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.

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
American bellflower
Sweet joe-pye weed
Dwarf crested iris
Blue lobelia
Solomon’s plume
Virginia bluebell
Wild bergamot
Sundrops
Stiff goldenrod
Penstemon
Wild sweet william
Garden phlox
Zigzag goldenrod
Gray goldenrod
Aromatic aster
Spiderwort
Bird’s foot violet

GRASS
Northern sea oats

SHRUB
Roughleaf dogwood
Witchhazel
Smooth hydrangea
Winterberry holly
Black chokeberry
Ninebark
Fragrant sumac
Elderberry
Arrowwood viburnum
Nannyberry
American cranberrybush

TREE
Serviceberry
Redbud
Pagoda dogwood

VINE
Woolly dutchman’s pipe
Crossvine

Woodland (shade)

FLOWER
Columbine
Wild ginger
Turtlehead
Woodland larkspur
Wild geranium
Swamp rose mallow
Blue flag
Solomon’s plume
Virginia bluebell
Mayapple
Jacob’s ladder
Solomon’s seal
Bloodroot
Wild stonecrop
Blue-eyed grass
Indian pink
Celandine poppy

SHRUB
Spicebush

VINE
Vasevine, leatherflower

GRASS
Northern sea oats

INPAWS 2/18 Landscaping with Plants Native to Indiana, from INPAWS.ORG 2 of 5
### 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: *Helenium autumnale*
- Sneezeweed: *Helianthus annuus*
- Western sunflower: *Helianthus annuus*
- 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*
- Obadiah 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 sphaealata*
- 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*

**FUNGUS**
- Black-eyed susan: *Echinacea pallida*
- False blue indigo: *Baptisia australis*
- Tall coreopsis: *Coreopsis tripteris*

**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: *Silene regia*
- Royal catchfly: *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
- Blue star willow
- Columbine
- Marsh milkweed
- Butterfly weed
- Blue false indigo
- Shooting star
- Purple coneflower
- Joe-pye weed
- Queen-of-the-prairie
- Wild geranium
- Swamp rose mallow
- Prairie blazing star
- Dense blazing star
- Sundrops
- Penstemon
- Garden phlox
- Blue-eyed grass
- Aromatic aster
- Zigzag goldenrod
- Spiderwort
- Culver’s root

**GRASS**
- Side oats gramma
- Riverbank tussock sedge
- Prairie dropseed

**Trees & Shrubs**

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

- Serviceberry
- Redbud
- Hawthorn
- Smooth hydrangea
- Winterberry holly
- Grape honeysuckle
- Ninebark
- Fragrant sumac
- Elderberry

**Butterfly Food**

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

**FLOWER**
- Marsh milkweed
- Butterfly weed
- Tall coreopsis
- Hollow joe-pye weed
- Sweet joe-pye weed
- New England aster
- Aromatic aster
- Ironweed

**SHRUB**
- Buttonbush
- Annabelle hydrangea
- Spicebush
- Arrowwood viburnum
- Nannyberry
- American cranberrybush

**GRASS**
- Bottlebrush grass
**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 mislabeled)

**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 mislabeled)

**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  Ilex verticillata
- Winterberry holly  Juncus effusus
- Soft rush  Panicum virgatum
- Switch grass  Rudbeckia hirta
- Black-eyed susan  Schizachyrium scoparium
- Little bluestem  Sorghastrum nutans
- Indian grass  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