Landscaping with Plants Native to Indiana

Whether you're providing wildlife habitat or creating gardens to beautify your home, native plants provide many landscaping solutions.

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.

—Michael Homoya, State Botanist,/Plant Ecologist, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves

INPAWS recommends the listed items as the most garden-worthy plants native to Indiana. They are available through many garden centers—look for the Grow Indiana Natives logo—and will grow without pampering if you site them where their basic light and moisture requirements are met. You'll find INPAWS-certified native plant sources at **growindiananatives.org**.

These lists are not exhaustive but aim to introduce you to reliable, well-behaved natives that you can use decoratively, to attract wildlife, or simply to restore the balance of nature to a landscape. Photos and details of size, flower color, and other attributes are available for many of these plants at **inpaws.org** under Landscaping.

The mission of INPAWS is to help Indiana appreciate, preserve, use, and study its native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, and to teach people about their beauty, diversity, and importance to our environment.

We invite you to join this effort by becoming a member. Sign up at **inpaws.org**, where you'll find information about our spring native plant sale, fall conference, Letha's Youth Outdoors Fund, native plant rescues, garden tours, and regional chapter programs.

You may also enjoy our lively community of native plant enthusiasts on Facebook. Find our public group at Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS).

NATURAL PLANT COMMUNITIES

Woods Edge (part shade)

FLOWER

Blue star willow	*Amsonia tabernaemontana*
American bellflower	*Campanulastrum americanum*
Sweet joe-pye weed	*Eupatorium purpureum*
Dwarf crested iris	*Iris cristata*
Blue lobelia	*Lobelia siphilitica*
Solomon's plume	*Smilacina racemosa*
Virginia bluebell	*Mertensia virginica*
Wild bergamot	*Monarda fistulosa*
Sundrops	*Oenothera tetragona*
Stiff goldenrod	*Oligoneuron rigidum*
Penstemon	*Penstemon digitalis*
Wild sweet william	*Phlox divaricata*
Garden phlox	*Phlox paniculata*
Zigzag goldenrod	*Solidago flexicaulis*
Gray goldenrod	*Solidago nemoralis*
Aromatic aster	*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*
Spiderwort	*Tradescantia ohioensis*
Bird's foot violet	*Viola pedata*

GRASS

Northern sea oats	*Chasmanthium latifolium*

SHRUB

Roughleaf dogwood	*Cornus drummondii*
Witchhazel	*Hamamelis virginiana*
Smooth hydrangea	*Hydrangea arborescens*
Winterberry holly	*Ilex verticillata*
Black chokeberry	*Photinia melanocarpa*
Ninebark	*Physocarpus opulifolius*
Fragrant sumac	*Rhus aromatica*
Elderberry	*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *canadensis*
Arrowwood viburnum	*Viburnum dentatum*
Nannyberry	*Viburnum lentago*
American cranberrybush	*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum* (caution: often mislabled)

TREE

Serviceberry	*Amelanchier laevis*
Redbud	*Cercis canadensis*
Pagoda dogwood	*Cornus alternifolia*

VINE

Woolly dutchman's pipe	*Aristolochia tomentosa*
Crossvine	*Bignonia capreolata*

Woodland (shade)

FERN

Maidenhair fern	*Adiantum pedatum*
Ostrich fern	*Matteuccia struthiopteris*
Cinnamon fern	*Osmunda cinnamomea*
Royal fern	*Osmunda regalis*
Christmas fern	*Polystichum acrostichoides*

FLOWER

Columbine	*Aquilegia canadensis*
Wild ginger	*Asarum canadense*
Turtlehead	*Chelone glabra*
Woodland larkspur	*Delphinium tricorne*
Wild geranium	*Geranium maculatum*
Swamp rose mallow	*Hibiscus moscheutos*
Blue flag	*Iris virginica*
Solomon's plume	*Smilacina racemosa*
Virginia bluebell	*Mertensia virginica*
Mayapple	*Podophyllum peltatum*
Jacob's ladder	*Polemonium reptans*
Solomon's seal	*Polygonatum biflorum*
Bloodroot	*Sanguinaria canadensis*
Wild stonecrop	*Sedum ternatum*
Blue-eyed grass	*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*
Indian pink	*Spigelia marilandica*
Celandine poppy	*Stylophorum diphyllum*

SHRUB

Spicebush	*Lindera benzoin*

VINE

Vasevine, leatherflower	*Clematis viorna*

GRASS

Northern sea oats	*Chasmanthium latifolium*
Beak grass	*Diarrhena americana*
Bottlebrush grass	*Hystrix patula*

Prairie Grassland (sun)

FLOWER

Nodding onion	*Allium cernuum*
Blue star willow	*Amsonia tabernaemontana*
Butterfly weed	*Asclepias tuberosa*
False blue indigo	*Baptisia australis*
Tall coreopsis	*Coreopsis tripteris*
Shooting star	*Dodecatheon meadia*
Pale-purple coneflower	*Echinacea pallida*
Rattlesnake master	*Eryngium yuccifolium*
Hollow joe-pye weed	*Eupatoriadelphus fistulosus*
Sneezeweed	*Helenium autumnale*
Western sunflower	*Helianthis occidentalis*
False sunflower	*Heliopsis helianthoides*
Prairie blazing star	*Liatris pycnostachya*
Dense blazing star	*Liatris spicata*
Wild bergamot	*Monarda fistulosa*
Stiff goldenrod	*Oligoneuron rigidum*
Hairy foxglove	*Penstemon hirsutus*
Obedient plant	*Physostegia virginiana*
Mountain mint	*Pycnanthemum virginianum*
Yellow coneflower	*Ratibida pinnata*
Showy black-eyed susan	*Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *speciosa*
Black-eyed susan	*Rudbeckia hirta*
Sweet black-eyed susan	*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*
Brown-eyed susan	*Rudbeckia triloba*
Autumn goldenrod	*Solidago sphacelata*
Rosinweed	*Silphium integrifolium*
Compass plant	*Silphium laciniatum*
Prairie dock	*Silphium terebinthinaceum*
New England aster	*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*
Ironweed	*Vernonia gigantea* ssp. *gigantea*
Culver's root	*Veronicastrum virginicum*

GRASS

Big bluestem	*Andropogon gerardii*
Sideoats gramma	*Bouteloua curtipendula*
Switch grass	*Panicum virgatum*
Little bluestem	*Schizachyrium scoparium*
Indian grass	*Sorghastrum nutans*
Prairie dropseed	*Sporobolus heterolepis*

SHRUB

New Jersey tea	*Ceanothus americanus*
Winged sumac	*Rhus copallinum*

Water's Edge (sun)

FLOWER

Marsh milkweed	*Asclepias incarnata*
Marsh marigold	*Caltha palustris*
Turtlehead	*Chelone glabra*
Sweet joe-pye weed	*Eupatorium purpureum*
Queen-of-the-prairie	*Filipendula rubra*
Swamp rose mallow	*Hibiscus moscheutos*
Dwarf crested iris	*Iris cristata*
Blue flag	*Iris virginica*
Cardinal flower	*Lobelia cardinalis*
Blue lobelia	*Lobelia siphilitica*
Wild stonecrop	*Sedum ternatum*
Royal catchfly	*Silene regia*
Ironweed	*Vernonia gigantea* ssp. *gigantea*

GRASS

Tussock sedge	*Carex stricta*
Soft rush	*Juncus effusus*
Switch grass	*Panicum virgatum*
Indian grass	*Sorghastrum nutans*

SHRUB

Buttonbush	*Cephalanthus occidentalis*
Winterberry holly	*Ilex verticillata*

NATIVE PLANTS IN THE LANDSCAPE

Perennials

Tidy, showy natives to mingle with other ornamentals in the perennial bed

FLOWER

Nodding onion	*Allium cernuum*
Blue star willow	*Amsonia tabernaemontana*
Columbine	*Aquilegia canadensis*
Marsh milkweed	*Asclepias incarnata*
Butterfly weed	*Asclepias tuberosa*
Blue false indigo	*Baptisia australis*
Shooting star	*Dodecatheon meadia*
Purple coneflower	*Echinacea purpurea*
Joe-pye weed	*Eupatoriadelphus maculatus*
Queen-of-the-prairie	*Filipendula rubra*
Wild geranium	*Geranium maculatum*
Swamp rose mallow	*Hibiscus moscheutos*
Prairie blazing star	*Liatris pycnostachya*
Dense blazing star	*Liatris spicata*
Sundrops	*Oenothera tetragona*
Penstemon	*Penstemon digitalis*
Garden phlox	*Phlox paniculata*
Blue-eyed grass	*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*
Aromatic aster	*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*
Zigzag goldenrod	*Solidago flexicaulis*
Spiderwort	*Tradescantia ohioensis*
Culver's root	*Veronicastrum virginicum*

GRASS

Side oats gramma	*Bouteloua curtipendula*
Riverbank tussock sedge	*Carex emoryi*
Prairie dropseed	*Sporobolus heterolepis*

Trees & Shrubs

Garden-worthy woody natives for solo display or to cluster in a hedge or foundation planting

Serviceberry	*Amelanchier laevis*
Redbud	*Cercis canadensis*
Hawthorn	*Crateagus viridis*
Smooth hydrangea	*Hydrangea arborescens*
Winterberry holly	*Ilex verticillata*
Grape honeysuckle	*Lonicera reticulata*
Ninebark	*Physocarpus opulifolius*
Fragrant sumac	*Rhus aromatica*
Elderberry	*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *canadensis*

Butterfly Food

Host plants for butterfly larvae and nectar plants to feed the adults

FLOWER

Marsh milkweed	*Asclepias incarnata*
Butterfly weed	*Asclepias tuberosa*
Tall coreopsis	*Coreopsis tripteris*
Hollow joe-pye weed	*Eupatoriadelphus fistulosus*
Sweet joe-pye weed	*Eupatoriadelphus maculatus*
New England aster	*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*
Aromatic aster	*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*
Ironweed	*Vernonia gigantea ssp. gigantea*

SHRUB

Buttonbush	*Cephalanthus occidentalis*
Annabelle hydrangea	*Hydrangea arborescens*
Spicebush	*Lindera benzoin*
Arrowwood viburnum	*Viburnum dentatum*
Nannyberry	*Viburnum lentago*
American cranberrybush	*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum* (caution: often mislabled)

GRASS

Bottlebrush grass	*Hystrix patula*

VINE

Wooly dutchman's pipe	*Aristolochia tomentosa*
Crossvine	*Bignonia capreolata*

Bird Habitat

Dense cover and berries offering shelter and sustenance to our feathered friends

Serviceberry	*Amelanchier laevis*
Roughleaf dogwood	*Cornus drummondii*
Gray dogwood	*Cornus racemosa*
Black chokeberry	*Photinia melanocarpa*
Elderberry	*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *canadensis*
Eastern arborvitae	*Thuja occidentalis*
Arrowwood viburnum	*Viburnum dentatum*
Nannyberry	*Viburnum lentago*
American cranberrybush	*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum* (caution: often mislabled)

Rain Garden

Deep-rooted natives that enable stormwater to percolate naturally into the soil

See *Water's Edge* plant list

Autumn Color

Natives whose leaves blaze with color in the fall

Serviceberry	*Amelanchier laevis*
Roughleaf dogwood	*Cornus drummondii*
Smooth hydrangea	*Hydrangea arborescens*
Spicebush	*Lindera benzoin*
Virginia creeper	*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*
Black chokeberry	*Photinia melanocarpa*
Fragrant sumac	*Rhus aromatica*
Winged sumac	*Rhus copallinum*
Arrowwood viburnum	*Viburnum dentatum*
Nannyberry	*Viburnum lentago*
American cranberrybush	*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum* (caution: often mislabled)

Winter Interest

Shapes, textures and seed pods to enliven the winter landscape

Blue star willow	*Amsonia tabernaemontana*
Sideoats gramma	*Bouteloua curtipendula*
Tussock sedge	*Carex stricta*
Northern sea oats	*Chasmanthium latifolium*
Roughleaf dogwood	*Cornus drummondii*
Gray dogwood	*Cornus racemosa*
Purple coneflower	*Echinacea purpurea*
Witchhazel	*Hamamelis virginiana*
Bottlebrush grass	*Hystrix patula*
Winterberry holly	*Ilex verticillata*
Soft rush	*Juncus effusus*
Switch grass	*Panicum virgatum*
Black-eyed susan	*Rudbeckia hirta*
Little bluestem	*Schizachyrium scoparium*
Indian grass	*Sorghastrum nutans*
Prairie dropseed	*Sporobolus heterolepis*

Ground Covers

SUN

Clustered poppy mallow	*Callirhoe triangulata*

SHADE

Wild ginger	*Asarum canadense*
Virginia creeper	*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*
Jacob's ladder	*Polemonium reptans*
Wild stonecrop	*Sedum ternatum*
White blue-eyed grass	*Sisyrinchium albidum*
Blue-eyed grass	*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*

Erosion Control

Fragrant sumac	*Rhus aromatica*