GUIDE TO PLANT SELECTION FOR NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS AND BUFFERS

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1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this guide is to encourage more general use of native species and to discourage the use of non-recommended species. Only species native to a region and of derived from local populations should be used for planting as part of rehabilitation plans for projects in or near natural heritage areas. Species identified as Undesirable non-native species be prohibited from plantings. Only native woody species (shrubs, trees and vines) are covered by this document. Non-woody species should also be native species of local origin. Intermixing shrubs and trees be encouraged and monocultures avoided.

This document should be available to the public, and be distributed to nurseries, landscape architects, garden centres and development proponents.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Native Woody Plants

The following lists are intended as a guide for those involved in planting and rehabilitation projects in and adjacent to natural heritage areas and other natural areas. Only species **native to the region** should be used for rehabilitation projects.

Natural areas are irreplaceable as resevoirs of biological diversity, as objects of scientific interest and as fundamental components of natural heritage. They are the source of plant material for natural re-colonization of adjacent areas and for natural revegetation. Natural areas should be protected from disturbances such as introduction of non-native species and genetic contamination. Genetic make up of plants in adjacent areas should be controlled carefully, since close proximity might permit hybridization and generate non-adaptive gene complexes. If aliens or their derivatives are successful and invasive, they can out-compete native species.

In planting the native species, only plants derived from local populations should be used because particular physiological races may have evolved that are better adapted to existing local conditions such as climate, exposure, soil, moisture availability and so on. Nursery stock of uncertain origin should not be used.

The plant inventory for the natural heritage area should be consulted. A comprehensive inventory of adjacent natural areas should be the first step to determining which species are present. Species selected for planting should be reflective of the species composition at or near the site.

To broaden the genetic representation of each re-introduced species, seeds or other propagules

should be derived from several individual plants. To increase diversity, several native species should be interplanted since a monoculture promotes the spread of disease, reduces the likelihood of successful rehabilitation and limits the richness of the biological community. Pioneer tree species that would normally be found in similar habitats should be used as well as a mixture of shrubs. It is understood that the art of revegetation of disturbed sites is still very poorly developed. There are few established methods for deliberately recreating most kinds of natural communities. Rehabilitation should not be regarded as a substitute for preservation and protection of natural areas.

Rare species pose special problems. While it may be desirable to increase the numbers of individuals of rare species, the reasons for rarity are sometime complex and usually not understood. Species near the edge of their natural rage often have a genetic make-up distinct from plants in the core of the range. It is important that introduced populations of such plants are not confused with natural occurrences. In general, rehabilitation of rare species should only be attempted under a species or habitat recovery plan.

To minimize confusion and to aid the development of the best methods of rehabilitation, the procedures followed and the results achieved in all rehabilitation projects should be fully documented. Anyone undertaking such a project is encouraged to deposit a report of their procedures and results with a responsible agency or public institution.

2.2 UNDESIRABLE ALIEN SPECIES

The problem of non native plant species invading natural areas in Canada, especially plants of Eurasian origin, dates back to the earliest days of European settlement. The problem has worsened over time as the area of natural vegetation shrinks. The greatest impacts occur where the landscape is most altered by human activity, especially in and around large cities. In southern Ontario about a third of all plant species are introduced. Many of the alien species that grow in southern Ontario do not pose a threat to natural areas. They may be short-lived garden escapes, urban weeds and contaminants of commercial seed mixtures. They may be restricted to urban areas, agricultural fields or other highly disturbed sites. Others grow in natural areas, but in such small numbers that they do not currently pose a threat to the native vegetation. The term "invasive" is used to describe plants that have moved into natural areas and have reproduced so aggressively that some of the original components of the vegetation community have been displaced. Disturbance in natural areas often provide the means by which these plants first become established.

2.3 LEGEND FOR PLANT TABLES

Plants are listed by family, and alphabetically by scientific name within each family. Scientific names follow Morton and Venn (1990), common names follow Oldham (1993). The list has been annotated as follows:

TYPE: Overall plant form.

T = tree; S = shrub; V = vine; G = ground cover.

DIST: Distribution of the species in Ontario.

C = species with a natural distribution in Ontario which is more or less confined to the limits of the Southern Deciduous Forest Region (Carolinian Zone); N = species whose natural distribution in Ontario is mainly to the north of southwestern Ontario; H = species whose natural distribution is restricted by very specific habitat requirements.

3.0 PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 WOODY SPECIES RECOMMENDED FOR PLANTING

The following list includes tree, shrub, vine and woody ground cover species that are native to southwestern Ontario and that are **recommended for planting** in suitable habitats adjacent to natural areas. Species with a Carolinian distribution should only be planted within the Carolinian Life Zone, or where they occur naturally in an adjacent natural area.

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Ulmus americana American elm T		Common hackberry	Т	С	
	Ulmus rubra	Slippery elm	Т		

Ulmus thomasii	Rock elm	Т		
MAGNOLIACEAE Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip-tree	Т	С	
LAURACEAE		_		
Sassafras albidum	Sassafras	T	С	
Lindera benzoin	Spicebush	S	С	
GROSULARIACEAE	NACI II II I	0		
Ribes americanum	Wild black currant	S		
Ribes cynosbati	Prickly gooseberry	S	N.I.	
Ribes hirtellum Ribes triste	Swamp gooseberry	S S	N N	
HAMAMELIDACEAE	Swamp red currant	3	IN	
Hamamelis virginiana	Witch hazel	S	С	
PLATANACEAE	rrion nazer	Ü	Ū	
Platanus occidentalis	Sycamore	Т	С	
ROSACEAE				
Amelanchier arborea	Juneberry	T/S		
Amelanchier laevis	Smooth juneberry	T/S		
Aronia melanocarpa	Chokeberry	S		
Crataegus calpodendron	Hawthorn	T/S	С	
Crataegus chrysocarpa	Hawthorn	T/S		
Crataegus compacta	Compact hawthorn	T/S	С	
Crataegus crus-galli	Cockspur hawthorn	T/S	_	
Crataegus dodgei	Hawthorn	T/S	С	
Crataegus holmsiana	Holmes' hawthorn	T/S		
Crataegus macracantha	Hawthorn Variable hawthorn	T/S T/S		
Crataegus macrosperma Crataegus mollis	Downy hawthorn	T/S	С	
Crataegus monis Crataegus punctata	Dotted hawthorn	T/S	C	
Crataegus schuetei	Hawthorn	T/S	С	
Crataegus tenax	Hawthorn	T/S	Ū	
Malus coronaria	Wild crab	T/S	С	
Prunus americana	Wild plum	T/S	С	
Prunus nigra	Canada plum	T/S	С	
Prunus pensylvanica	Pin cherry	T/S	N	
Prunus serotina	Black cherry	T		
Prunus virginiana	Choke cherry	S		
Rosa blanda	Smooth wild rose	S		
Rosa palustris	Swamp rose	S		
Rubus allegheniensis	Common blackberry	S		
Rubus idaeus ssp. melanolasius Rubus occidentalis	Wild red raspberry	S S		
Rubus occidentalis Rubus pubescens	Black raspberry Dwarf raspberry	3	Χ	N
Spiraea alba	Meadowsweet	S	^	IN
RUTACEAE	Weddowsweet	O		
Zanthoxylem americanum	Prickly ash	S	С	
ANACARDIACEAE	,			
Rhus glabra	Smooth sumac	S	С	
Rhus radicans	Poison ivy	G/S/V		
Rhus typhina	Staghorn sumac	S		
AQUIFOLIACEAE				
llex verticillata	Winterberry	S	N	
Nemopanthus mucronata	Mountain holly	S	N	
CELASTRACEAE	Climbing bittorowast	\/		
Celastrus scandens	Climbing bittersweet	V G	С	
Euonymus obovatus STAPHYLEACEAE	Running strawberry bush	G	C	
Staphylea trifolia	Bladdernut	S	С	
- Capity to a titolia		_	J	

ACERACEAE			
Acer negundo	Manitoba maple	Т	
Acer rubrum	Red maple	Ť	
Acer saccharinum	Silver maple	Ť	
Acer saccharum ssp. nigrum	Black maple	Т	С
Acer saccharum ssp. saccharum	Sugar maple	Т	
Acer spicatum	Mountain maple	S	Ν
RHAMNACEAE	·		
Rhamnus alnifolia	Alder-leaved Buckthorn	S	Η
VITACEAE			
Parthenocissus inserta	Virginia creeper	V	
Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Virginia creeper	V	С
Vitis aestivalis	Summer grape	V	С
Vitis riparia	Riverbank grape	V	
TILIACEAE			
Tilia americana	Basswood	Т	
THYMELAEACEAE			
Dirca palustris	Leatherwood	S	
CORNACEAE			
Cornus alternifolia	Alternate-leaved dogwood	S	
Cornus amomum	Silky dogwood	S	
Cornus florida	Flowering dogwood	T/S	С
Cornus foemina	Grey dogwood	S	
Cornus rugosa	Round-leaved dogwood	S	Ν
Cornus stolonifera	Red-osier dogwood	S	
ERICACEAE	AAP . t	0	
Gaultheria procumbens	Wintergreen	G	N
Gaylussacia baccata	Black huckleberry	S	С
Vaccinium angustifolium	Lowbush blueberry	S S	N C
Vaccinium corymbosum	Highbush blueberry	S	N
Vaccinium myrtilloides OLEACEAE	Velvet-leaf blueberry	3	IN
Fraxinus americana	White ash	Т	
Fraxinus amendana Fraxinus nigra	Black ash	T T	
Fraxinus riigra Fraxinus pennsylvanica	Red/Green ash	T	
Fraxinus permisylvanica Fraxinus profunda	Pumpkin Ash	T	Н
RUBIACEAE	T diripkii 7 tori	•	• •
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush	S	
CAPRIFOLIACEAE	Battoribaori	Ü	
Diervilla Ionicera	Bush-honeysuckle	S	
Lonicera canadensis	Fly honeysuckle	S	N
Lonicera dioica	Wild honeysuckle	V	11
Sambucus canadensis	Common elder	Š	
Sambucus racemosa	Red-berried elder	S	Ν
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry	S	
Viburnum acerifolium	Maple-leaved viburnum	S	
Viburnum cassinoides	Wild-raisin	S	Ν
Viburnum lentago	Nannyberry	S	•
Viburnum rafinesquianum	Downy arrow-wood	S	
Viburnum trilobum	Highbush-cranberry	S	
	,		

3.2 WOODY SPECIES NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PLANTING

The following species are native to southwestern Ontario, but are rare because they have very specific habitat requirements or may behave in unpredictable ways. These species **should NOT be** planted in restoration projects.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	TYPE	DIST. NOTES
PINACEAE			
Picea mariana	Black spruce	Т	N/H
SALICACEAE			
Salix candida	Hoary willow	S	N/H
Salix cordata	Heart-leaved willow	S	N/H
Salix pyrifolia	Balsam willow	S	Н
MYRICACEAE			
Comptonia peregrina	Sweet fern	S	N/H
ERICACEAE			
Andromeda polifolia	Bog-rosemary	S	N/H
Chamaedaphne calyculata	Leatherleaf	S	N/H
Gaultheria hispidula	Snowberry	G	N/H
Kalmia polifolia	Bog-laurel	S	N/H
Vaccinium macrocarpon	Large cranberry	G	N/H
Vaccinium oxycoccus	Small cranberry	G	N/H
Vaccinium pallidum	Dryland blueberry	S	C/H

3.3 SPECIES RECOMMENDED ONLY FOR SPECIMEN PLANTING

The following species are native to southwestern Ontario, but are rare or of limited distribution. Several are restricted to the Carolinian Zone in Ontario. These species are not suitable for multiple plantings or use in most restoration projects. Their use should be restricted to specimen or demonstration plantings for educational and aesthetic purposes, or when sanctioned under a species recovery plan or when they occur naturally in adjacent areas. Planting of these species should only use local genetic material.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	TYPE	DIST. NOTES
CUPRESSACEAE			
Juniperus horizontalis	Creeping juniper	G	N/H
JUGLANDACEAE			
Carya glabra	Sweet pignut hickory	Т	С
FAGACEAE			
Quercus prinoides	Dwarf chinquapin oak	S	Н
ULMACEAE			
Celtis tenuifolia	Dwarf hackberry	T/S	Н
MORACEAE			
Morus rubra	Red mulberry	T/S	С
MAGNOLIACEAE		_	
Magnolia acuminata	Cucumber magnolia	Т	С
ANNONACEAE	_	T (0	
Asimina triloba	Pawpaw	T/S	С
ROSACEAE		T (0	
Amelanchier sanguinea	Juneberry	T/S	N
Crataegus apiomorpha	Hawthorn	T/S	0
Crataegus brainerdii	Hawthorn	T/S	С
Crataegus corusca	Hawthorn	T/S	0
Crataegus dissona	Hawthorn	T/S	С
Crataegus flabellata	Hawthorn	T/S	0
Crataegus lumaria	Hawthorn	T/S	С
Crataegus margaretta	Hawthorn	T/S	

Crataegus pedicellata Crataegus perjucunda Crataegus scabrida Crataegus suborbiculata Crataegus sylvestris Prunus pumila Rosa acicularis Rosa carolina Rosa setigera Rubus canadensis Rubus odoratus Sorbus americana	Hawthorn Hawthorn Hawthorn Hawthorn Hawthorn Sand cherry Prickly wild rose Carolina rose Prairie rose Smooth blackberry Purple-flowering raspberry American mountain ash	T/S T/S T/S T/S T/S S/G S S S S T/S	C H N C C C N	Endemic to Middlesex
LEGUMINOSAE		., •		
Cercis canadensis Gymnocladus dioicus	Redbud Kentucky coffee tree	T/S T	C C	
RUTACEAE Ptelea trifoliata ANACARDIACEAE	Hop tree	T/S	С	
Rhus aromatica Rhus copallina Rhus vernix CELASTRACEAE	Fragrant sumac Shining sumac Poison sumac	S S S	C C C/H	
Euonymus atropurpurea HIPPOCASTANACEAE	Burning bush, Wahoo	S	С	
Aesculus glabra RHAMNACEAE	Ohio buckeye	Т	С	
Caenothus americanus VITACEAE	New Jersey tea	S	С	
Vitis labrusca ELAEAGNACEAE	Fox grape	V	С	
Shepherdia canadensis NYSSACEAE	Soapberry	S		
Nyssa sylvatica PYROLACEAE	Black-gum	T	С	
Chimaphila umbellata ERICACEAE	Pipsissewa	G	N	
Epigaea repens OLEACEAE	Trailing arbutus	G	N	
Fraxinus quadrangulata CAPRIFOLIACEAE	Blue ash	Т	С	
Lonicera hirsuta Lonicera oblongifolia	Hairy honeysuckle Swamp fly-honeysuckle	V S	N N	

4.0 UNDESIRABLE NON-NATIVE SPECIES

The problem of non native plant species invading natural areas in Canada, especially plants of Eurasian origin, dates back to the earliest days of European settlement. The problem has worsened over time as the area of natural vegetation shrinks. The greatest impacts occur where the landscape is most altered by human activity, especially in and around large cities. In southern Ontario about a third of all plant species are introduced. Many of the alien species which grow in southern Ontario do not pose a threat to natural areas. They may be short-lived garden escapes, urban weeds and contaminants of commercial seed mixtures. They may be restricted to urban areas, agricultural fields or other highly disturbed sites. Others grow in natural areas, but in such small numbers that they do not pose a threat currently to the native vegetation. The term "invasive" is used to describe plants that have moved into natural areas and have reproduced so aggressively that some of the original components of the vegetation community have been displaced. Disturbance in natural areas often provide the means by which these plants first become established.

The following lists are not intended to be exhaustive of all weedy plants occurring in southwestern Ontario, but include those species which are either invasive of natural areas, or could become invasive. Many are frequently planted for ornamental or herbal properties, used as ground covers, sold by nurseries or added to wildflower mixtures.

Because of their invasive tendencies, and the likelihood that they will spread into natural areas, the following plants **should NOT be planted** anywhere in southwestern Ontario.

4.1 TREES, SHRUBS AND VINES

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	TYPE NOTES
PINACEAE		
Pinus sylvestris	Scots pine	Т
SALICACEAE		
Populus alba	White poplar	Т
Salix alba	White willow	Τ
Salix x rubens		
S. fragilis X S. alba		T
BETULACEAE		
Betula pendula	European birch	T
Alnus glutinosa	Black alder	S
ULMACEAE		
Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm	T
MORACEAE		
Morus alba	White mulberry	T
BERBERIDACEAE	·	
Berberis thunbergii	Japanese barberry	S
Berberis vulgaris	Common barberry	S
ROSACEAE	,	
Crataegus monogyna	English hawthorn	T/S
Rosa multiflora	Multiflora rose	S
LEGUMINOSAE		
Gleditsia triacanthos	Honey locust	Т
Robinia pseudo-acacia	Black locust	Ť
SIMARAOUBACEAE	Diddit locast	•
Ailanthus altissima	Tree of heaven	Т
ACERACEAE	Tree of fleaver.	•
Acer platanoides	Norway maple	Т
RHAMNACEAE	norway mapio	•
Rhamnus cathartica	Common buckthorn	T/S
Rhamnus frangula	Glossy buckthorn	S
OLEACEAE	Glossy buckthorn	J
Ligustrum vulgare	Privet	S
Syringa vulgaris	Lilac	S
ASCLEPIADACEAE		
Cynanchum rossicum	Dog-strangling vine	V
CONVOLVULACEAE		
Ipomoea purpurea	Common morning glory	V
CAPRIFOLIACEAE		
Lonicera tatarica	Tartarian honeysuckle	S
Lonicera japonica	Japanese honeysuckle	S
Lonicera maackii	Amur honeysuckle	S

4.2 HERBACEOUS SPECIES

Because of the weedy and invasive nature of so many herbaceous plants, the following list has been confined to species that are often planted as ornamentals and ground cover, and those which are perceived as the worst invaders or potential invaders of natural terrestrial and wetland habitats in southwestern Ontario.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	NOTES
GRAMINAE		
Phalaris arundinacea	Reed canary grass	introduced varieties
Phragmites australis	Common reed	introduced varieties
BUTOMACEAE		
Butomus umbellatus	Flowering rush	
IRIDACEAE		
Iris pseudacorus	Yellow flag	
POLYGONACEAE		
Polygonum cuspidatum	Japanese knotweed	
CARYOPHYLLACEAE	5	
Saponaria officinalis	Bouncingbet	
CRUCIFERAE	Carlia revietand	
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic mustard Dame's-rocket	
Hesperis matronalis CRASSULACEAE	Dame s-rocket	
Sedum acre	Mossy stonecrop	
LEGUMINOSAE	wossy storiectop	
Coronilla varia	Crown vetch	
Melilotus alba	White sweet-clover	
Melilotus officinalis	Yellow sweet-clover	
EUPHORBIACEAE		
Euphorbia cyparissias	Cypress spurge	
MALVACEAE		
Malva moschata	Musk mallow	
GUTTIFERAE		
Hypericum perforatum	St. John's-wort	
LYTHRACEAE	D 11 4 7	
Lythrum salicaria	Purple loosestrife	
UMBELLIFERAE	Goutweed	
Aegopodium podagraria Heracleum mantegazzianum	Giant hogweed	
APOCYNACEAE	Giant nogweed	
Vinca minor	Periwinkle	
PRIMULACEAE	1 Griwings	
Lysimachia nummularia	Moneywort	
BORAGINACEAE	,	
Echium vulgare	Blueweed	
LABIATAE		
Nepeta cataria	Catnip	
SOLANACEAE		
Datura stramonium	Jimsonweed	
SCROPHULARIACEAE		
Linaria vulgaris	Yellow toadflax	
Verbascum blattaria	Moth mullein	
Verbascum thapsus	Common mullein	
CAMPANULACEAE	Crearing hellflewer	
Campanula rapunculoides COMPOSITAE	Creeping bellflower	
Echinops sphaerocephalus	Globe thistle	
Lominopo apridoroceprialdo	Ciobo ulique	

5.0 References

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6.0 GLOSSARY

adaptive: showing or having a capacity for or tendency toward adaptation

alien: belonging to place; not native to the area.

disseminule: a mobile part or organ (as a seed or spore) of a plant that ensures propagation.

ecology: a branch of science concerned with the interrelationship of organisms and their environments

exotic: a plant that originated elsewhere.

hybridize: to interbreed and produce hybrids.

invasive: tending to spread; especially tending to invade healthy natural communities

non-native: used to refer to a plant that did not originate naturally in an area. Usually refers to plants that have been introduced to southwestern Ontario since European settlement. See alien

propagule: a structure (as a cutting, a seed, or a spore) that propagates a plant.

rehabilitate: to restore to a former capacity or bring (back) to a condition of health and function. Used to refer to vegetation communities that have been substantially altered or degraded.

restoration: a bringing back to a former condition, reconstruction of the original form. Used to refer to vegetation communities that have been removed.