



What to do about...

EROSION CONTROL FOR STEEP, SUNNY SLOPES

If your property contains a steep slope, you may have trouble mowing it safely and may find areas where erosion has formed rills going down the slope. The factors which make erosion more prominent are the length and the severity of the slope. Certain soil types can also play a role in the problem based on their consistency of sand, silt and clay in the soil.

Finding the best alternative for controlling erosion on slopes is based on the use, aesthetic preferences, and maintenance requirements of the homeowner. Turfgrass has a shallow root system and often is not adequate to hold a steep slope well, unless the slope is broken up by terracing.

Planting a mixture of trees, shrubs, native grasses and other herbaceous native plants is a lower maintenance option for stabilizing a steep slope. These plants have an extensive root system, have accumulated to our climate, rainfall and soil. They are often better at handling localized diseases and insect damage than non-natives.

Below are a few options. Look for others at:

Indiana Native Plant Society: <https://finder.indiananativeplants.org/>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: <https://www.wildflower.org/collections/>

Your Yard Your Shrubs: <https://marionswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/YYS-FINAL.pdf>

Grasses & Sedges

Little Bluestem	Canada Wild Rye	Prairie Oval Sedge
Big Bluestem	Indian Grass	Fine Fescue Blends
Virginia Wild Rye	Sideoats Grama	Switchgrass

Herbaceous Ground Covers

Ajuga	Daylily	Phlox
Barren Strawberry	Heuchera	Sedum
Catmint	Lamium	Spiderwort

Woody Ground Covers and Shrubs

Ceanothus	Serviceberry
Diervilla	Snowberry
Leadplant	Sumac
Ninebark	Sweet Fern
Rose (shrub and ground cover types)	Virginia Creeper

Special thanks to Rosie Lerner, Retired Purdue Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist, for plant information assistance on this fact sheet.

Find articles by Rosie Lerner at

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