

Conservation is a process,
begun and accomplished one step at a time.

You can take actions today that are more friendly to the environment than what you did yesterday...

Do No Harm

Eliminate the use of harsh chemicals, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. Remove or destroy invasive plant species.

Eliminate Waste: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The world's resources are limited. Minimize waste by using only what you need. Both inside and out, find ways to reuse items instead of dumping them somewhere else as waste. Route rainwater to water-loving plants or store it in rain barrels for future use. Chip and compost decaying plant materials in your own yard.

Be a Native Wildlife Gardener

Find ways to support the nature around you. Plants provide food and oxygen to the animal life around them; after soil, they are the first level of an entire ecosystem of diverse life forms that make up our planet. Every porch or yard is a patch of that ecosystem. When you create habitat for birds and butterflies, you nurture yourself as well.

Be a Community Activist and Educator

Find ways to influence the community around you. Volunteer at prairie restoration sites. Influence the landscape design choices of local churches, schools and businesses. Help write local ordinances to support native landscapes and environmental issues. Teach others to understand and value the nature around them. Leadership includes passing the ethic of environmental commitment and responsibility successfully to the next generation.



The Conservation@Home program provides guidance in your pursuit of an environmentally friendly yard. The program can provide help at many levels including a personal visit to your site!

We have hundreds of homeowners involved in the process, and we have even certified libraries, schools and business campuses! Upon qualification, a one-time fee of \$50 is requested (\$25 for members of the Conservation Foundation). You will be given the Conservation@Home yard sign to signify your achievement as well as newsletters, discounts and other information. Visit our website at www.theconservationfoundation.org for events, resources and more information.

If you would like to become certified or have questions:

Call Jim Kleinwachter 630-553-0687 x302 or email: jkleinwachter@theconservationfoundation.org

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A Program of The Conservation Foundation

www.theconservationfoundation.org

BRINGING Nature TO YOUR Yard

A "How-To" Natural
Landscaping Guide

Beautiful, deep-rooted native plants provide
habitat for beneficial wildlife and
cleaner water through infiltration.

10S404 Knoch Knolls Road, Naperville, Illinois 60565, p630.428.4500 f630.428.4599



What is Natural Landscaping?

Natural landscaping uses native plants, preferably in combinations that would be found in a natural ecosystem. Native plants eliminate the need for pesticides or herbicides, require little watering beyond the establishment period, and minimal use of noisy or polluting tools or machines.

The Benefits of a Natural Landscape

- 🦋 Native plants are beautiful and interesting.
- 🦋 They attract native insects, butterflies, songbirds, hummingbirds and other native wildlife.
- 🦋 Reduced use of chemicals means greater health for your family and others living nearby.
- 🦋 Reduced water use means less water lost to evaporation, less water removed from the water table and less water likely to run off into nearby stormwater drainage systems.
- 🦋 Less use of maintenance machines means less noise, air pollution, cost and time used.

How to Use This Planning Guide

On the following pages you will see diagrams that depict a typical yard. Different areas are shaded and marked with a letter. These letters refer to a "strata" that is a height designation in our manual. The front line of plants will be shorter, and get taller farther back in the landscape. The idea is to create interest with color and gradual height changes to create an interesting and appealing planting bed. Within the strata are many choices: different colors, textures and bloom time.

How to Design a Natural Landscape

Designing Natural Outdoor Rooms by Functional Strata

A landscape should be designed to fill the needs of the landowner. A main function of the front yard is to focus attention on the front door, to guide people to it and to distract attention from the garage door. Outdoor living spaces can be included in the front yard to allow and encourage the family to spend more time outdoors enjoying nature. Design landscape spaces to be functional, then form that space with native plants of local ecosystems. A plant's height determines what roles it can play functionally, so this design method uses five height strata.

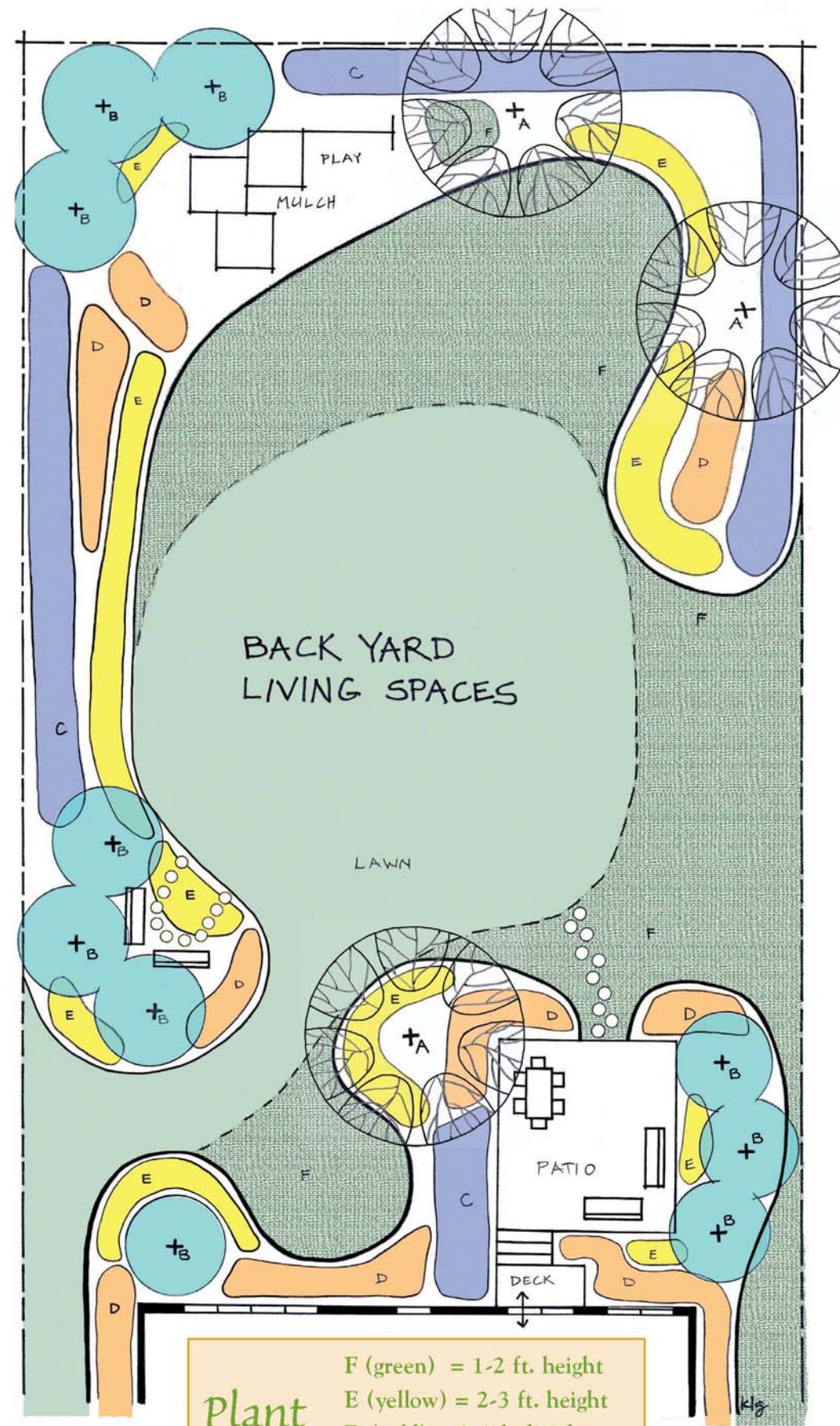
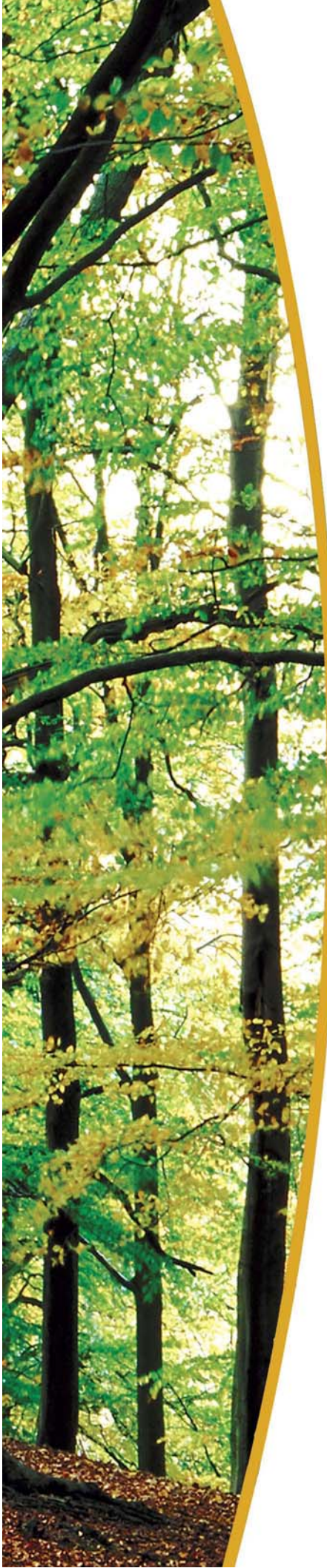
To design your function-based natural landscape, designate areas for dining, relaxing, entertaining, working, reading and other activities that you want to spend more time doing in the outdoors. Then plan pathways between these living spaces, to and from building entrances, to and from driveway and access points from off the property. A patio or deck placed away from the house with a band of plantings between it and the house is more pleasant than one directly adjacent to the house wall. Consider overhead fabric or wooden structures to provide shade in specific areas instead of relying on trees. Provide plenty of outdoor rooms so you can enjoy your natural landscape many times every day! Consider screened rooms for use in mosquito season!

| Ht | Common Name, Botanical Name | Conditions & Wildlife |
|----|--|--------------------------|
| E | Lady Fern, <i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> | ☀️ |
| E | Leadplant, <i>Amorpha canescens</i> | ☀️💧🦋 |
| E | Marsh Blazingstar, <i>Liatris spicata</i> | ☀️💧🦋 |
| E | Marsh Marigold, <i>Galtha palustris</i> | ☀️☀️💧🦋 |
| E | Mayapple, <i>Podophyllum peltatum</i> | ☀️💧 |
| E | Meadow Anemone, <i>Amenone canadensis</i> | ☀️ |
| E | Mountain Mint, <i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i> | ☀️💧🦋 |
| E | Nodding Wild Onion, <i>Allium cernuum</i> | ☀️💧🦋 |
| E | Northern Sea Oats, <i>Chasmantium latifolium</i> | ☀️💧 |
| E | Ostrich Fern, <i>Pteris nodulosa</i> | ☀️ |
| E | Pale Purple Coneflower, <i>Echinacea pallida</i> | ☀️💧🦋 |
| E | Prairie Blazing Star, <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i> | ☀️💧🦋 |
| E | Prairie Coreopsis, <i>Coreopsis palmata</i> | ☀️💧 |
| E | Prairie Smoke, <i>Geum triflorum</i> | ☀️💧 |
| E | Prairie Sundrops, <i>Oenothera pilosella</i> | ☀️💧🦋 |
| E | Purple Prairie Clover, <i>Dalea purpurea</i> | ☀️💧 |
| E | Rattlesnake Master, <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> | ☀️🦋 |
| E | White Snakeroot, <i>Eupatorium rugosum</i> | ☀️ |
| E | Sneezeweed, <i>Helenium autumnale</i> | ☀️💧 |
| E | False Solomon's Seal, <i>Smilacina racemosa</i> | ☀️ |
| E | Solomon's Seal, <i>Polygonatum biflorum</i> | ☀️☀️🦋 |
| E | Spiderwort, <i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i> | ☀️ |

| Ht | Common Name, Botanical Name | Conditions & Wildlife |
|----|--|--------------------------|
| E | Starry Solomon's Plume, <i>Smilacena stellata</i> | ☀️ |
| E | Swamp Milkweed, <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> | ☀️💧🦋 |
| E | Sweet Flag, <i>Acorus calamus</i> | ☀️💧 |
| E | Torrey's Rush, <i>Juncus torreyi</i> | ☀️ |
| E | Trillium, <i>Trillium spp.</i> | ☀️💧 |
| E | White Turtlehead, <i>Chelone glabra</i> | ☀️💧 |
| E | White Woodland Aster, <i>Aster divaricatus</i> | ☀️💧🦋 |
| E | Wild Bergamot, <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> | ☀️🦋 |
| E | Zig-Zag Goldenrod, <i>Solidago flexicaulis</i> | ☀️💧🦋 |
| F | Sweet Grass/ Vanilla Grass, <i>Hierochloa odorata</i> | ☀️💧 |
| F | Porcupine Sedge, <i>Carex hystericina</i> | ☀️💧 |
| F | Buffalo Grass, <i>Buchloe dactyloides</i> | ☀️💧 |
| F | Penn Sedge, <i>Carex pennsylvanica</i> | ☀️💧 |
| F | Wild Strawberries, <i>Fragaria virginiana</i> | ☀️🐦 |
| F | Plaintainleaf Pussy Toes, <i>Arnica montana</i> | ☀️💧 |
| F | Common Cinquefoil, <i>Potentilla simplex</i> | ☀️ |
| F | Side Oats Grama, <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> | ☀️💧 |
| F | Hairy Wild Petunia, <i>Ruellia humilis</i> | ☀️💧 |
| F | Lousewort/ Wood Betony, <i>Pedicularis canadensis</i> | ☀️ |
| F | Prairie Dropseed, <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> | ☀️💧 |
| F | Wild Ginger, <i>Asarum canadense</i> | ☀️💧🦋 |
| F | Wild Geranium, <i>Geranium maculatum</i> | ☀️☀️ |

KEY: ☀️/● = Sun/Shade 💧/☪️ = Wet/Dry

🦋 = Butterflies 🐦 = Birds



Plant Key

F (green) = 1-2 ft. height
 E (yellow) = 2-3 ft. height
 D (gold) = 3-4 ft. height
 C (purple) = 5-8 ft. height
 B (blue) = 10-25 ft. height
 A (grey) = 50+ height

Native Plant Lists

These native plant lists are intended to be used as a guide and are not all-inclusive. Many of the more common, easily found and most desirable plants are listed.

| Ht | Common Name, Botanical Name | Conditions & Wildlife |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| A | American Linden, <i>Tilia americana</i> | ☀ |
| A | Bur Oak, <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> | ☀ 🐿 |
| A | White Oak, <i>Quercus alba</i> | 🐿 |
| A | Northern Red Oak, <i>Quercus rubra</i> | ● 🐿 |
| A | Shagbark Hickory, <i>Carya ovata</i> | ☀ 💧 🐿 |
| A | Sugar Maple, <i>Acer saccharum</i> | ☀ |
| A | Tulip Tree, <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> | ☀ |
| B | American Plum, <i>Prunus americana</i> | ☀ 🐿 |
| B | Carolina Silverbell, <i>Halesia carolina</i> | ● - ☀ |
| B | Elderberry, <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> | 🐿 🐿 |
| B | Hawthorn, <i>Crataegus crusgalli</i> | ☀ 💧 🐿 |
| B | Pagoda Dogwood, <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> | ● - ☀ 🐿 |
| B | Redbud, <i>Cercis canadensis</i> | ● 🐿 |
| B | Serviceberry, <i>Amelanchier spp.</i> | ☀ 🐿 🐿 |
| B | Wafer Ash, <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> | ☀ |
| B | Witchhazel, <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> | ● 🐿 |
| B | Hop Hornbeam, <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> | ☀ |
| C | Arrowwood Viburnum, <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> | ☀ 🐿 🐿 |
| C | Big Bluestem, <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> | ☀ 💧 |
| C | Blue Vervain, <i>Verbena hastata</i> | ☀ 💧 🦋 |
| C | Cup Plant, <i>Silphium perfoliatum</i> | ☀ 🦋 🐿 |
| C | Fragrant Sumac, <i>Rhus aromatica</i> | ☀ 💧 🐿 |

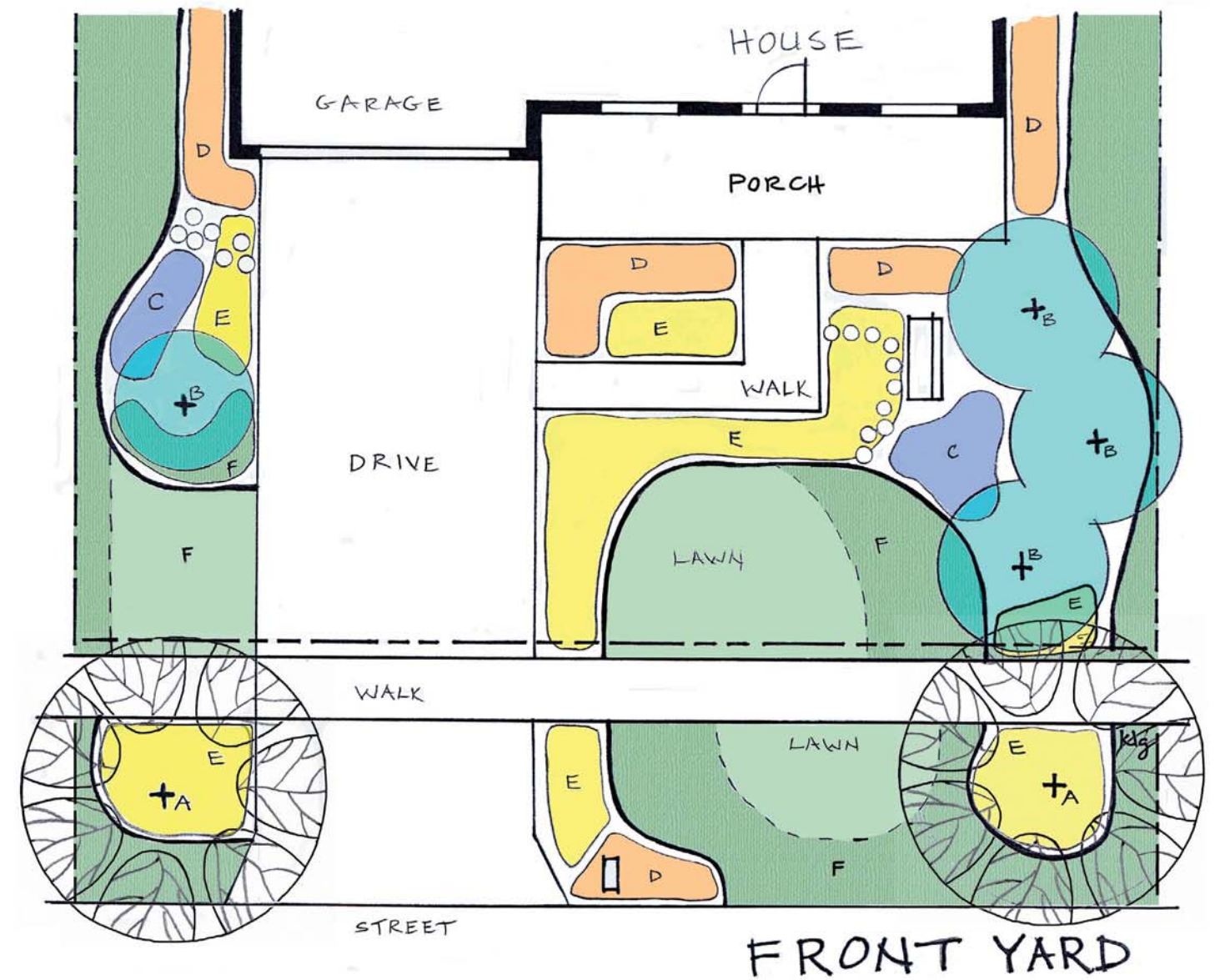
| Ht | Common Name, Botanical Name | Conditions & Wildlife |
|----|---|-----------------------|
| C | Hazelnut, <i>Corylus americana</i> | ☀ 🐿 🐿 |
| C | Highbush Cranberry, <i>Viburnum trilobum</i> | ☀ 🐿 🐿 |
| C | Indian Grass, <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> | ☀ 💧 🐿 🐿 |
| C | Indigo Bush, <i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> | ☀ 🦋 |
| C | Joe Pye Weed, <i>Eupatorium spp.</i> | ☀ 💧 🦋 |
| C | Ninebark, <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> | ☀ 🦋 🐿 |
| C | Purple Meadow Rue, <i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i> | ☀ 🦋 |
| C | Red Osier Dogwood, <i>Cornus stolonifera</i> | ☀ 💧 🐿 |
| C | Spicebush, <i>Lindera benzoin</i> | ● 🦋 🐿 |
| C | False Rue Anemone, <i>Isopyrum biternatum</i> | ● |
| C | Bluebells, <i>Mertensia virginiana</i> | ● |
| C | Swamp Rose, <i>Rosa palustris</i> | ☀ |
| C | White Wild Indigo, <i>Baptisia alba</i> | ☀ 💧 |
| C | Wild Senna, <i>Cassia hebecarpa</i> | ☀ |
| D | Black Chokeberry, <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> | ☀ 🐿 🐿 |
| D | Buttonbush, <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> | ☀ 💧 🦋 🐿 |
| D | Common Boneset, <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i> | ☀ 💧 🦋 |
| D | Compass Plant, <i>Silphium laciniatum</i> | 💧 🦋 🐿 |
| D | Culver's Root, <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> | ☀ 🦋 |
| D | Foamflower, <i>Tiarella cordifolia</i> | ● |
| D | Fox Sedge, <i>Carex vulpinoidea</i> | 💧 |
| D | Golden Alexander, <i>Zizia aurea</i> | ☀ |

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Native Plant Lists (continued)

| Ht | Common Name, Botanical Name | Conditions & Wildlife |
|----|---|--------------------------|
| D | Gro-Low Fragrant Sumac, <i>Rhus aromatica</i> | ☀️ 🐦 |
| D | Ironweed, <i>Vernonia fasciculata</i> | ☀️ 🦋 |
| D | Kalm's St. John's Wort, <i>Hypericum Kelmianum</i> | ☀️ 💧 |
| D | Little Bluestem, <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> | ☀️ 💧 |
| D | Maple Leaf Viburnum, <i>Viburnum acerifolium</i> | ● 🐿️ |
| D | Meadowrue, <i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i> | ☀️ 💧 |
| D | Meadowsweet, <i>Spirea alba</i> | ☀️ 💧 |
| D | New England Aster, <i>Aster novae-angliae</i> | ☀️ 🐦 🦋 |
| D | Obedient Plant, <i>Physostegia virginiana</i> | ☀️ |
| D | Prairie Dock, <i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i> | ☀️ 🐦 🦋 |
| D | Purple Flowering Raspberry, <i>Rubus odoratus</i> | ☀️ 🐦 🦋 |
| D | Queen of the Prairie, <i>Filipendula rubra</i> | ☀️ 💧 |
| D | Rosinweed, <i>Silphium integrifolium</i> | ☀️ 💧 🐦 |
| D | Sky Blue Aster, <i>Aster azureus</i> | ☀️ 💧 🐦 🦋 |
| D | Sprite Winterberry, <i>Ilex verticillata</i> | ☀️ 💧 |
| D | Stiff Goldenrod, <i>Solidago rigida</i> | ☀️ 💧 🦋 |
| D | Switchgrass, <i>Panicum virgatum</i> | ☀️ 💧 🐦 |
| D | Tall Coreopsis, <i>Coreopsis tripteris</i> | ☀️ 💧 |
| D | Wild Quinine, <i>Parthenium integrifolium</i> | ☀️ |
| D | Wild Senna, <i>Senna marilandica</i> | ☀️ |
| D | Yellow Coneflower, <i>Ratibida pinnata</i> | ☀️ 🐦 🦋 |
| E | Alum Root, <i>Heuchera richardsonii</i> | ☀️ |

| Ht | Common Name, Botanical Name | Conditions & Wildlife |
|----|---|--------------------------|
| E | Arrowhead, <i>Sagittaria latifolia</i> | 💧 |
| E | Baneberry, <i>Actaea spp.</i> | 💧 |
| E | Pale Beardtongue, <i>Penstemon spp.</i> | ● ☀️ 💧 |
| E | Bloodroot, <i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i> | ☀️ |
| E | Blue Cohosh, <i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i> | ● |
| E | Blue Flag Iris, <i>Iris virginica var. shrevei</i> | 💧 |
| E | Bottle Gentian, <i>Gentiana andrewsii</i> | ☀️ 💧 |
| E | Bottlebrush Grass, <i>Hystrix patula</i> | ● |
| E | Broad-leaved Woolly Sedge, <i>Carex pellita/lanuginosa</i> | ☀️ 💧 |
| E | Butterfly Milkweed, <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> | ☀️ 💧 🦋 |
| E | Cardinal Flower, <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> | ☀️ 💧 🐦 |
| E | Celandine Poppy, <i>Stylophorum diphylllum</i> | ● |
| E | Columbine, <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> | 💧 🐦 |
| E | Cream Wild Indigo, <i>Baptisia leucophaea</i> | ☀️ 💧 |
| E | False Sunflower, <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> | ☀️ 🐦 |
| E | Foxglove Beardtongue, <i>Penstemon digitalis</i> | ● ☀️ 🐦 |
| E | Gayfeather, <i>Liatris spp.</i> | ☀️ 💧 🦋 |
| E | Goatsbeard, <i>Aruncus dioicus</i> | ● 💧 |
| E | Grassleaf Goldenrod, <i>Solidago graminifolia</i> | ☀️ 💧 🦋 |
| E | Great Blue Lobelia, <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> | ☀️ |
| E | Interrupted Fern, <i>Osmunda claytoniana</i> | ● 💧 |
| E | Jack-in-the-Pulpit, <i>Arisaema triphyllum</i> | ● |



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Strata A plants, tall canopy-forming trees, are used to frame the house and provide shade. Remember to frame the house by using tall trees at far lot corners; do NOT frame the garage! Strata A plants can be located on the west or southwest sides to cast shade on living spaces. If this is not possible, use overhead pergola structures or roofs to provide shade in specific areas.

Strata B plants obscure bad views, form walls to enclose outdoor rooms and screen too-close neighbors. Strata B plants are used to accent building or living space corners, creating a transition from the tall house to the ground plane. Strata B plants can also be used next to a window to frame views from within the house.

Strata C plants provide less wall-like and confining enclosures to living spaces. They are the best choice if you are trying to preserve sunlight for prairie plantings.

Strata D plants line the house foundation for transition from wall to ground and define edges of living spaces where views are desired. Strata D plants form backdrops to ornamental plantings and guide pedestrian traffic from living space to living space. In masses or lines, they

create horizontal elements without blocking views or providing constraining enclosure.

Strata E plants provide color and texture fill for ornamental plantings and line walks and living space edges. They also create lines and shapes in the landscape.

Strata F plants are suitable for providing visual relief as lawn substitutes. It is more environmentally sound to use plants from Strata F that do not need mowing, watering or chemicals. Alternatively, minimize the size of the lawn by designing an interesting lawn shape, then filling the remainder with Strata F plants for monoculture visual relief, or with drifts of Strata E and Strata F plants for visual interest.

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