



# Balsam Fir

*Abies balsamea*

This native fir is an easy-to-grow tree, known for its blue-green foliage and evergreen aroma. The narrow, pyramid shape makes it a natural choice for windbreaks. It requires almost no care when used as a hedge or screen, only occasional waterings. And single trees soften house corners.

## **Mature Size:**

A large evergreen tree reaching 50 to 75 feet high and 20-25 feet wide. Older trees develop an oval habit with lateral branches that start relatively low to the ground.

## **Growth Speed:** Moderate Growth Rate

This tree grows at a slow rate, increasing at about one foot each year. They will reach their mature size anywhere from 15 to 30 years.

## **Sun Preference**

It does well in full or partial sunlight. Newly started trees prefer sheltered area for the first year of growth.

## **Soil Preference**

Prefers a dry, loose, sandy soil with a low pH in full sun. Water consistently and slowly.

## **Attributes**

- Grows in a pyramidal shape.
- Develops blisters of resin (balsam) along the trunk.
- Long, dark, 1 inch needles in pairs, with blunt tips.

## **Wildlife Value**

The seeds and buds are food for birds including grouse, squirrels, mice and voles. Moose and white-tailed deer use the balsam fir for food, cover and shelter. The bark is browsed by black bears. Beavers occasionally use the wood for dam building.



**Door County Land Trust**  
Protecting Door County's Exceptional Lands and Waters...Forever



# Red Pine

*Pinus resinosa*

This native evergreen is a hard-working, versatile specimen. The narrow, pyramid shape makes it a natural choice for windbreaks. It requires almost no care when used as a hedge or screen. Pairs of these hardy trees make great accents for doors and garden gates. And single trees soften house corners.

### Mature Size:

A large evergreen tree reaching 50 to 80 feet high with varying width. Older trees develop an oval habit with lateral branches that start relatively low to the ground.

### Growth Speed: Moderate Growth Rate

This tree grows at a moderate rate, with height increases of anywhere from less than 12” to 24” per year.

### Sun Preference

It is intolerant of shade, but does well in windy sites.

### Soil Preference

Prefers a dry, loose, sandy soil with a low pH in full sun. Trees are extremely cold tolerant.”

### Attributes

- Grows in a pyramidal shape.
- The red pine is susceptible to salt.
- Long, 5 to 6 inch needles in pairs, twisted and serrated.

### Wildlife Value

Red pine is an attractive tree that is used in recreational areas because of its colorful bark. This species provides cover for many species of mammals and birds. Deer, cottontails, and snowshoe hares browse seedlings. Songbirds, mice and chipmunks feed on the seed.



**Door County Land Trust**

Protecting Door County's Exceptional Lands and Waters...Forever



# Eastern White Pine

*Pinus strobus*

Eastern white pine forests originally covered much of north-central and northeastern North America. Only one percent of the old-growth forests remain after the extensive logging operations of the 18th century to early 20th century. Mature trees are often 200–250 years old, and some live to over 400 years. The Native American Haudenosaunee denominated it the “Tree of Peace”.

## **Mature Size:**

The eastern white pine grows to a height of 50–80’ and a spread of 20–40’ at maturity.

## **Growth Speed:** Fast Growth Rate

This tree grows at a fast rate, with height increases of more than 24” per year.

## **Sun Preference:**

Full sun and partial shade are best for this tree. It prefers a minimum of four hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.

## **Soil Preference:**

The eastern white pine grows in acidic, moist, well-drained and dry soils. While it does best in moist soil, the tree can have been known to tolerate everything from dry, rocky ridges to bogs.

## **Attributes:**

- Grows in an oval, pyramidal shape. Transplants easily.
- Is sensitive to air pollution, road salt and soil compaction.

## **Wildlife Value:**

Eastern white pine seeds are favored by black bears, rabbits, red squirrels and many birds, especially red crossbills. While potentially damaging to the trees, the bark is eaten by mammals such as beavers, snowshoe hares, porcupines, rabbits and mice. White pines provide nesting sites as well for many birds including woodpeckers, common grackles, mourning doves, chickadees and nuthatches.



**Door County Land Trust**

Protecting Door County's Exceptional Lands and Waters...Forever



# White Spruce

*Picea glauca*

A straight, tall tree easily recognized by its needles. Cones always hang down. Beautiful year-round color.

## **Mature Size:**

The white spruce grows to a height of 40–60' and a spread of 10–20' at maturity.

## **Growth Speed:** Medium Growth Rate

This tree grows at a medium rate, with height increases of 13–24" per year.

## **Sun Preference:**

Full sun is the ideal condition for this tree, meaning it should get at least six hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.

## **Soil Preference:**

The white spruce grows in acidic, loamy, moist, sandy, well-drained and clay soils. It has some drought tolerance.

## **Attributes:**

- Transplants readily.
- Can withstand wind, heat, cold, drought, crowding and some shade.
- Works well in cities and rural windbreaks.

## **Wildlife Value:**

Besides providing nesting sites and shelter, white spruces provide food for many kinds of wildlife. Crossbills, evening grosbeaks and red-breasted nuthatches prefer the seeds. The foliage is eaten by grouse, rabbits and deer. Red squirrels cut open cones to eat the seeds, and they feast upon young, tender spruce shoots. The bark is enjoyed by both porcupines and black bears, sometimes to the detriment of the trees.



**Door County Land Trust**

Protecting Door County's Exceptional Lands and Waters...Forever



# False Sunflower

## *Heliopsis helianthoides*

*Heliopsis helianthoides*, or rough oxeye, is a rhizomatous perennial native to eastern and central North America, from Canada to the southern U.S. It grows 16-59 inches (40-150 cm) tall, producing bright yellow, daisy-like flowers with fertile ray florets and a yellow-brown center. Blooming midsummer to early autumn, it thrives in meadows, woodlands, and roadsides, adding a vibrant presence to natural landscapes.

Its toothed leaves vary in shape—oval, triangular, or lance-shaped—and texture, from smooth to rough. The plant spreads by rhizomes, forming dense clumps over time, and produces small dry achenes as fruit. Adaptable and low-maintenance, it attracts pollinators and works well in prairie plantings and wildflower gardens.

**Common Name:** Rough Oxeye, Smooth Oxeye, False Sunflower

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Native Range:** Eastern and Central North America

**Zone:** 3 to 9

**Height:** 16 to 59 inches

**Bloom Time:** Midsummer to early autumn

**Bloom Description:** Bright yellow, sunflower-like

**Sun:** Full sun

**Water:** Medium

**Maintenance:** Low to Moderate

**Suggested Use:** Prairie gardens, naturalized areas, pollinator gardens

**Flower:** Showy, Long-lasting

**Attracts:** Butterflies

**Culture:** Thrives in moist, fertile, well-drained soils under full sun. Plants are stiff and upright, sometimes requiring staking for support. It spreads via rhizomes, forming dense stands over time. Generally low-maintenance, though occasional deadheading can prolong blooming.

**Uses:** deal for prairie plantings, meadow gardens, wildflower gardens, and naturalized landscapes. Excellent as a cut flower and for attracting pollinators.



**Door County Land Trust**

Protecting Door County's Exceptional Lands and Waters...Forever



# Brown-eyed Susan

*Rudbeckia triloba*

*Rudbeckia triloba*, commonly known as branched coneflower, thin-leaved coneflower, three-lobed coneflower, or brown-eyed Susan, is a biennial or short-lived perennial native to prairies, open woods, and rocky slopes in the eastern and Midwestern U.S. (New York to Florida, west to Minnesota, Utah, and Texas). It typically grows 2-5 feet tall and can spread up to 4 feet wide, forming a bushy, multi-branched habit when uncrowded.

**Common Name:** Branched Coneflower, Brown-Eyed Susan

**Type:** Biennial or Short-Lived Perennial

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Native Range:** Eastern and Midwestern United States

**Zone:** 4 to 10

**Height:** 2-5 feet

**Bloom Time:** Late Summer to Fall

**Bloom Description:** Small, bright yellow with dark centers

**Sun:** Full sun to light shade

**Water:** Medium

**Maintenance:** Low

**Suggested Use:** Naturalized Gardens, Prairie Plantings, Borders

**Flower:** Showy, Long-Blooming, Good Cut

**Attracts:** Butterflies, bees and birds

**Culture:** Tolerant of varied soil conditions, *R. triloba* thrives in sandy or loamy soils with moderate moisture but is drought-tolerant once established. It self-sows freely, ensuring continued presence in naturalized plantings. Deadheading can extend bloom time. If grown in exposed areas, staking before flowering is recommended to prevent plants from toppling.

**Uses:** Perfect for mass plantings, prairie gardens, low-maintenance landscapes, and borders. Pairs beautifully with ornamental grasses like *Miscanthus*. Works well in informal gardens and makes an excellent cut flower..

**Of Note:** Easy to grow from seed, blooming in its second year. Readily self-seeds, making it ideal for naturalized plantings



**Door County Land Trust**

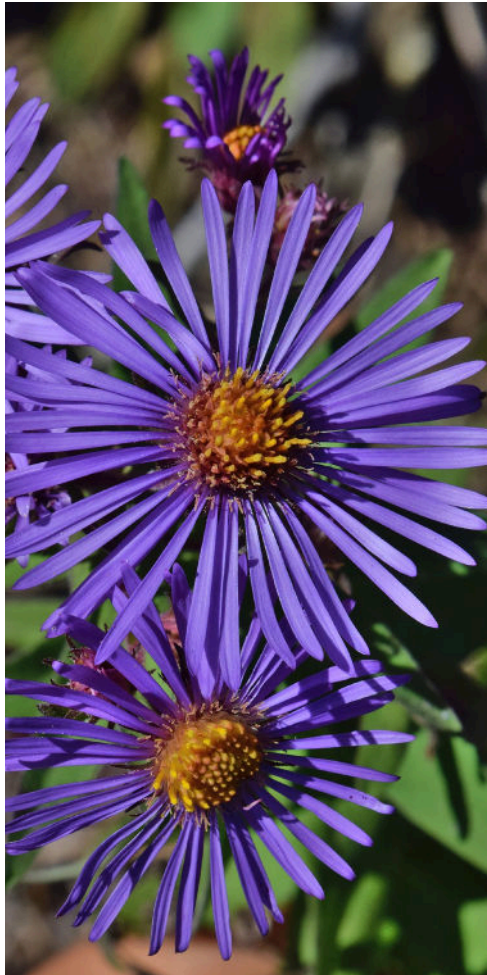
Protecting Door County's Exceptional Lands and Waters...Forever



# New England Aster

## *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*

*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*, commonly called New England aster, is a native perennial which occurs in moist prairies, meadows, thickets, low valleys and stream banks. It is a stout, leafy plant typically growing 3-6' tall with a robust, upright habit. Features a profuse bloom of daisy-like asters (to 1.5" diameter) with purple rays and yellow centers from late summer to early fall. Rough, hairy, lance-shaped leaves (to 4" long) clasp stiff, hairy stems. Flowers are attractive to butterflies.



**Common Name:** New England aster

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Zone:** 4 to 8

**Height:** 3-6 feet

**Bloom Time:** August to September

**Bloom Description:** Deep pink-purple

**Sun:** Full sun

**Water:** Medium

**Maintenance:** Medium

**Suggested Use:** Naturalize, Rain Garden

**Flower:** Showy, Good Cut

**Attracts:** Butterflies and bees

**Culture:** Easily grown in medium, well-drained soil. Prefers moist, rich soils. Good air circulation helps reduce incidence of foliar diseases. Pinching back stems several times before mid-July will help control plant height, promote bushiness and perhaps obviate the need for staking. Pinching back will also delay flowering.

**Uses:** Effective naturalized in drifts in meadows or in native or wildflower gardens.

**Of Note:** Susceptible to powdery mildew. Aster wilt can also be an occasional problem, particularly if plants are grown in poorly-drained clay soils.



**Door County Land Trust**  
Protecting Door County's Exceptional Lands and Waters...Forever



# Golden Alexander

*Zizia aurea*, commonly called golden Alexander, is a native perennial which occurs most often in small colonies in moist woods and meadows, thickets, glades and prairies. Features flat-topped clusters (compound umbels) of tiny yellow flowers in late spring atop stems growing to 3' tall. Distinguished from other carrot family members by the absence of a flower stalk on the central flower of each umbel. Both basal and stem leaves are compound biternate with toothed leaflets. The similar *Zizia aptera* has simple, heart-shaped basal leaves.

**Common Name:** golden Alexander

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Family:** Apiaceae

**Native Range:** Eastern Canada to southern United States

**Zone:** 3 to 8

**Height:** 1.50 to 3.00 feet

**Spread:** 1.50 to 2.00 feet

**Bloom Time:** May to June

**Bloom Description:** Yellow

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Medium

**Maintenance:** Medium

**Suggested Use:** Naturalize, Rain Garden

**Flower:** Showy, Good Cut

**Attracts:** Butterflies

**Garden locations:** Grows best in the full sun; in pine woods, in mixed hardwood forests, in sandhills, and roadside banks.

**Uses:** Best massed in open woodland or prairie areas, wild or native plant gardens.

**Of Note:** No serious insect or disease problems. Foliage tends to depreciate as the summer progresses. In ideal conditions can reseed heavily.



**Door County Land Trust**  
Protecting Door County's Exceptional Lands and Waters...Forever