tree that is a member of maple family. Sap is tapped for maple sugar and seeds can be turned into sweet tea. Very brittle wood. Currently saplings at the preserve.	
Sugar Maple <u><i>Acer saccharum</i></u> To 115 ft. HL Native tree with 5 lobed leaves that change to brilliant yellows, orange, and reds in fall. Known for maple syrup. Most prevalent maple at the preserve; many saplings are found.	
Red Maple <u><i>Acer rubrum</i></u> To 120 ft. HL Native tree with 3 lobed leaves that change to a brilliant red in fall. One of the first plants to flower in Spring. Good source for maple sugar. Not as prevalent and easiest to spot in fall.	

ML = Meadow Loop
HL = Hardwoods Loop
PL = Pine Loop

Please take nothing but pictures,
leave nothing but footprints,
Nature thanks you!

