

WISCONSIN WILDCARDS



RARE SPECIES



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WILD LUPINE



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NATIVE TREES



PRAIRIE BUSH CLOVER

Lespedeza leptostachya

STATUS: Listed as endangered by Wisconsin and threatened by the federal government.

BASIC ID

This perennial legume grows up to 3' tall. The white, yellow, or pink flowers are grouped at the tips of the stems. The leaves and stems have silky hairs. It flowers from July to September.

LIFE HISTORY

Preferred habitat is dry to medium-moist prairies, often in sand or gravel. It cannot tolerate much shade.

RANGE

This plant is native only in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and western and southwestern Wisconsin.

WILD!

The first prairie bush clover specimen was collected in Dane County in 1860!

FOR INFORMATION

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/factsheets

ER-106Z 2003



Photo: W.S. Alverson
Recycled paper



DWARF LAKE IRIS

Iris lacustris

STATUS: Listed as threatened by both Wisconsin and the federal government.

BASIC ID This early spring bloomer has an eye-catching blossom, about two inches wide. Its bluish-purple petals are marked with yellow crests. Its sword-shaped leaves grow up to six inches long and are arranged in fans.

LIFE HISTORY Thrives in thin, moist, sandy or rocky soils in sun-dappled openings under white cedar and birch. It grows in colonies and spreads primarily by horizontal stems.

RANGE In Wisconsin, it grows near the northern shores of Lake Michigan in Brown and Door counties.

WILD! "Lacustris" means "of lakes," reflecting where this plant grows.

If you think you have this plant on your property, contact the Bureau of Endangered Resources at 608-266-7012.

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/factsheets

ER-108C 2005



Photo: Marsha Makhholm
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DUNE (OR PITCHER'S) THISTLE

Cirsium pitcheri

STATUS: Listed as threatened both by Wisconsin and the federal government.

BASIC ID

Dune thistle has deeply cut, downy, blue-green leaves and cream-pink flowers. When mature, it sends up a 3' flower stalk in early to mid-summer.

LIFE HISTORY

It grows between an open, sandy beach and a vegetated dune. It takes several years to mature and flowers only once. After flowering, the plant dies.

RANGE

In Wisconsin dune thistle grows mostly along Lake Michigan in Door, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan counties.

WILD!

Dune thistle seeds are larger than those of any other thistles in the eastern U.S.A.

FOR INFORMATION

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/factsheets

ER-106Y 2003



Photo: Darcy Kind
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BLACK ASH

Fraxinus nigra

TREE ID: Look for a medium-sized tree with opposite branching and compound leaves, each with 7-11 leaflets. Leaves turn yellow and are often the first to drop in fall.

STATE RECORD TREE: 90 feet tall, 2.7 feet in diameter, Sawyer County.

MANAGEMENT: Black ash grow in pure stands in peat lowlands, or individually or in small groups in moist uplands. They are generally shade intolerant and may regenerate by re-sprouting or natural seeding. Planting seedlings is the surest method.

SEED FACTS: Only female trees bear seed. Seeds ripen in fall and can remain on trees into winter. Seeds need cold/warm/cold stratification. Expect 8,100 seeds/pound.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/nursery

FR-277a 2004



Photo: Gordon Christians,
WDNR
Recycled paper



WILD LUPINE

Lupinus perennis

BASIC ID

This sun-loving perennial grows best in open savannas or prairies. In Wisconsin, it germinates in mid-April. Its spikes of blue flowers bloom in late May, and its seed pods mature to brown or black before bursting in late June or early July.

IMPORTANCE

The caterpillar of the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly relies exclusively on lupine leaves for food.

SEED PLANTING

- Collect mature seed pods before they burst
- Dry pods under a screen to extract seeds
- Plant seeds in late fall before snow cover for best growth
- Select sunny, weed-free areas with sandy, well-drained soil

FOR INFORMATION

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invertebrates/karner.htm

FR-237 2003



Photo: Thomas Meyer
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