

Shoreline Maintenance Workshop



Ways to identify:

1. Use smartphone apps to identify (Aaron recommended PictureThis)
2. Keep tags from project installation or make your own tags. Place them by native plants, so when it is time to do maintenance, you will be able to determine what is native.

Examples of Native Plants:

1. Sedges. This is a plant family. They are very good at preventing erosion and anchor the shoreline. Sedges look like grass; however, sedges have edges.
2. Golden Rod. These have vibrant yellow flowers.
3. Cardinal Flower. It gets its name from its bright red flowers.

Increasing the spread of native plants

1. Plants can be split to fill sparse areas. Here is an article on how to split plants:
<https://extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/dividing-perennials>
2. Seeds can be spread to fill out a buffer. Find the seed pod and open it, then spread throughout the garden.
3. People can buy more native plants if they desire. The Prairie Restorations sells native plants. It is important to remember that it will take time for a shoreline buffer to become full. It will look sparse for at least the first year until the plants establish and spread.

Example weeds to look out for:

1. Red Canary Grass- Invasive plant that is a common weed in shoreline buffers. Looks like the native Blue Joint Grass. Here is more information about it:
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/grasses/reedcanarygrass.html>
2. Ragweed- Is called a "broadleaf" type of weed. Herbicides for broad leaf plants can be used on it. Consider the overall state of the buffer when tackling removal.
3. Thistle- Its leaves have prickly edges. Grows up to 5 feet tall.
4. Buckthorn- Invasive shrub. Here are more tips on how to identify it:
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn/index.html>
Exposed soil can allow weeds to spread. This is one of the risks of hand pulling weeds since it exposes the soil.

Ways to remove weeds:

1. Controlled burns
2. Keep the weeds mowed down. If it can't get big enough to make seeds it cannot spread.
3. Wicking: Put on gloves and spray herbicide onto your hands. Grab the weed to wick the herbicide up the stem. This is a good method to prevent the herbicide from getting on native plants.
4. Spray with herbicide. Can buy plant specific herbicides which can be used depending on the other plants present. For example, a grass herbicide can be used on reed canary grass if it is not

surrounded by native grasses. When shopping, you can ask a salesperson for an herbicide to target a specific weed and they should be able to help you.

5. For shrubs like buckthorn, cut it down and then apply herbicide to the stump.
6. Hand pulling can be used but should be done when plants have become established. Hand pulling too early can cause native plants to be pulled up as well.