

RESTORATION TOOLS

*The best management is integrated management.
No one of these tools on its own is a cure-all.
Think about how each could address the needs of
your property.*

Hand-Weeding—can be used to control many non-woody invasive species in areas where herbicide use is undesirable. Be vigilant when disturbing large areas of soil as the disruption will promote the germination of weed seeds lying dormant in the ground.

Herbicide—can be used with caution to control invasive species. The two most common methods of application are spraying herbicide on the leaves of the plant, or, for woody species, cutting the trunk/stem close to the ground and applying herbicide to the stump. Herbicides must always be used in accordance with their labels and with the appropriate safety equipment.

Mowing—can be used to set back invasives or more vigorous native species to give others a chance. Make sure that any invasive species you might be mowing are unable to re-sprout from stem fragments.

Burning—can be used to reinvigorate natives and set back invasives. Fire is essential for many Oak Openings ecosystems, but should be planned and implemented carefully.

Invasive Plants to Control

This is not a comprehensive list of the invasive plants found in sand barrens. These six species are the most widespread. For more information about how to ID and control these and other invasive species you might find in the Oak Openings Region, visit the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network at www.misin.msu.edu.



SPOTTED KNAPWEED



CANADA THISTLE



SMOOTH BROME



AUTUMN OLIVE



BOUNCING BET



COMMON MULLEIN

Additional Resources

Native Seed, Plants, and Seed Collection:

Wild Ones—Oak Openings Chapter
oakopenings.wildones.org

Metroparks Toledo Native Seed Nursery
[metroparkstoledo.com/features-and-rentals/
native-seed-nursery/](http://metroparkstoledo.com/features-and-rentals/native-seed-nursery/)

Wood County Park District Stewardship Department
(419) 661-5113

Toledo Zoo Conservation Department
www.toledozoo.org/prairie/

Possible Restoration Assistance:

The Nature Conservancy
419-867-1521

Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.nrcs.usda.gov



The Green Ribbon Initiative is a partnership of public and private organizations, landowners, and individuals working together to preserve, enhance, and restore critical natural areas in the Oak Openings Region of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan.

www.oakopenings.org oakopenings@tnc.org

HOMEOWNER'S NATIVE HABITAT GUIDE



MIDWEST SAND BARRENS

*A resource for landowners interested
in restoring their Oak Openings
Region property.*

Reading Your Landscape

If you have very sandy, well-drained soil, and have a hard time getting grass to grow ,you may have the right conditions for the Midwest Sand Barren. Many of the species growing in this habitat have adapted to the harsh conditions by covering leaves and stems with hairs to hold moisture and shade their surfaces.



Visit Midwest Sand Barrens

Kitty Todd Nature Preserve
10420 Old State Line Rd, Swanton, OH 43558

Oak Openings Preserve Metropark
4139 Girdham Rd, Swanton, OH 43558

Sand Barrens Native Plants

Grasses/Sedges Flowers Trees/Shrubs

BASIC: This list indicates plants that are most common to this plant community. Seeds are available through the GRI.

- ☐ Common Broom-sedge *Andropogon virginicus*
- ☐ Purple Three-awned Grass *Aristida purpurascens*
- ☐ June Grass *Koeleria macrantha*
- ☐ Little Bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium*
- ☐ Indiangrass *Sorghastrum nutans*
- ☐ Muhlenberg’s Sedge *Carex muhlenbergii*
- ☐ Slender Umbrella Sedge *Cyperus lupulinus*
- ☐ Butterfly-weed *Asclepias tuberosa*
- ☐ Grass-leaved Goldenrod *Euthamia graminifolia*
- ☐ Western Sunflower *Helianthus occidentalis*
- ☐ Rough Blazing-star *Liatris aspera*
- ☐ Sweet Everlasting *Pseudognaphalium obtusifol-*
- ☐ Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta*
- ☐ Early Goldenrod *Solidago juncea*
- ☐ Gray Goldenrod *Solidago nemoralis*
- ☐ Sky Blue Aster *Symphotrichum oolaen-*
- ☐ Smooth Aster *Symphotrichum laeve*
- ☐ Hairy Pinweed *Lechea mucronata*
- ☐ Little-leaved Tick- *Desmodium ciliare*
- ☐ Small-leaved Tick- *Desmodium marilandicum*
- ☐ Roundhead Bushclover *Lespedeza capitata*
- ☐ Hairy Bushclover *Lespedeza hirta*
- ☐ Wild Lupine *Lupinus perennis*
- ☐ Wild Bergamot *Monarda fistulosa*
- ☐ Hairy Mountain Mint *Pycnanthemum pilosum*

INTERMEDIATE: These plants indicate that the habitat is maturing. Consider interseeding with species from this list.

- ☐ American Panic Grass *Dichanthelium columbi-*
- ☐ Southern Hairy Panic Grass *Dichanthelium implica-*
- ☐ Thin Paspalum *Paspalum setaceum*
- ☐ Dwarf Dandelion *Krigia virginica*
- ☐ Scaly Blazing-star *Liatris squarrosa*
- ☐ Plains Frostweed *Crocanthemum bicknellii*
- ☐ Canada Frostweed *Crocanthemum cana-*
- ☐ Leggett’s Pinweed *Lechea pulchella*
- ☐ Flowering Spurge *Euphorbia corollata*
- ☐ Sessile-leaved Tick-trefoil *Desmodium sessilifolium*
- ☐ Dotted Horsemint *Monarda punctata*
- ☐ Prairie Thimbleweed *Anemone cylindrica*
- ☐ Woodland Thimbleweed *Anemone virginiana*
- ☐ Pasture Rose *Rosa carolina*
- ☐ New Jersey Tea *Ceanothus americanus*

HIGH BIODIVERSITY: These plants indicate that the habitat is mature. Plants on this list may be difficult to acquire.

- ☐ Poverty Oat Grass *Danthonia spicata*
- ☐ Porcupine Grass *Hesperostipa spartea*
- ☐ Sand Dropseed *Sporobolus cryptandrus*
- ☐ Purple Sand Grass *Triplasis purpurea*
- ☐ Clasping Milkweed *Asclepias amplexicaulis*
- ☐ Plains Puccoon *Lithospermum car-*
- ☐ Prickly Pear *Opuntia humifusa*
- ☐ Orange-grass *Hypericum gentianoide*
- ☐ Bastard-toadflax *Comandra umbellata*
- ☐ Birdfoot Violet *Viola pedata*

WHY IT MATTERS

The well-drained, sandy soils and open conditions make it very difficult for most plants to survive. However, many Oak Openings native species have adapted to the harsh conditions . You can work with nature by planting native plants that can tolerate these conditions without special treatment or



STEPS TO BACKYARD HABITAT RESTORATION

1. Inventory what you already have
2. Watch water behavior
3. Remove invasive species
4. See what returns naturally
5. Enhance with native species
6. Maintain with mowing