



# What to do about...

## NATIVE PLANTS FOR EROSION CONTROL IN STEEP WOODLANDS

In some areas of Marion County excessive erosion takes place because of steep slopes along ravines and creeks. Most of these areas are still wooded. Landowners with this type of topography need to be vigilant to monitor the condition of their trees and understory plants to be sure that the soil is well protected. Trees in critical areas which become diseased, injured or otherwise severely compromised must be taken down before they fall. When large trees fall, they often disturb huge amounts of soil.

Woodlands should also be monitored for invasive plants such as non-native honeysuckle which quickly spreads throughout a woods, out-competing the more beneficial native flora and fauna. More information on controlling invasive species can be found on our website at <http://marionswcd.org/invasive-species/>

When existing vegetation is not adequate to control erosion choose native species which are naturally adapted to your site and soil type. In addition to native woodland tree species, you may wish to add shrubs such as Arrowwood Viburnum, Serviceberry, Black Chokeberry, Red Bearberry and Highbush Blueberry. Groundcovers and other perennial plants such as native ferns, woodland phlox, River Oats, Joe Pye Weed, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, American Alumroot, Solomon's Seal and Wood Lily are also wonderful additions to a wooded, hilly lot. These native shrubs and perennials will benefit wildlife as well as beautify and help protect the soil. More information on native species can be found on our website at <http://marionswcd.org/going-green/plants/>

The Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society has a website dedicated to Indiana Native plants. They also host hikes, seminars and plant sales for the community. Visit their website at <https://indiananativeplants.org/>

The Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas has a wonderful website filled with information on all types of plants. Contained in their website is the Native Plant Information Network which provides lists of native plants recommended for various purposes. Visit the website below and click on Indiana then the type of plant and growing conditions specific to your site.

<https://www.wildflower.org/collections/>

Homes and other buildings should not be built close to ravines or streams due to the potential of loss of soil in these areas in the future. Runoff from roofs and impervious surfaces, which can cause gullyng, should be routed away from these critical areas.

In some soil types you may find seeps or springs along a hillside. These areas can be especially sensitive and should be protected. General soils information for your area can be found on the Web Soil Survey:

[https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm?TARGET\\_APP=Web\\_Soil\\_Survey\\_applicatio\\_n\\_rhrq1vikyz1celex5lsrefol](https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm?TARGET_APP=Web_Soil_Survey_applicatio_n_rhrq1vikyz1celex5lsrefol)