Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

NATIVE VEGETATION

The Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District is a subdivision of state government and is funded primarily by the City of Indianapolis / Marion County government. The District works to assist county residents and others with a host of natural resource issues and concerns. These Conservation Fact Sheets are provided to assist people to better care for the land.

BACKYARD CONSERVATION
It'll grow on you.

What are Native Plants?

Native plants are species that are originally from the area. Wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees that originally grew here can be very beneficial to your backyard.

Photo by: larvalbug.com
Photo courtesy of: NPS

Why Plant Natives?

There are many benefits to planting native species in your backyard. A wide variety of native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers can add a beautiful array of color and shape to your landscaping all year long. Because they are originally from the area, they are well adapted to the soil, water, and climate conditions. This makes them very low maintenance, giving you more time to enjoy them. In addition, native pests keep the plants under control so they don't spread too prolifically or take over entire areas, which further reduces maintenance, increases plant diversity, and improves environmental quality. Because wildlife have evolved and adapted to the native species here, planting them will provide critical food and shelter for a variety of animals. Native plants also have extensive root systems that stabilize soil, reduce erosion, absorb runoff water, reduce flooding, and absorb pollutants.

How Do I Landscape with Natives?

Natives may be planted and cared for much like any other vegetation. There are many nurseries that offer native plants in seed or container form (see the reverse side of this sheet). The plants can be installed in mulched flowerbeds for a more manicured look or clustered or planted randomly for a more natural look. Either way they are planted, native species will provide a beautiful and beneficial landscape that will benefit the homeowner and environment at the same time.

Recommended Native Plants for Marion County:

Wetland Species	Shade Gardens	For Birds & Butterflies	Prairie Species
• Sweet Flag	• Wild Columbine	• Purple Coneflower	• New England Aster
• Marsh Marigold	• Wild Geranium	• Spotted Joe-Pye Weed	• Rough Blazing Star
• Swamp Rose Mallow	• Bottlebrush Grass	• Prairie Dock	• Yellow Coneflower
• Cardinal Flower	• Celadine Poppy	• Stiff Goldenrod	• Prairie Dropseed
• Woolgrass	• Side-Flowering Aster	• Sky Blue Aster	• Compass Plant
• Swamp Milkweed	• Virginia Bluebells	• Hoary Vervain	• Wild Bergamot
• Obedient Plant	• Fire Pink	• Cup Plant	• Little Bluestem
• Nodding Bur Marigold	• Culver's Root	• Wild Bergamot	• Side-Oats Gramma
• Spotted Joe-Pye Weed	• Golden Alexanders	• Sweet Black-Eyed Susan	• Canada Wild Rye

(This is not a complete list of species. To view photos and characteristics of each, visit www.plants.usda.gov.)

Trees, Shrubs, Plants:

Designs on Nature
202 Lincoln Way East
Mishawaka, IN 46544
(219) 256-2242

Enviroscape
710 S. Marr Rd.
Columbus, IN 47201
(800) 373-8598
www.e-scape.com

Heartland Restoration Services
14921 Hand Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46818
(260) 489-8511
www.earthsourceinc.net

Hensler Nursery
P.O. Box 58
5715 N. 750 E.
Hamlet, IN 46532
(574) 867-4192

Hild & Associates Native Plants
326 Glover Rd. South
River Falls, WI 54022
(715) 426-5131
www.hildnatives.com

JF New, Inc.
128 Sunset Dr.
Walkerton, IN 46574
www.jfnewnursery.com

Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources
(219) 843-4827
www.in.gov/dnr/forestry

Indiana Wildlife Federation
(800) 347-3445
www.indianawildlife.org

Mark M. Holeman, Inc.
7871 Hague Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46256
(317) 849-3120

Native Plants Unlimited
George Peregrim
13600 Conner Knoll Pkwy.
Fishers, IN 46038
(317) 842-1145

Spence Restoration Nursery
2220 E. Fuson Rd.
P.O. Box 546
Muncie, IN 47308
(765) 286-7154
www.spencenursery.com

Woody Warehouse
Box 259
Lizton, IN 46149
(866) 766-8367

(This is not complete lists and Marion County SWCD does not support any one source over another.)

Photo courtesy of: USDA

Seed:

Ag Venture Seeds
402 W. Wilson St.
Kentland, IN 47951
(800) 933-0259
avdm@earthlink.com

FDC Enterprises, Inc.
Grasslands Services
2948 Brookdown Dr.
Columbus, OH 43235
(614) 286-8988
fcircle@columbus.rr.com

Hoham and Smith Company
104 Walnut St.
Auburn, IN 46706
(260) 925-3400

Peter Schramm Prairie Restorations
766 Bateman St.
Galesburg, IL 61401
(309) 343-2608
prairie1@galesburg.net

Pheasants Forever
7404 W. 1400 N.
Silver Lake, IN 46982
(765) 734-6342
www.pfcic.org

Sharp Bros. Seed Co.
396 SW Davis-Ladue
Clinton, MO 64735
(660) 885-7551
www.sharpseed.com

Stock Seed Farms
28008 Mill Rd.
Murdock, NE 68407
(800) 759-1520
www.stockseed.com