



PROTECTING POLLINATORS

Recommended Indiana-native Plants for Attracting Pollinators

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Wild bergamot (Monarda fistulosa) can attract pollinators like this regal fritillary (Speyeria idalia).

This table provides important information about selecting plants for establishing pollinator habitats. It is a companion piece to *Protecting Pollinators: Best Management Practices for Indiana Pollinator Habitat* (Purdue Extension publication POL-5), available from the Education Store, www.edustore.purdue.edu.

Plant Information

The table provides information about many Indiana-native plant species. Native plants are preferable because of their close partnerships with native pollinators. The **Plant Information** columns provide **Sun** and **Soil Moisture** requirements, plant **Height**, plant **Flower Color**, and plant **Bloom Time**.

If checked, the **Hard to Find** column designates a species that may be difficult to find for sale, but is both very important to pollinators and very common in remnant forests. These hard-to-find

species may already be on your land, so watch for them and conserve them if possible.

If checked, the **Ephemeral** column refers to species that come up each year in the spring, produce flowers and fruits, and then die-back by late May. While they are only aboveground for a few months each year, these ephemerals are particularly important to pollinators, because so few species are in bloom in early spring.

Pollinator Connection

The **Pollinator Connection** columns indicate which pollinator groups (**Bee**, **Beetle**, **Butterfly/Moth**, **Fly**, **Hummingbird**, and **Wasp**) use each plant species.

The **Special Notes** column notes whether a plant is a host for larval butterflies or moths or if it attracts specialist bees (those bees which only pollinate a few plant species).

The **Pollinator Magnets** column, if checked, indicates a plant species that attracts an abundance of pollinators, or a very high diversity of pollinators, based on literature and field experience.

Where Can You Buy These Plants?

Many of these plant species may be available from any plant retailer. Others will require you to find a business that specializes in native plants.

The Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society (INPAWS) certifies Grow Native businesses with a wide selection of Indiana native plants at grownativeindiana.org/buy-native. Be careful you purchase plants that have not been treated with neonicotinoid insecticides (commonly used on ornamental plants). Avoid applying insecticides in your planting, because they may kill or injure pollinators.

Wildflowers*

Common Name	Latin Name	Plant Information												Pollinator Connection								
		Sun			Soil Moisture					Height	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Hard to Find	Ephemeral	Bee	Beetle	Butterfly/ Moth	Fly	Hummingbird	Wasp	Special Notes	Pollinator Magnets
		Full Sun	Part Shade	Shade	Wet	Wet Mesic	Mesic	Dry Mesic	Dry													
sweet flag	<i>Acorus calamus</i>	X			X	X				2'-3'	green	spring										
nodding wild onion	<i>Allium cernuum</i>	X	X				X	X	X	1'-2'	pink	summer			X							
rue anemone	<i>Anemone thalictroides</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X		<1'	white	spring			X							
columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	X	X	X			X	X	X	1'-3'	red - yellow	spring			X	X			X			
goat's beard	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	X	X			X	X			4'-6'	white	spring			X	X	X				dusky azure host	*
wild ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	X	X	X			X	X	X	<1'	maroon	spring					X					
marsh milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	X			X	X	X			3'-4'	pink	summer			X	X	X				monarch host	*
Sullivant's milkweed	<i>Asclepias sullivantii</i>	X				X	X			3'-4'	pink	summer			X	X	X				monarch host	
common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	X				X	X	X	X	3'-5'	pink	summer			X	X	X				monarch host	
butterflyweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	X					X	X	X	1'-2'	orange	summer			X		X				monarch host	
whorled milkweed	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	X					X	X	X	1'-2'	white	summer			X		X				monarch host	
sky-blue aster	<i>Aster azureus</i>	X					X	X	X	1'-2'	blue	fall			X	X					pearl crescent host	
heart-leaved blue wood aster	<i>Aster cordifolius</i>		X	X			X	X		1'-3'	blue	fall			X	X					pearl crescent host	
heath aster	<i>Aster ericoides</i>	X					X	X	X	1'-2'	white	fall			X	X	X	X			pearl crescent host	*
shining aster	<i>Aster firmus</i>	X			X	X	X			3'-4'	lavender	fall			X	X	X			X	pearl crescent host	
smooth aster	<i>Aster laevis</i>	X				X	X	X	X	3'-5'	blue	fall			X	X					pearl crescent host	
calico aster	<i>Aster lateriflorus</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	1'-3'	white	fall			X	X		X			pearl crescent host	
New England aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	X			X	X	X	X		3'-5'	purple	fall			X	X	X	X			pearl crescent host	
swamp aster	<i>Aster puniceus</i>	X	X		X	X				3'-6'	lavender	fall			X	X					pearl crescent host	
Short's aster	<i>Aster shortii</i>			X		X	X			2'-3'	purple	fall			X	X					pearl crescent host	
flat-topped aster	<i>Aster umbellatus</i>	X			X	X	X			3'-5'	white	fall			X	X					pearl crescent host	
blue false indigo	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	X				X	X			2'-4'	blue	spring			X						silver-spotted skipper host	
white false indigo	<i>Baptisia leucantha</i>	X				X	X	X	X	3'-4'	white	summer			X							
cream false indigo	<i>Baptisia leucophaea</i>	X					X	X	X	1'	cream	spring			X							
tickseed sunflower	<i>Bidens aristosa</i>	X			X	X				1'-4'	yellow	summer/fall	X		X		X	X		X	dainty sulphur host	
false aster	<i>Boltonia latissuama</i>	X				X	X			3'-6'	white	summer			X	X	X	X		X		*
marsh marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	X	X	X	X	X				1'-2'	yellow	spring			X			X				
spring cress	<i>Cardamine bulbosa</i>	X	X	X	X	X				<1'	white	spring	X	X	X			X			bee specialist	*
cut-leaved toothwort	<i>Cardamine concenata</i>		X	X			X	X	X	<1'	pink	spring	X	X	X			X			bee specialist; West Virginia white host	
wild senna	<i>Cassia hebecarpa</i>	X				X	X			3'-5'	yellow	summer			X	X					cloudless sulphur and sleepy orange host	
blue cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>		X	X		X	X			2'-4'	green	spring	X		X	X		X				
white turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	X	X		X	X				2'-4'	white	summer			X		X				Baltimore checkerspot host	
pink turtlehead	<i>Chelone obliqua</i>	X	X		X	X				2'-4'	pink	summer			X		X				Baltimore checkerspot host	
spring beauty	<i>Claytonia virginica</i>	X	X	X	X	X				<1'	pink	spring	X	X	X			X			bee specialist	*
blue-eyed Mary	<i>Collinsia verna</i>		X	X	X	X				<1'	blue	spring	X	X	X			X				*
lance-leaf coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	X					X	X		1'-2'	yellow	spring/summer			X		X	X				
plains coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	X					X	X	X	1'-2'	yellow	summer			X	X	X	X		X		
tall coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	X				X	X	X		6'-8'	yellow	summer			X	X	X	X		X		
purple prairie clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	X					X	X	X	1'-2'	purple	summer			X	X	X				dogface sulphur host	
dwarf larkspur	<i>Delphinium tricornis</i>		X	X		X	X	X		<1'	purple	spring	X	X	X		X	X				
pale purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	X				X	X	X	X	2'-4'	lavendar	spring/summer			X		X					
purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	X				X	X	X	X	3'-4'	purple	summer			X		X					
harbinger of spring	<i>Erigenia bulbosa</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	<1'	white	spring	X	X	X			X			very early resource	
rattlesnake master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	X				X	X	X	X	3'-4'	white	summer/ fall			X	X	X	X		X	black swallowtail host	*
white trout lily	<i>Erythronium albidum</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	<1'	white	spring	X		X		X					
yellow trout lily	<i>Erythronium americanum</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	<1'	yellow	spring	X		X		X					
tall bonaset	<i>Eupatorium altissima</i>	X	X			X	X	X	X	3'-4'	white	fall	X		X	X	X	X		X		*

Wildflowers* (continued)

Common Name	Latin Name	Plant Information											Pollinator Connection										
		Sun			Soil Moisture					Height	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Hard to Find	Ephemeral	Bee	Beetle	Butterfly/ Moth	Fly	Hummingbird	Wasp	Special Notes	Pollinator Magnets	
		Full Sun	Part Shade	Shade	Wet	Wet Mesic	Mesic	Dry Mesic	Dry														
blue mist flower	<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	X				X	X	X			1'-2'	blue	fall			X	X	X	X				
hollow joe-pye weed	<i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i>	X		X	X	X					4'-9'	pink	fall			X	X						
spotted joe-pye weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	X			X	X					4'-6'	pink	fall			X		X	X				
sweet joe-pye weed	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>		X	X		X	X	X			4'-6'	pink	summer			X	X	X	X				
white snakeroot	<i>Eupatorium rugosum</i>		X	X					X		2'-4'	white	fall	X		X	X				X		
late bonaset	<i>Eupatorium serotinum</i>		X	X				X	X		3'-6'	white	fall			X	X	X	X			X	
queen of the prairie	<i>Filipendula rubra</i>	X			X	X					4'-7'	pink	summer			X	X		X				
bottle gentian	<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	X			X	X	X				1'-2'	blue	fall			X							
wild geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>		X	X				X	X		1'	lt. purp.	spring			X		X	X			bee specialist	
autumn sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	X			X	X	X				3'-5'	yellow	fall			X		X	X			silvery checkerspot host	
woodland sunflower	<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	X	X		X	X					2'-6'	yellow	summer			X	X		X			bee specialist, painted lady host	
downy sunflower	<i>Helianthus mollis</i>	X					X	X	X		2'-4'	yellow	summer			X	X	X	X			bee specialist, painted lady host	
western sunflower	<i>Helianthus occidentalis</i>	X					X	X	X		2'-3'	yellow	summer			X	X	X	X			bee specialist, painted lady host	
showy sunflower	<i>Helianthus rigidus</i>	X					X	X	X		3'-5'	yellow	summer			X	X	X	X			bee specialist, painted lady host	
false sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	X				X	X	X			3'-5'	yellow	summer			X		X	X				
hepatica	<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>		X	X		X	X	X			<1'	purple	spring	X		X			X			very early resource, pollen only	
alum root	<i>Heuchera americana</i>	X					X	X			1'-2'	wht-grn	summer			X							
swamp rose mallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	X			X	X					3'-6'	wht-pink	summer			X						bee specialist, common checkered-skipper host	
great waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum appendiculatum</i>		X	X			X	X			1'-2'	lavender	spring	X	X	X			X			bee specialist	
blue flag iris	<i>Iris virginica shrevei</i>	X			X	X	X				2'-3'	blue	spring/summer			X		X					
rough blazing star	<i>Liatris aspera</i>	X					X	X	X		1'-3'	purple	summer/ fall			X	X	X	X			*	
meadow blazing star	<i>Liatris ligulistylis</i>	X				X	X				1'-3'	rose/purple	summer			X	X	X	X			*	
prairie blazing star	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	X				X	X	X			3'-5'	purple	summer			X	X	X	X			*	
savanna blazing star	<i>Liatris scariosa nieuwlandii</i>	X					X	X	X		2'-3'	purple	summer			X	X	X	X			*	
dense blazing star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	X			X	X	X				3'-5'	purple	summer			X	X	X	X			*	
cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	X		X	X	X					1'-3'	red	summer			X				X			
great blue lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	X		X	X	X	X				1'-3'	blue	summer			X		X	X				
lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	X	X					X	X		1'-2'	blue	spring			X						pollen only; eastern tailed-blue and frosted elfin host	
fringed loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia ciliata</i>	X	X		X	X	X				1'-4'	yellow	summer	X		X						bee specialist	
prairie loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia quadriflora</i>	X		X	X	X	X				1'-3'	yellow	summer	X		X						bee specialist	
Virginia bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>		X	X		X	X				1'-2'	blue	spring			X							
monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	X			X	X					2'-4'	lavender	summer			X						common buckeye host	
bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	X			X	X	X	X			2'-4'	lavender	summer			X				X		*	
prairie sundrops	<i>Oenothera pilosella</i>	X			X	X					1'	yellow	summer			X		X					
heart-leaved golden ragwort	<i>Packera aurea</i>	X	X	X		X	X				1'-2'	yellow	spring	X		X			X				
wild quinine	<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	X				X	X	X			2'-3'	white	summer			X		X	X			X	
arrow arum	<i>Peltandra virginica</i>	X			X						2'-3'	green	summer	X					X			fly specialist	
smooth penstemon	<i>Penstemon calycosus</i>	X		X		X	X				2'-3'	purple	spring/ summer			X							
foxglove penstemon	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	X				X	X	X			2'-3'	white	summer			X							
hairy penstemon	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	X				X	X	X	X		1'-2'	purple	spring/ summer			X							
ferleaf phacelia	<i>Phacelia bipinnatifida</i>		X	X		X	X				1'-2'	purple	spring	X	X	X			X			bee specialist	
obedient plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	X			X	X	X				2'-4'	pink	summer			X			X				
Jacob's ladder	<i>Polemonium reptans</i>		X	X		X	X				1'-3'	purple	spring			X			X			bee specialist	
prairie cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla arguta</i>	X					X	X	X		2'-3'	sulfur	summer			X							
narrow leaf mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	X				X	X	X	X		1'-2'	white	summer			X		X	X			X	

Wildflowers* (continued)

Common Name	Latin Name	Plant Information											Pollinator Connection									
		Sun			Soil Moisture					Height	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Hard to Find	Ephemeral	Bee	Beetle	Butterfly/Moth	Fly	Hummingbird	Wasp	Special Notes	Pollinator Magnets
		Full Sun	Part Shade	Shade	Wet	Wet Mesic	Mesic	Dry Mesic	Dry													
common mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	X			X	X	X			1'-2'	white	summer			X		X	X		X		
yellow coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	X					X	X		3'-5'	yellow	summer			X	X	X	X		X		
orange coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida speciosa</i>	X					X	X	X	2'-3'	gold	summer/ fall			X		X	X		X		
black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	X						X	X	X	1'-3'	yellow	summer			X	X	X		X		
sweet black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i>	X					X	X	X	3'-5'	yellow	summer/ fall			X		X	X		X		
common arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	X			X					1'-3'	white	summer	X		X							
lizard's tail	<i>Saururus cernuus</i>	X	X	X	X					1'-2'	white	summer			X							
downy skullcap	<i>Scutellaria incana</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X		2'-3'	blue	summer			X							
wild stonecrop	<i>Sedum ternatum</i>	X	X	X			X			3"	white	spring			X							
royal catchfly	<i>Silene regia</i>	X	X				X	X		2'-4'	red	summer			X			X				
rosinweed	<i>Silphium integrifolium</i>	X				X	X	X	X	3'-6'	yellow	summer			X	X	X					
compass plant	<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	X				X	X	X	X	5'-8'	yellow	summer			X	X	X					
cup plant	<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	X				X	X			5'-9'	yellow	summer			X	X	X	X		X		
prairie dock	<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>	X				X	X	X		5'-10'	yellow	summer			X	X		X				
blue-stemmed goldenrod	<i>Solidago caesia</i>		X	X			X	X	X	1'-3'	yellow	fall			X	X	X				bee specialist	
zigzag goldenrod	<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>		X	X			X	X	X	1'-3'	yellow	fall			X	X	X				bee specialist	
early goldenrod	<i>Solidago juncea</i>	X					X	X	X	1'-2'	yellow	summer			X	X	X	X		X	bee specialist	*
gray goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	X					X	X	X	1'-2'	yellow	fall			X	X	X	X		X	bee specialist	*
Ohio goldenrod	<i>Solidago ohioensis</i>	X			X	X	X			2'-3'	yellow	fall			X	X	X	X		X	bee specialist	
Riddell's goldenrod	<i>Solidago riddellii</i>	X			X	X	X			2'-4'	yellow	fall			X	X	X	X		X	bee specialist	
stiff goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	X				X	X	X	X	3'-5'	yellow	fall			X	X	X	X		X	bee specialist	*
wrinkled goldenrod	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	X			X	X	X			2'-3'	yellow	fall			X	X	X	X		X	bee specialist	*
showy goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	X				X	X	X	X	1'-3'	yellow	fall			X	X	X	X		X	bee specialist	
celandine poppy	<i>Stylophorum diphylllum</i>		X	X		X	X	X		1'-2'	yellow	spring			X		X					
spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	X				X	X	X	X	2'-3'	blue	spring/ summer			X		X					*
large-flowered trillium	<i>Trillium grandiflorum</i>			X		X	X	X	X	1'-2'	white	spring	X	X	X							
blue vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	X			X	X	X			3'-5'	blue	summer			X						bee specialist, buckeye host	
tall ironweed	<i>Vernonia altissima</i>	X				X	X			4'-9'	purple	summer			X	X	X					*
smooth ironweed	<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>	X				X	X			3'-6'	purple	summer			X	X	X					
culver's root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	X				X	X	X		3'-6'	white	summer			X		X		X			
golden alexanders	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	X				X	X			2'-4'	yellow	spring/ summer			X	X	X				bee specialist, black swallowtail host	*

Trees and Shrubs*

Trees and shrubs are a very important part of any pollinator planting, providing great amounts of nectar and pollen for pollinators.

Common Name	Latin Name	Plant Information											Pollinator Connection									
		Sun			Soil Moisture					Height	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Hard to Find	Ephemeral	Bee	Beetle	Butterfly/Moth	Fly	Hummingbird	Wasp	Special Notes	Pollinator Magnets
		Full Sun	Part Shade	Shade	Wet	Wet Mesic	Mesic	Dry Mesic	Dry													
red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X		to 95'	yellow	spring			X		X	X		X		
sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	X	X	X			X			to 100'	yellow	spring			X		X	X		X		
Ohio buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	X	X	X		X	X			to 35'	yellow	spring			X			X				
serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X		10-25'	white	spring			X	X	X				striped hairstreak host	
leadplant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	X					X	X	X	1'-3'	purple	summer			X						southern dogface host	*

Grasses and Sedges* (continued)

Common Name	Latin Name	Plant Information										Pollinator Connection										
		Sun			Soil Moisture					Height	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Hard to Find	Ephemeral	Bee	Beetle	Butterfly/Moth	Fly	Hummingbird	Wasp	Special Notes	Pollinator Magnets
		Full Sun	Part Shade	Shade	Wet	Wet Mesic	Mesic	Dry Mesic	Dry													
yellow fox sedge	<i>Carex annectens</i> var. <i>xanthocarpa</i>	X			X	X	X				2'-3'		spring/ summer									
bracted oak sedge	<i>Carex cephalophora</i>	X	X	X				X	X		1'		spring									
lance-fruited oval sedge	<i>Carex scoparia</i>	X	X		X	X					2'-3'		spring/ summer									
tussock sedge	<i>Carex stricta</i>	X	X		X	X					2'		spring/ summer								Appalachian and eyed browns, mulberry wing, and black dash host	
fox sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	X	X		X	X	X				2'-3'		spring/ summer									
Canada wild rye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	X	X				X	X			3'-4'		summer									
riverbank wild rye	<i>Elymus riparius</i>		X	X		X	X				3'-5'		summer									
Virginia wild rye	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>		X	X		X	X				2'-3'		summer									
bottlebrush grass	<i>Elymus hystrix</i> v. <i>hystrix</i>		X	X			X	X			3'-5'		summer								northern pearly-eye host	
switch grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	X				X	X				3'-5'		summer								Hobomok skipper, Indian skipper, and Leonard's skipper host	
little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	X					X	X	X		2'-3'		summer/ fall								Indian skipper, dusted skipper, and swarthy skipper host	
indian grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	X					X	X	X		4'-6'		summer/ fall									
prairie cordgrass	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	X			X	X					4'-7'		summer									
prairie dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	X					X	X			1'-3'		summer/ fall									

* The nomenclature for wildflowers follows *Field Guide to Indiana Wildflowers* by Kay Yatskevych (2000). The nomenclature for trees and shrubs and grasses and sedges follows the most recent naming conventions.



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