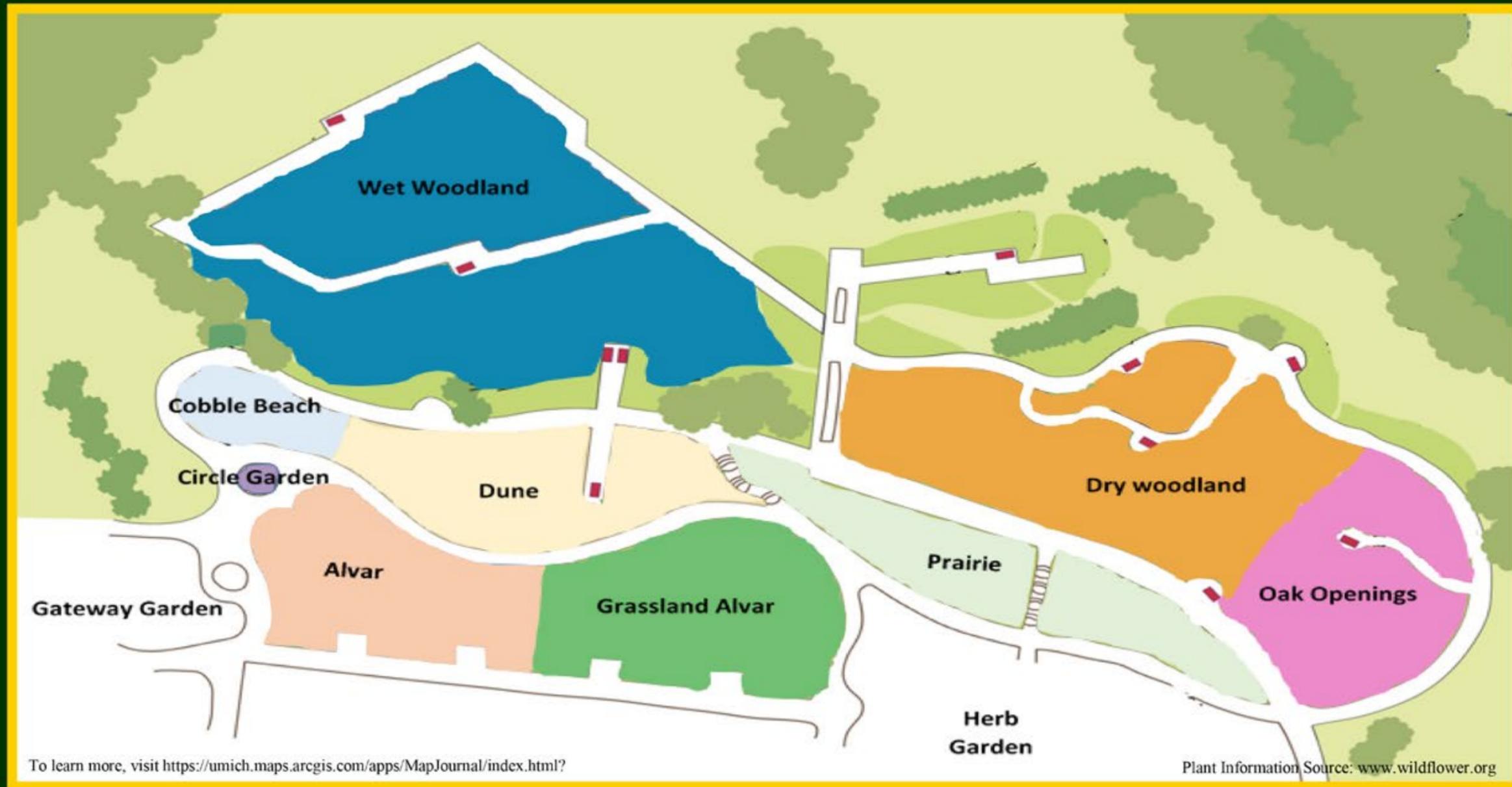


# A Guide to the Native Plants and Communities of the Great Lakes Gardens



**MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS  
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## Grassland Alvar



### **Prairie Dropseed** (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)

This perennial grass has outward curving leaves in large tufts and has a toasted, earthy smell while blooming.

Blooms: August-October

### **Prairie Smoke** (*Geum triflorum*)

This perennial has blue-green hairy leaves and bell-shaped flowers that produce feathery pink fruits.

Blooms: April-June



### **Butterfly milkweed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

This perennial has large flat-topped clusters of orange flowers atop the stiff dark-green stem.

Blooms: June-August

### **Shrubby cinquefoil** (*Dasiphora fruticosa*)

This perennial forms low, rounded shrubs with grayish-green leaves and long-blooming yellow flowers.

Blooms: June-September



### **Pasture Rose** (*Rosa carolina*)

This perennial shrub has thorny stems, 5-petaled pink flowers, and a fruit that appears bright red when ripe.

Blooms: May-June

## Alvar



### **Common Juniper** (*Juniperus communis*)

This perennial, usually a low, spreading shrub, has yellow flowers and black-blue berries.

Blooms: April

### **Lakeside Daisy** (*Tetranneuris herbacea*)

Endangered in Michigan, this perennial has dark green foliage forming in bunches and bright yellow flowers.

Blooms: April-October



### **Kalm's St. John's Wort** (*Hypericum kalmianum*)

This small perennial shrub has 4-sided branches, papery (sometimes peeling) bark, and bright yellow flowers.

Blooms: July-August

### **Poverty Grass** (*Danthonia spicata*)

This perennial bunchgrass has curly basal leaves and clumps of wiry stems, often attracting butterflies.

Blooms: May-July



### **New England Aster** (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*)

This perennial often grows 6 or more feet tall, has clasping leaves, and bright purple flowers at the tip of branches.

Blooms: August-October

## Prairie



### **Flowering Spurge** (*Euphorbia corollata*)

This perennial has bright green stems, whorled leaves, and 3-7 flowering stalks topped by small white flowers.

Blooms: June-October

### **Culver's Root** (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)

This perennial has dark whorled leaves and an unbranched stem topped by many clusters of small white flowers.

Blooms: July to September



### **Marsh Blazing Star** (*Liatris spicata*)

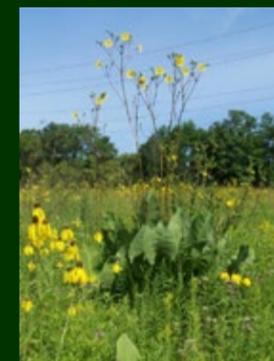
This perennial has grass-like leaves extending from the base to the tall spike of purple, tufted flowers.

Blooms: July-September

### **Compass Plant** (*Silphium laciniatum*)

This perennial has deeply-cut hairy leaves, and a tall sticky stem topped by a wide, yellow flower.

Blooms: July-September



### **Prairie Dock** (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*)

This perennial has very large, cool to the touch, basal leaves and a bright yellow flower atop a 3-8 foot stalk.

Blooms: July-September

## Cobble Beach



**Silverweed**  
(*Argentina anserina*)

This perennial has five-petaled yellow flowers held on slender stems that rise above the basal tufts of silvery foliage.

**Golden Seeded Spikerush**  
(*Eleocharis elliptica*)

This perennial grass has alternating leaves and a spikelet at the end of its dark green stalks.

Blooms: June-August



**Limestone Calamint**  
(*Clinopodium arkansanum*)

This perennial has opposite leaves, a rich mint scent and flavor, and small blue flowers.

Blooms: June-July

**Lake Huron Tansy**  
(*Tanacetum huronense*)

This perennial, listed as threatened in Michigan, has thin oppositely arranged leaves and yellow-orange flowers.

Blooms: May-September



**Tuberous Indian Plantain**  
(*Arnoglossum plantagineum*)

This perennial has elliptically shaped leaves and a flowering stalk that produces small white flowers.

Blooms: June-August

## Dune



**Pitcher's Thistle**  
(*Cirsium pitcheri*)

This biennial, listed as threatened in the United States, has silvery-green foliage and pink flowers.

Blooms: May-September

**Sand Coreopsis**  
(*Coreopsis lanceolata*)

This perennial grows in small clumps and has opposite leaves, and tall yellow daisy-like flowers atop long stems.

Blooms: April-June



**Prickly Pear**  
(*Opuntia humifusa*)

This perennial clump-forming cactus has fleshy oval pads with barbed bristles, yellow flowers, and red fruits.

Blooms: May-July

**Harebell**  
(*Campanula rotundifolia*)

This perennial has rounded basal leaves and blue bell-shaped flowers that hang from the tip of slender stems.

Blooms: June-September



**Horse Mint**  
(*Monarda punctata*)

This fragrant perennial has tubular flowers that occur in whorls, forming a dense spike at the end of the stem.

Blooms: April-August

## Circle Garden

The circle garden features four plant species that are considered sacred by the Anishinaabe Native Americans. Their knowledge on native plants has greatly advanced our ecological understanding of the region.

**Northern White Cedar**  
(*Thuja occidentalis*)

This slow-growing evergreen tree has branches ending in horizontal sprays of dark-green foliage.

Blooms: April



**White Sage**  
(*Artemisia ludoviciana*)

This fragrant perennial shrub has soft-stemmed silvery foliage and long flowering stalks topped with white flowers.

Blooms: April-July

**Bearberry**  
(*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

This perennial evergreen shrub has red stems, thick, leathery leaves, bell-shaped white flowers, and red berries.

Blooms: March-June



**Sweetgrass**  
(*Hierochloa odorata*)

This perennial grass is erect, slender, and sweet smelling, with bronze-colored spikelets and yellow flowers.

Blooms: June

## Wet Woodland



**Cardinal Flower**  
(*Lobelia cardinalis*)

This perennial has unique red five-petaled flowers and a lower stem lined with long oval leaves.

Blooms: May-October

**Skunk Cabbage**  
(*Symplocarpus foetidus*)

This perennial has large, prominently-veined leaves and a flower that heats itself to thrive despite snow cover.

Blooms: February-April



**Jewelweed**  
(*Impatiens capensis*)

This annual has golden-orange flowers, translucent stems and stem juice alleged to relieve poison ivy itching.

Blooms: July-October

**Swamp White Oak**  
(*Quercus bicolor*)

This deciduous tree has leaves with a silvery underside and leaves with shallowly cut lobes.

Blooms: March-May



**Black Currant**  
(*Ribes americanum*)

This shrub has white bell-shaped flowers followed by the emergence of dark purple berries.

Blooms: April-May

## Dry Woodland



**Wild Columbine**  
(*Aquilegia canadensis*)

This perennial has red and yellow bell-like flowers with backward pointing tubes and three-lobed leaves.

Blooms: February-July

**Twinleaf**  
(*Jeffersonia diphylla*)

This perennial's stem is divided into two identical leaf parts at its top, and white, eight-petaled flowers.

Blooms: March-May



**Wild Geranium**  
(*Geranium maculatum*)

This perennial has deeply 5-lobed leaves paired with five-petaled showy pink flowers.

Blooms: March-July

**Bloodroot**  
(*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

This perennial has deeply lobed basal leaves and a white flower with an orange center on separate stems.

Blooms: March-April



**Jack in the Pulpit**  
(*Arisaema triphyllum*)

This perennial has three distinct leaves, cylindrical, hooded green flowers, and clusters of red berries in late summer.

Blooms: March-June

## Oak Openings



**Chinquapin Oak**  
(*Quercus muehlenbergii*)

This deciduous tree has light gray, scaly bark, inconspicuous flowers, and an acorn up to an inch long.

Blooms: March-May

**Black Oak**  
(*Quercus velutina*)

This deciduous tree has glossy, pointed-lobe leaves and a yellow-orange inner bark.

Blooms: March-May



**Basswood**  
(*Tilia americana*)

This deciduous tree has broadly oval leaves, small but fragrant flowers, and often has multiple trunks.

Blooms: April-July

**Red Oak**  
(*Quercus rubra*)

This deciduous tree has dark bark and pointed lobed leaves often golden-orange in the fall.

Blooms: March-May



**Black Walnut**  
(*Juglans nigra*)

This large deciduous tree has dark, ribbed bark, elongated oval leaves, and a nut in a hard, green husk.

Blooms: April-May