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, Retired State Botanist, Plant Ecologist, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves

The Indiana Native Plant Society 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 INPS-certified native plant sources and garden designers at growindiananatives.org.

These plant 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 indiananativeplants.org under Landscaping.

The mission of INPS 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 indiananativeplants.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 discussion group at Indiana Native Plant Society (INPS).
**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 ohiensis
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 canadensis
Arrowwood viburnum  
Viburnum dentatum
Nannyberry  
Viburnum lentago

**TREE**

Serviceberry  
Amelanchier laevis
Redbud  
Cercis canadensis
Pagoda dogwood  
Cornus alternifolia

**VINE**

Woolly dutchman’s pipe  
Aristolochia tomentosa
Crossvine  
Bignonia capreolata
Coral honesuckle  
Lonicera sempervirens

**Woodland (shade)**

**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  
Polygonum reptans
Solomon’s seal  
Sanguinaria canadensis
Bloodroot  
Sedum ternatum
Wild stonecrop  
Sisyrinchium angustifolium
Blue-eyed grass  
Spigelia marilandica
Indian pink  
Stylophorum diphyllum

**SHRUB**

Spicebush  
Lindera benzoin

**VINE**

Vasevine, leatherflower  
Clematis viorna
Coral honesuckle  
Lonicera sempervirens

**GRASS**

Northern sea oats  
Chasmanthium latifolium
Beak grass  
Diarrhena americana
Bottlebrush grass  
Hystrix patula
**Prairie Grassland (sun)**

**FLOWER**
- Nodding onion
- Blue star willow
- Butterfly weed
- False blue indigo
- Tall coreopsis
- Shooting star
- Pale-purple coneflower
- Rattlesnake master
- Hollow joe-pye weed
- Sneezeweed
- Western sunflower
- False sunflower
- Prairie blazing star
- Dense blazing star
- Wild bergamot
- Stiff goldenrod
- Hairy foxglove
- Obedient plant
- Mountain mint
- Yellow coneflower
- Showy black-eyed susan
- Black-eyed susan
- Sweet black-eyed susan
- Brown-eyed susan
- Autumn goldenrod
- Rosinweed
- Compass plant
- Prairie dock
- New England aster
- Ironweed
- Culver’s root

**SHRUB**
- New Jersey tea
- Winged sumac

**Water’s Edge (sun)**

**FLOWER**
- Marsh milkweed
- Marsh marigold
- Turtlehead
- Sweet joe-pye weed
- Queen-of-the-prairie
- Swamp rose mallow
- Dwarf crested iris
- Blue flag
- Cardinal flower
- Blue lobelia
- Wild stonecrop
- Royal catchfly
- Ironweed

**GRASS**
- Tussock sedge
- Soft rush
- Switch grass
- Indian grass

**SHRUB**
- Buttonbush
- Winterberry holly

**Grasses**
- Andropogon gerardii
- Bouteloua curtipendula
- Panicum virgatum
- Schizachyrium scoparium
- Sorghastrum nutans
- Sporobolus heterolepis

**Shrubs**
- Ceanothus americanus
- Rhus copallinum
- Asclepias incarnata
- Caltha palustris
- Chelone glabra
- Eupatorium purpureum
- Filipendula rubra
- Hibiscus moscheutos
- Iris cristata
- Iris virginica
- Lobelia cardinalis
- Lobelia siphilitica
- Sedum spectabile
- Veronicastrum virginicum
## Native Plants in the Landscape

### Perennials

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FLOWER</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nodding onion</td>
<td><em>Allium cernuum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue star willow</td>
<td><em>Amsonia tabernaemontana</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbine</td>
<td><em>Aquilegia canadensis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsh milkweed</td>
<td><em>Asclepias incarnata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly weed</td>
<td><em>Asclepias tuberosa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue false indigo</td>
<td><em>Baptisia australis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shooting star</td>
<td><em>Dodecatheon meadia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple coneflower</td>
<td><em>Echinacea purpurea</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe-pye weed</td>
<td><em>Eupatorium delphus maculatus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen-of-the-prairie</td>
<td><em>Filipendula rubra</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild geranium</td>
<td><em>Geranium maculatum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp rose mallow</td>
<td><em>Hibiscus moscheutos</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie blazing star</td>
<td><em>Liatris pycnostachya</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dense blazing star</td>
<td><em>Liatris spicata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundrops</td>
<td><em>Oenothera tetragona</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penstemon</td>
<td><em>Penstemon digitalis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden phlox</td>
<td><em>Phlox paniculata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue-eyed grass</td>
<td><em>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aromatic aster</td>
<td><em>Symphyotrichum oblongifolium</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zigzag goldenrod</td>
<td><em>Solidago flexiculis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiderwort</td>
<td><em>Tradescantia ohiensis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culver’s root</td>
<td><em>Veronicastrum virginicum</em></td>
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### Grass

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Side oats gramma</td>
<td><em>Bouteloua curtipendula</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverbank tussock sedge</td>
<td><em>Carex emoryi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie dropseed</td>
<td><em>Sporobolus heterolepis</em></td>
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### Trees & Shrubs

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

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serviceberry</td>
<td><em>Amelanchier laevis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redbud</td>
<td><em>Cercis canadensis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
<td><em>Crataegus viridis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern bush honeysuckle</td>
<td><em>Dierella lonicera</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth hydrangea</td>
<td><em>Hydrangea arborescens</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winterberry holly</td>
<td><em>Ilex verticillata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grape honeysuckle</td>
<td><em>Lonicera reticulata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninebark</td>
<td><em>Physocarpus opulifolius</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fragrant sumac</td>
<td><em>Rhus aromatica</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderberry</td>
<td><em>Sambucus canadensis</em></td>
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### Butterfly Food

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FLOWER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marsh milkweed</td>
<td><em>Asclepias incarnata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly weed</td>
<td><em>Asclepias tuberosa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tall coreopsis</td>
<td><em>Coreopsis tripteris</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollow joc-pye weed</td>
<td><em>Eupatorium delphus fistulosus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet joc-pye weed</td>
<td><em>Eupatorium delphus maculatus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England aster</td>
<td><em>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aromatic aster</td>
<td><em>Symphyotrichum oblongifolium</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ironweed</td>
<td><em>Vernonia gigantea ssp. gigantea</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SHRUB</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buttonbush</td>
<td><em>Cephalanthus occidentalis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annabelle hydrangea</td>
<td><em>Hydrangea arborescens</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spicebush</td>
<td><em>Lindera benzoin</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrowwood viburnum</td>
<td><em>Viburnum dentatum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nannyberry</td>
<td><em>Viburnum lentago</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American cranberrybush</td>
<td><em>Viburnum opulus var. americanum</em> (caution: often mislabeled)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Grass

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<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bottlebrush grass</td>
<td><em>Hystrich patula</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
VINE
Wooly dutchman’s pipe \textit{Aristolochia tomentosa}
Crossvine \textit{Bignonia capreolata}

\textbf{Bird Habitat}
\textbf{Dense cover and berries offering shelter and sustenance to our feathered friends}

| Serviceberry | \textit{Amelanchier laevis} |
| Roughleaf dogwood | \textit{Cornus drummondii} |
| Gray dogwood | \textit{Cornus racemosa} |
| Black chokeberry | \textit{Photinia melanocarpa} |
| Elderberry | \textit{Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis} |
| Eastern arborvitae | \textit{Thuja occidentalis} |
| Arrowwood viburnum | \textit{Viburnum dentatum} |
| Nannyberry | \textit{Viburnum lentago} |
| American cranberrybush | \textit{Viburnum trilobum} |

\textbf{Rain Garden}
\textbf{Deep-rooted natives that enable stormwater to percolate naturally into the soil}

See Water’s Edge plant list

\textbf{Autumn Color}
\textbf{Natives whose leaves blaze with color in the fall}

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

\textbf{Winter Interest}
\textbf{Shapes, textures and seed pods to enliven the winter landscape}

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

\textbf{Ground Covers}
\textbf{SUN}
Clustered poppy mallow \textit{Callirhoe triangulata}

\textbf{SHADE}
Wild ginger \textit{Asarum canadense}
Virginia creeper \textit{Parthenocissus quinquefolia}
Jacob’s ladder \textit{Polenonium reptans}
Wild stonecrop \textit{Sedum ternatum}
White blue-eyed grass \textit{Sisyrinchium albidum}
Blue-eyed grass \textit{Sisyrinchium angustifolium}

\textbf{Erosion Control}
Bottlebrush grass \textit{Elymus hystrix}
Fragrant sumac \textit{Rhus aromatica}