

SUMMER 2025

# CONSERVATION CORNER

Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Tippecanoe County Soil & Water Conservation District



Tippecanoe County  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District

## Native Tree & Shrub Sale



Accepting orders now  
through September 9th

[Order here](#)

765-474-9992, ext. 3

[www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org](http://www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org)

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# Slow and Steady Wins the Race

By Robert Suseland, Habitat Specialist

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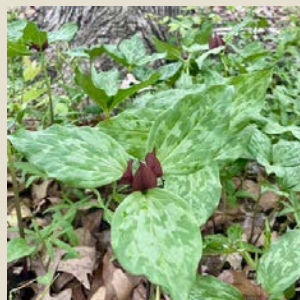
Eradicating invasive plants can be overwhelming. Humans have been intentionally introducing invasive plants to North America since the 1600s. The Indiana Invasive Species Council currently lists 135 species of invasive plants that have been found in Indiana. The list can be found here: [ag.purdue.edu/departments/entm/iisc/invasive-plants.html](http://ag.purdue.edu/departments/entm/iisc/invasive-plants.html). I am going to share my favorite strategy for controlling invasive plants. This method is especially effective in small areas. First, do not let invasive plant control stress you out. You aren't going to defeat invasive plants in a day, a month, or even a year, but they can be defeated! Take it one plant at a time. Challenge yourself to remove 1, 2, 5, or 10 plants everyday. Set a phone alarm to go off at the same time everyday to remind you it is invasive removal time. Consider starting with the largest plants because they produce the most seed. Removing them first can help reduce future workload. After the largest plants are gone, start clearing areas of all invasive plants. Every few weeks during the growing season, monitor the areas you have already cleared and hand-pull any new sprouts. If you have trash pick-up from West Lafayette or Lafayette, you can pile brush at the curb to be hauled away. I stack the plants I remove in a brush pile for wildlife. I have used this slow and steady strategy of removing invasive plants in the small forest in front of my house and I am absolutely thrilled with the results. Bush honeysuckle was the predominate invasive species on my property... and probably yours too. Border privet, multiflora rose, and burning bush were also present. I slowly cleared sections of all of these invasive plants. The pictures below are a very small representation of the native plants that are thriving after the removal of invasive plants. Let me know if you would like me to evaluate your invasive species infestation and help you plan how to rehabilitate your land.



Brush Pile Made Out of  
Dead Invasive Plants



Awlfruit Sedge



Prairie Trillium



Wild Petunia



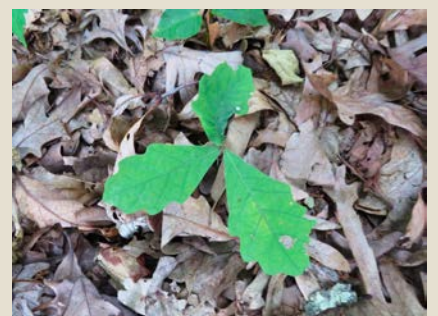
Wild Geranium



Bottlebrush Grass



Virginia Bluebells



White Oak

By Sarah Vaughn, NRCS District Conservationist  
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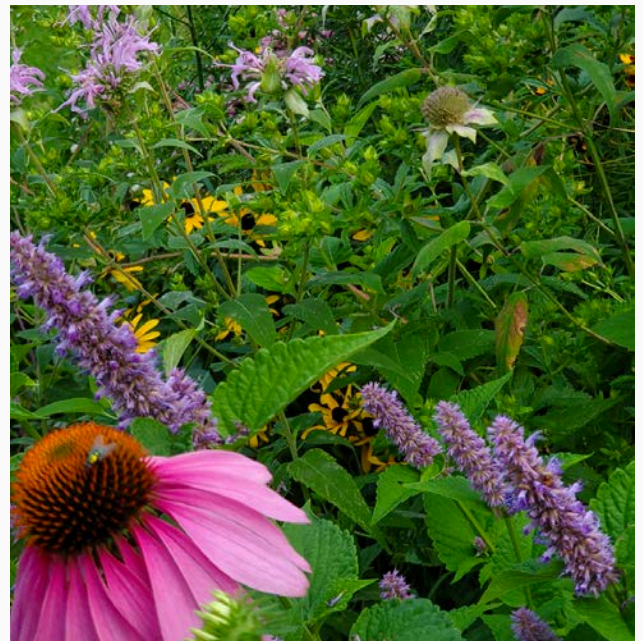
## Seed and Vendor Finder Tool for CRP Participants and Native Seed Vendors

USDA has worked with the Conservation Biology Institute (CBI) to design and build a free online easy-to-use Seed and Vendor Finder tool to support the producers enrolling in the CRP program, along with other conservation efforts involving native plantings. CBI also partnered with the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) to address the needs of the Native Seed Network and significantly expanded the native seed customer and vendor base.

The seed and vendor finder can be found here: [Seed and Vendor Finder](#). Currently, CBI has seeded the tool with 214 vendors found through an online search from across the country with limited profiles, and 42 have voluntarily completed full profiles which includes their plant inventory. The tool is designed for easy uploading of their profile and inventory. It also provides an opportunity for vendors without a website to have an online presence and be found by customers looking for seeds. Also check out the plant finder tool where you can find suitable plants, including pollinator friendly plants for your area and soil type. Currently we have 20+ unique visitors to the tool every day and that number is growing!

NRCS offers free technical assistance and conservation planning to landowners and agricultural producers. Contact your local District Conservationist, Sarah Vaughn, at [sarah.vaughn@usda.gov](mailto:sarah.vaughn@usda.gov) to discuss your vision and schedule an appointment.

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*



**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# Buckwheat as a Warm-Season Cover Crop

By Mike Smith, Conservation Ag Specialist

Buckwheat is hard to beat as a quick, warm-season cover. It typically germinates within five days and can achieve a weed-suppressing canopy in as little as two weeks. As problem weeds including Canada thistle go to seed, a buckwheat cover is a great option for crowding them out of areas that would otherwise be left bare. For weed suppression, plant buckwheat at heavier rate of 50 pounds/acre or 2-3 oz/1000 square feet for vegetable beds. Buckwheat will winter kill, but have a plan to terminate it before viable seeds develop to avoid unwanted volunteers in your next cash crop. Contact us if you'd like advice on managing a warm-season cover, whether for a row crop or vegetable operation.



## Supervisor Spotlight: Become a Supervisor



If you're passionate about conserving natural resources and making a community impact, consider becoming a District Supervisor or Associate District Supervisor. In this role, you'll assess local soil and water needs, set conservation priorities, engage with leaders, and participate in meetings. While monetary compensation is nonexistent, the real reward lies in contributing to the future of natural resources. Ideal candidates include farmers, foresters, and conservationists familiar with local conditions. If interested, contact the Tippecanoe Soil & Water Conservation District at [soil.water@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:soil.water@tippecanoe.in.gov) or call us at 765-474-9992 ext. 3

# NEW TREE GUIDE FROM INDIANA DNR

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Community and Urban Forestry Program has published a new guide on selecting the right tree for landscaping and other small-scale plantings. It's a great resource to review when putting together your order for our upcoming Native Tree and Shrub Sale. [Download the guide here.](#)

## Indiana Tree Species Selection Guide



**DNR**  
Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources

Forestry

## Upcoming Events:

July 9 - SWCD Board Meeting

July 12 - Riverfest

July 18 - 26 - 4-H Fair

August 7 - TICT Plant Swap Application Due

August 13 - SWCD Board Meeting

September 9 - Tree Orders Due

September 10 - SWCD Board meeting

September 25 - Tree Order Pickup

- Tippecanoe Fairgrounds
- 11am-6pm

## Equipment Loans and Rentals

Reservations for Truax drills, broadcast seeder, and many more tools can be made online. Visit [tippecanoecountyswcd.org](http://tippecanoecountyswcd.org) for more information.







# INVASIVE PLANT SWAP PROGRAM

Get **FREE** native trees and shrubs when you remove any of the following invasive plants:

- Callery (Bradford) Pear
- Burning Bush
- Japanese Barberry
- Chinese Silvergrass
- Privet

Deadline to apply  
**AUGUST 1**



Learn more and apply at:  
[tinyurl.com/swap2025](https://tinyurl.com/swap2025)



*This program is generously funded by  
the Duke Energy Foundation.*





# Partner Activities



## 9:00 am

- Riverfest opens at Tapawingo Park
- Check-in for **float trip** starts
- Music by SAMI starts
- Bike rodeo in the skate rink opens
- Columbian Park Zoo live animals arrive
- **Nature Photography Class 1**
- **Paddleboard Yoga Class 1**

## 9:30 am

- Landing of the historic voyageur canoe

## 10:00 am

- Try-a-Canoe opens
- Mermaid Story Time 1
- **Nature Photography Class 2**
- **Kids Fishing Class 1**

## 10:30 am

- Trees of the Wabash Floodplain walk 1
- Riverfront dance performance
- **Paddleboard Yoga Class 2**

## 11:00 am

- Columbian Park Zoo leaves Riverfest
- Take Flight Birds of Prey Show

## 11:30 am

- **Kids Fishing Class 2**

## 1:00 pm

- Trees of the Wabash Floodplain walk 2
- Bike Rodeo closes
- **Kids Fishing Open Fishing**
- **Intro to Standup Paddleboarding Class 1**
- Kayak Tour

## 1:30 pm

- Kayak Tour

## 2:00 pm

- Mermaid Story Time 2
- Kayak Tour

## 2:30 pm

- Kayak Tour
- **Intro to Standup Paddleboarding Class 2**

## 3 pm

- Kayak Tour

## 3:30 pm

- Try-a-Canoe closes
- Kayak tours close

## 4:00 pm

- Riverfest Closes at Tapawingo Park