



make a clear difference for Flathead Lake

Montana Native Plants

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Montana's natural beauty is unmatched and magnificent, as are the plants and animals that are native to here. Everything that makes this place unique has influenced the plants and animals that have lived here for thousands and thousands of years, and those plants and animals have had thousands and thousands of years of adapting and evolving together.

Natural areas left undisturbed, like woods and riparian areas (land that meets the water), are not only beautiful but function as an ecosystem that provides us with clean air and water and plants and animals with critical habitat.



Red columbine



Alumroot



Arnica



Prairie junegrass



Shooting star



Golden currant

In some places, the riparian area may be altered by past land-use practices and no longer functioning to protect the lake and clean water. If your shoreline needs restoring or supplementing, consider creating a buffer garden using Montana native plants.

WHY USE NATIVE PLANTS?

Native plants provide a beautiful, hardy, drought-resistant, low-maintenance landscape while benefiting the environment and preserving our natural heritage. Native plants:

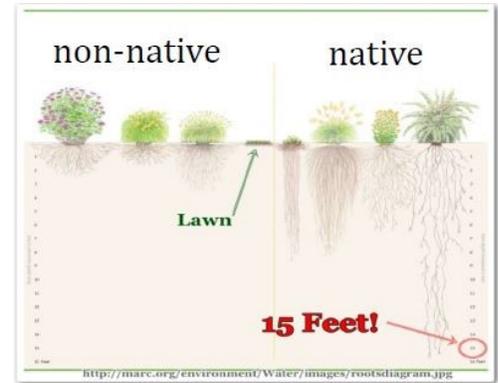
- help you use less fertilizers, pesticides, and (once established) less water.
- help clean the air and water around you from nonpoint source pollution.
- provide shelter and food for wildlife and support pollinators.
- promote biodiversity, the variety of life in a habitat or ecosystem.
- help you save time and money in your yard.



RESTORING RIPARIAN AREAS

Riparian areas are the land adjacent to water. A natural or restored riparian area helps prevent pollution from going into our waterways, controls shoreline and bank erosion, and encourages a healthy, functioning ecosystem.

The large root systems of native plants act as a sponge to pollutants and an anchor to soil and sediment, helping to protect clean water.



Restoring a riparian area with native plants will protect Flathead Lake and its tributaries and enhance your sense of place here in beautiful Northwest Montana.



Snowberry



Oregon grape



Paintbrush



Birch-leaved spirea



Showy aster



Ponderosa

The Flathead Lakers can help you restore your riparian area or create a lakeshore buffer garden using beautiful Montana native plants. We provide friendly, site-specific suggestions to help you become a Clean Water Steward and protect Flathead Lake and its watershed. Contact us for a Clean Water Practices site visit: 406-883-1341 or hilary@flatheadlakers.org.

HOW TO LEARN MORE

Learn more about Montana native plants:

Montana Native Plant Society, www.mtnativesplants.org

Center for Native Plants in Whitefish, www.centerfornativeplants.com or your local nursery.



The Flathead Lakers offer opportunities to learn more:

-*Clean Water Practices Site Visit:* We will explore clean water practices that might work for you. Contact Hilary Devlin at hilary@flatheadlakers.org or 406-883-1341.

-*Walk and Talk Tour:* Watch for our small group tours to see lake-friendly lawns and other clean water practices in use.

-*Additional clean water practices fact sheets* and informational brochures are available on our website. Visit www.flatheadlakers.org 'Tips for Clean Water Stewards'.

Together, we can keep Flathead Lake blue!

FLATHEAD LAKERS | P.O. Box 70 | Polson, MT 59860 | 406-883-1341 | flatheadlakers.org