

Plants for Hellstrips

The lawn extension, or hellstrip as we often call it, can be a difficult place for plants. It's incredibly hot and dry in midsummer, piled with snow and salt in winter, and plants must be fairly short to not impede driver's views for safety. They are often full of tree roots and walked on and driven over. All of this limits the number of plants that will not only survive but look good in the heat of summer! Here's some native plants that I've found survive these harsh conditions AND even look good through the heat and drought in summer. There are of course more plants that will work, and plants not native to Michigan, but I've chosen to focus on the plants that will work in the harshest conditions and are native to Michigan.

Sun:

Allium cernuum, nodding wild onion
Antennaria neglecta, pussytoes
Asclepias tuberosa, butterflyweed
Asclepias verticillata, whorled milkweed
Coreopsis lanceolata, sand coreopsis
Euphorbia corollata, flowering spurge
Fragaria virginiana, wild strawberry
Helianthus occidentalis, western sunflower
Liatris aspera, L. scariosa, L. cylindracea, blazing-star
Penstemon hirsutus, hairy beardtongue
Ruellia humilis, wild petunia
Solidago nemoralis, old-field goldenrod
Symphyotrichum ericoides, heath aster
Symphyotrichum oolentangiense, sky-blue aster
Tradescantia ohienensis, spiderwort

Bouteloua curtipendula, side-oats grama
Sporobolus heterolepis, prairie dropseed

Shade/Part-shade:

Allium cernuum, nodding wild onion
Antennaria plantaginifolia, pussytoes
Apocynum cannabinum, indian hemp
Euphorbia corollata, flowering spurge
Eurybia macrophylla, big-leaved aster
Packera obovata, round-leaved ragwort
Penstemon hirsutus, hairy beardtongue
Polygonatum spp., solomon's seal
Ruellia humilis, wild petunia
Solidago caesia, blue-stem goldenrod
Tradescantia ohienensis, spiderwort

Carex pensylvanica, pen sedge
Carex rosea

Trees:

Acer rubrum, red maple
Celtis occidentalis, hackberry
Gleditsia triacanthos, honey locust
Gymnocladus dioicus, Kentucky coffee-tree
Platanus occidentalis, sycamore
Quercus bicolor, swamp white oak
Quercus macrocarpa, bur oak
Quercus muehlenbergii, chinkapin oak
Tilia americana, basswood

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