



What Can I Plant over a Septic Tank?

- Consider growing a fast growing vine like Virginia creeper, Parthenocissus virginiana in a container to contain roots. Check our other suggestions for vines in “Files” to the left of the page (What vines can you Recommend?)
- Use half barrels or large containers to grow annuals & perennials

Ideas from **Could you please tell me what native plants I can plant on the drain field?**

- When choosing native plants for over drain fields, choose those suited for a dry prairie.
- You can get plant material either as a seed mix or selected plants and plugs.
- Native plants will absorb the additional nutrients in the soil preventing them from readily entering the groundwater. Additionally, the roots of dry prairie plants do not clog septic system pipes because they do not thrive in water saturated conditions.
- Avoid using any plants that require moist or wet soils. These plants seek additional moisture and will likely invade open pores and pipes.

Note: *Larval host plants for butterflies

Wildflowers & Forbs

For sunny spots:

- Butterfly Weed*
- Sky Blue Aster*
- Smooth Aster*
- White Aster
- Sweet Everlasting
- Canada Milk Vetch
- Lance leaf Coreopsis
- Purple Prairie Clover*
- Pale Purple Coneflower
- Rough Blazing Star
- Royal Catchfly
- Wild Lupine*
- Dotted Mint
- Beardtongue
- Black Eyed Susan
- Wild Petunia
- Stiff Goldenrod
- Showy Goldenrod
- Ohio Spiderwort

- Hoary Vervain
- New Jersey Tea*
- Lobelia
- Flowering Spurge

For shady places:

- Astilbe
- Hardy Begonia,
- Turtle Head* (*Chelone glabra*)
- Ferns
- Sweet Woodruff
- Lady's Mantle

Grasses, Sedges & Rushes

- Sideoats Grama
- Little Bluestem
- Prairie Dropseed
- Plains Oval Sedge
- June grass
- Prairie Brome

Shrubs & Trees

These are not recommended over any part of a septic system. If you do choose to plant trees and shrubs always choose an upland variety and plant it far enough away so that the dripline of the mature tree will fall outside the drain field or mound.

Bulbs

- Arum
- Anemone/Windflowers
- Crocus
- Hyacinth
- Iris
- Lilies
- Daffodils
- Tulips

Read More

- Could you please tell me what native plants I can plant on the drain field?
https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/could-you-please-tell-me-what-native-plants-i-can-plant-on-the-drain-field?fbclid=IwAR0khiNTjtjA_DYPONkibkwNykSCLVNKkLItVt8qZPHKiBHUPxNEAKCe_vc
- Landscaping Septic Systems (most plants recommended range to Southern Ontario)
http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/pdf/ww/septic/landscaping_sfqf02.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1hkk2Q_

5nYUzQiu6_jnpludIIQZSRPiaNHayzd5dNwDjWhW5cwwEp3KHY

- SepticSmart! Understanding Your Home's Septic System (see page 7 for Minimum Separation Distances For Leaching Or Filter Beds)
shttps://www.rvca.ca/media/k2/attachments/Septic_Smart_English.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3WG4fYxoFSOA5hI-VLMJgBkjERSanomn-ROYF1GEItSMplRnxu7dHW5eA
- Butterfly Larval Host Plant List <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/counties/york/maescapes/maescapes-blog/butterfly-larval-host-plant-list>