



INDIANA NATIVES: Made for Indiana

Plants that are native to Indiana offer so many benefits – especially in landscape design and land reclamation and restoration. One might wonder, “Why grow anything else?” Many native plants are essentially self-sustaining and they seldom spread to environments where they are not welcome- a common problem with many exotic, non-native plants. Many native species like tulip tree, hydrangea, black chokeberry, purple coneflower, cardinal flower and ostrich fern, are available in nurseries.

Indigenous plants are a significant part of a region’s geographic context. In fact, they help define it. They have proven themselves capable of surviving in a landscape for millennia. What better plants can there be, if not the natives, to confront the soil conditions, climate, pests, and diseases of the local areas?”

-Michael Homoya IDNR, Nature Preserves.

Flowering Perennials

Spring

- Columbine (Shade, yellow)
- Blue False Indigo (Part sun, blue)
- Blue Flag Iris (Part sun, blue)
- Wild Geranium (Shade, lavender)
- Virginia Bluebells (Shade, blue)
- Blue Phlox (Sun, blue)
- Fire Pink (Part sun, red)
- Celandine Poppy (Shade, yellow)

Summer

- Marsh Milkweed (Sun, pink)
- Butterfly Weed (Sun, orange)
- Tall Coreopsis (Sun, yellow)
- Purple Coneflower (Sun, purple)
- Spotted Joe-Pye-Weed (Sun, pink)
- Sweet Joe-Pye-Weed (Part sun, pink)
- Queen of the Prairie (Sun, pink)
- False Sunflower (Sun, yellow)
- Dense Blazing Star (Sun, purple)
- Violet Lespedeza (Sun, violet)
- Cardinal Flower (Part sun, red)
- Great Blue Lobelia (Part shade, blue)
- Bergamot (Sun, purple)
- Summer Phlox (Part sun, purple)
- Yellow Coneflower (Sun, yellow)
- Green-Headed Coneflower (Part sun, yellow)
- Sweet Black-Eyed Susan (Sun, yellow)
- Royal Catchfly (Sun, red)
- Culver’s Root (Sun, white)

Fall

- New England Aster (Part sun, purple)
- Smooth Aster (Part sun, blue)
- Short’s Aster (Shade, lavender)
- Autumn Sneezeweed (Part sun, yellow)
- Blue-stemmed Goldenrod (Part sun, yellow)
- Grey Goldenrod (Part sun, yellow)
- Stiff Goldenrod (Sun, yellow)

Grasses

- Big Bluestem
- Side-Oats Gramma
- Bottlebrush Grass
- June Grass
- Switch Grass
- Little Bluestem
- Indian Grass
- Prairie Dropseed

Groundcovers

- Canada Anemone
- Wild Ginger
- Palm Sedge
- Common Oak Sedge
- Running Strawberry Bush
- Dwarf Crested Iris
- Creeping Phlox
- Strawberry

Trees

Sugar Maple
Red Maple
Arborvitae
Redbud
Green Hawthorn
American Beech
White Ash
Tulip Poplar
Sycamore
Wild Plum
White Oak
Shingle Oak
Bur Oak
Red Oak
Pin Oak
Eastern Hemlock

Gray Dogwood
American Hazelnut
Wahoo
Common Winterberry
Spicebush
Fragrant Sumac
Shining Sumac
Blackhaw
American cranberry Bush
Prickley Ash

Ferns

Maidenhair fern
Evergreen shield fern
Cinnamon fern
Ostrich fern
Christmas fern

Shrubs

Serviceberry
Black Chokeberry
New Jersey Tea
Buttonbush

Vines

Woolly Dutchman's Pipe
Crossvine
Virginia creeper

Benefits of Native Plants

- **Native plants do not require fertilizers.** Vast amounts of fertilizers run off into lakes and rivers harming aquatic life.
- **Native plants require fewer pesticides than lawns.** Nationally, over 70 million pounds of pesticides are applied to lawns each year. . People and pets in contact with chemically treated lawns and gardens can be exposed to pesticides.
- **Native plants require less water than lawns.** In urban areas, lawn irrigation uses as much as 30% of the water consumption. Many native Midwest plants increase the soil's capacity to store water.
- **Native plants help reduce air pollution.** Natural landscapes do not require mowing. One gas-powered lawnmower emits 11 times the air pollution of a new car for each hour of operation. Native plants remove carbon from the air.
- **Native plants provide shelter and food for wildlife.** Native plants attract a variety of birds, butterflies, and other wildlife by providing diverse habitats and food sources. losely mowed lawns are of little use to most wildlife.
- **Native plants promote biodiversity and stewardship of our natural heritage.** In the U.S., approximately 20 million acres of lawn are cultivated, covering more land than any single crop. Native plants are a part of our natural heritage.
- **Native plants save money.** A study by Applied Ecological Services (Brodhead, WI) of larger properties estimates that over a 20 year period, the cumulative cost of maintaining a prairie or a wetland totals \$3,000 per acre versus \$20,000 per acre for non-native turf grasses.

Merry Lea Environmental Center