

Native Plant Suggestions for Caribou Lake

The Caribou Lake shoreline can prove to be a difficult place to plant and sow seed. If you have figured out how to manage the elements, the best thing you can start with is a species list that has the greatest chances for growth and establishment. Three lists have been generated specifically for Caribou based on what is around the lake now and what was or most likely was around the lake pre European settlement. The three categories are “Dry to rock outcroppings”, “Shoreline mesic”, and “Shoreline wet”. You will notice redundancy as some plants do occupy the same areas. Also, trees have been excluded from the list as many tree resources exist and our focus should be centered on shrubs and herbaceous plants. There are many more possibilities outside of this list but these have been chosen according to native range, heartiness, ease of working with the seed, overall success of establishment, and availability. The hope is that you can use this as a guideline to get started.

Dry upland to rock outcroppings: This area is from 2-3 feet above the water and extending as far away from the lake as you like. These species are capable of surviving in some of the driest conditions Minnesota can offer, bare rock. Many of the plants on this list not only grow within inches of the water but can be found growing on top of White Sky Rock.

Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes

Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
Side oats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)
Kalm’s Brome (*Bromus kalmia*)
Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pennsylvanica*)
Poverty oat grass (*Danthonia spicata*)
Bottlebrush grass (*Elymus hystrix*)
Canada wild rye (*Elymus Canadensis*)
June grass (*Koeleria macrantha*)
Common wood rush (*Luzula acuminata*)
Many-flowered wood rush (*Luzula multiflora*)
Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Flowers

Yarrow (*Achillea millifolium*)
Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)
Pussytoes (*Antennaria neglecta*)
Columbine (*Aquilegia Canadensis*)
Wild Sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*)
Large-leaved aster (*Aster macrophyllus*)
Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)
Fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*)
Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)
Long-leaved bluets (*Hedyotis longifolia*)

Alum root (*Heuchera richardsonii*)
False lilly of the valley (*Maianthemum Canadensis*)
Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
Prairie cinquefoil (*Potentilla arguta*)
Black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
Zig Zag goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*)
Gray goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*)

Shrubs

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*)
Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)
Alternate-leaved dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)
Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)
Roundleaf dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*)
Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
Bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)
Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
Shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*)
Meadow Rose (*Rosa blanda*)
Elderberry (*Sambucus pubens*)
Lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)
Downy arrowwood (*Viburnum rafinesquianum*)

Shoreline Dry: This list contains plants that require very near shore moisture. If these species are planted too far from water they will dry up and die before they are able to put roots down far enough to reach the water for themselves. Be sure to avoid undue soil disturbance if this area on your shoreline is steep, already eroding, or worse, undercut already.

Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes

Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
Side oats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)
Kalm's Brome (*Bromus kalmia*)
Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pennsylvanica*)
Poverty oat grass (*Danthonia spicata*)
Bottlebrush grass (*Elymus hystrix*)
Canada wild rye (*Elymus Canadensis*)
June grass (*Koeleria macrantha*)
Common wood rush (*Luzula acuminata*)
Many-flowered wood rush (*Luzula multiflora*)
Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
Blue joint grass (*Calamagrostis Canadensis*)
Graceful sedge (*Carex gracillima*)
Wood sedge (*Carex rosea*)
Wool grass (*Scirpus cyperinus*)
Cord grass (*Spartina pectinata*)

Flowers

Canada anemone (*Anemone Canadensis*)
Columbine (*Aquilegia Canadensis*)
Swamp milkweed (*Asclepia incarnate*)
Panicked aster (*Aster lanceolatus*)
Flat-topped aster (*Aster umbellatus*)
Joe-pye weed (*Eupaterium maculatum*)
Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)

Grass-leaved goldenrod (*Euthamia gramnifolia*)
Tall Meadow rue (*Thalictrum dasycarpum*)
Blue vervain (*Verbena hastate*)
Wild Sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*)
Large-leaved aster (*Aster macrophyllus*)
Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)
Fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*)
Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)
Meadow rose (*Rosa blanda*)

Shrubs

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*)
Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)
Alternate-leaved dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)
Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)
Roundleaf dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*)
Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)
Bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)
Meadow Rose (*Rosa blanda*)
Lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)
Downy arrowwood (*Viburnum rafinesquianum*)

Shoreline Wet: As close to the water as you can get before the stems are sticking out of water. These plants need their feet wet at nearly all times. This area is difficult to plant due to wave action on windy days or from boat traffic. Make or utilize natural wave breaks from rock, brush, or lake weeds.

Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes

Blue joint grass (*Calamagrostis Canadensis*)
Bottlebrush sedge (*Carex comosa*)
False bristly sedge (*Carex pseudo-cyperus*)
Fox sedge (*Carex vulpinoidea*)
Spike rush (*Eleocharis ovate*)
Tall mannagrass (*Glyceria grandis*)
Wool grass (*Scirpus cyperinus*)

Flowers

Columbine (*Aquilegia Canadensis*)
Swamp milkweed (*Asclepia incarnate*)
Panicked aster (*Aster lanceolatus*)
Flat-topped aster (*Aster umbellatus*)

Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)
Joe-pye weed (*Eupaterium maculatum*)
Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
Grass-leaved goldenrod (*Euthamia gramnifolia*)
Blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*)
Great blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)
Monkey flower (*Mimulus ringens*)
Tall Meadow rue (*Thalictrum dasycarpum*)
Blue vervain (*Verbena hastate*)

Shrubs

Red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
Native Willow (*Salix spp.*)

To reiterate, there are many more species options but this should be a starting point. No matter what you plant, native or not, avoid transporting noxious or aggressive plants by knowing and trusting your seed and plant source. Be sure to check these websites for more information about plants, how to, and pictures.

www.prairieresto.com

<http://dragonflygardens.net/>

<http://www.prairiemoon.com/>

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/restoreyourshore/index.html>

<http://www.co.cook.mn.us/index.php/government/departments/soil-and-water>