



## HortusScope | What's Up in the Central

Indiana Gardening Community | [Photo by Wendy Ford](#)

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**Through Wednesday, September 8 Native Tree & Wildflower Sale** In celebration of [Creation Care Month](#), the [Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab](#) is partnering with the [Archdiocese of Indianapolis Creation Care Ministry](#) for a native tree and flower sale this fall! [Order online](#) and set a date to pick up your order the following week at the Indy Cycloplex across from Marian University. Contact [Stephanie Schuck](#), restoration ecologist, if you have any questions.

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**Friday, September 10 Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District Cover Crop Workshop** It's fall, and time to plant some cover crops! See cover crops in action, learn and share, and grab some free seeds. Join us and fellow growers at this free educational event and seed giveaway. 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., Hensley Homestead (1 mile south of Irvington). [RSVP](#)

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**Saturday, September 18 Hendricks County–Invasive Management Cooperative (HC-IMC) Callout Meeting** Guest speaker is Mike Homoya, retired Indiana DNR State Botanist. Event will include an invasive plant identification walk plus demonstrations of control techniques. Join us to learn more & find ways get involved! 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., Williams Park, Outdoor Classroom, 710 Alpha Avenue, Brownsburg.

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**Saturday, September 25 Indiana Native Plant Society Central Chapter Fall Color from Natives** Join us for our first in-person program of the fall. Myrene Brown will be promoting native plants that add color to your fall garden and attract native birds and insects, bringing sound and movement to enhance your garden while providing the beauty and connection to nature that so many of us crave. Adding plantings specifically for fall will continue the enjoyment of your garden past the big flush of summer blooms, provide for fall bird migrators, and bring interesting insects for observation. With a few well thought out additions, your garden can continue to bring moments of interest, peace, and contentment as you step out your door into the crisp fall air. Myrene Brown has been experimenting with native plants since her move to Indiana in 1989. In 1998 she started Myrene's Garden which offers garden lectures, garden coaching, and design work for clients. 1:00 p.m., Pike Branch Library, 6525 Zionsville Road, Indianapolis. <https://indiananativeplants.org/chapters/central-chapter/>

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**Saturday, September 25 Hoosier Environmental Council Sustainable Food & Farming Forum** We've all heard the myth—factory farms are inevitable and necessary to “feed the world.” This myth is perpetuated by the large-scale meat industry to maintain public support for its system of industrial animal agriculture that is a leading cause of the most serious environmental problems we face, at every scale from local to global, including climate change. While we will have to feed a growing global population that is expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, raising factory-farmed animals with growth

hormones and antibiotics in inhumane, confined conditions is not the answer. There IS a better way to grow food for the world's population. At HEC's free online forum, you'll learn about our current food system and specific actions you can take to effectively advocate for important farm policy reform and increase consumer demand for healthier, sustainably sourced food. 10:00 a.m. [Register](#)

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**Grant Opportunities Indiana Native Plant Society** INPS supports well-conceived grant projects that are in line with its mission to promote the appreciation, preservation, scientific study, and use of plants native to Indiana and to teach people about their beauty, diversity, and importance to our environment. The state organization funds two grant programs, each with its own emphasis, application process, and timelines, and two regional chapters have recently launched their own small grant programs. Explore the possibilities at <https://indiananativeplants.org/about-us/grants-home/>.

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**DNR Alert Remove Feeders and Birdbaths Statewide** After receiving reports of sick and dying birds, Indiana Department of Natural Resources recommends Indiana residents cease feeding all birds statewide. Bird feeders, bird baths, and other sources that encourage the congregation of wild birds should be taken down or discontinued. Feeders and baths should be cleaned with 10% bleach solution and stored until more information is available. Residents who find birds with eye or head swelling, crusty discharge around the eyes, and/or neurological signs (e.g., tremors, stumbling, weakness, lethargy) should submit the sighting to [DNR's sick or dead wildlife reporting system](#). Biologists are actively tracking reports, and samples have been submitted to the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. No definitive cause of death has been identified at this time.

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**Free Tours The Medicinal Plant Garden at the Indiana Medical History Museum** demonstrates over 100 species from around the world. Informational signage tells how the plants have been used, and visitors are welcome to wander at their own pace. Free guided tours of the garden are offered on the **1st and 3rd Saturday mornings**, June thru September at 11:00 a.m. Group tours can be arranged by contacting the museum. More information is available at [www.imhm.org](http://www.imhm.org) and 317-635-7329.

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**Take the Pledge! Protect Pollinators** Pollinator conservation is huge task, but it can work if each of us adopts this four-step mantra: (1) grow pollinator-friendly flowers, (2) provide nest sites, (3) avoid pesticides, and (4) spread the word. With these core values, pollinator conservation can be adapted to any location, whether you tend an urban community garden or a suburban yard, work in a city park or on a farm. Make your commitment to these four principles by signing the [Pollinator Protection Pledge](#).

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**Get on the Map! Homegrown National Park™** Doug Tallamy's remarkable book *Nature's Best Hope* outlines a grassroots approach to conservation that homeowners everywhere can participate in. Relying on the initiatives of private individuals, this approach is immune from the whims of government policy, and is practical, effective, and easy. When you've planted some native plants, add your property to the national map of the growing Homegrown National Park™. Learn more at [HomegrownNationalPark.org](http://HomegrownNationalPark.org).

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**Garden Wisdom Sunday Classes with the Mad Botanist** Rare, unique, non-credit, self-improvement educational opportunity including outside activity (participants need to be ambulatory). Every class is different and tailored to the participants (8 maximum); come ready to ask and answer questions (Socratic Method). [General Syllabus](#) [Testimonials](#) 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., 1st & 3rd Sundays through November; rain date the next Sunday. Check "Class" at [themadbotanist.com](http://themadbotanist.com) for particulars.

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**Plant Shopping! Buy Natives Directory** Indiana Native Plant Society makes it easy for you to locate native plants for sale. Our interactive Buy Natives Directory lets you find sellers and designers near you

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who offer native plants and do not use or sell invasive plants. A new URL takes you there directly:  
[www.BuyIndianaNatives.org](http://www.BuyIndianaNatives.org)

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**Plant Shopping! Native Plants from Keep Indianapolis Beautiful** Native plants play a vital role in capturing stormwater, supporting native bee and pollinator populations, and beautifying our city. KIB is growing spring, summer, and fall blooming plants from seed, and new plants will be available throughout the summer and fall. In fact, many 2" plant plugs are ready TODAY for a new home in your yard or neighborhood greenspace. [All plant purchases must be placed online](#) and picked up from KIB's office (1029 Fletcher Ave) on Wednesdays or Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. When you arrive, show your email or printed receipt as proof of purchase. Nursery boss Ethan Olson can answer any questions you may have at [eolson@kibi.org](mailto:eolson@kibi.org).

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**Free Seeds Indianapolis Public Library Seed Library** We provide seeds for check-out as well as education and resources about growing and saving seeds and organic gardening. The Seed Library is open and free to the public. For checkout and seed donation guidelines, please [contact](#) your local seed library branch. Find a list of available seeds and branch locations at <https://www.indypl.org/services/seed-library> Fall cover crop seeds are available at Pike and Glendale locations. Guidance on using oats and crimson clover seed packets are available at [marionswcd.org/plantcovercrops](http://marionswcd.org/plantcovercrops).

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**Advocacy Opp Write to Senator Todd Young** From Indiana Wildlife Federation's executive director Emily Wood, here is a call to action: "The Recovering America's Wildlife Act, just introduced in the U.S. Senate (S. 2372), will catalyze collaborative, on-the-ground habitat restoration projects, help with species reintroductions, tackle disease, and boost other much needed conservation efforts to match the magnitude of the wildlife crisis. Indiana US Senator Todd Young plays an important committee role, and we need your help in reaching him with the following message: *Senator Young, please join your colleagues Senators Martin Heinrich and Roy Blunt in cosponsoring the common-sense Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S. 2372) and supporting its inclusion in the bipartisan infrastructure package currently being negotiated.*" Recovering America's Wildlife Act will invest \$1.39 billion annually towards conservation to recover and restore thriving wildlife populations. This bipartisan legislation will create 100,000+ good-paying jobs and will boost the economy! The economic benefits of conservation are clear—not only does it create jobs & boost the economy but restoring our forests & waterways will also result in cleaner air & water. If passed, the bill could add \$15M to Indiana's State Wildlife Action Plan. Contact Senator Todd Young at 202-224-5623 or <https://www.young.senate.gov/contact/email-todd>.

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**Volunteer Opp Join HIP Weed Wrangles® in Hamilton County** Lend a hand in volunteer invasive species removal events brought to you by the Hamilton County Invasive Species Partnership (HIP). HIP partners will be hosting Weed Wrangles throughout the year, targeting invasive species at parks and other public lands where invasive species are having a detrimental impact on our natural ecosystems. Eradicating these species is often a multi-year effort. Weed Wrangle volunteers learn how to manage a targeted invasive species and get to work as part of a collaborative effort to improve a natural area. Weed Wrangles are led by experts, so are a great opportunity for hands-on learning about invasive species and their management. Find Weed Wrangle volunteer opportunities at [www.hcinvasives.org/weedwrangle](http://www.hcinvasives.org/weedwrangle). Registration is required, and new events are being added all the time. Address questions to 317-773-2181. **Weed Wrangle® Indiana** is part of a national movement to highlight the importance of managing invasive species and celebrate our native plant communities. To find Weed Wrangle events in your area, visit [sicim.info/weed-wrangle-indiana](http://sicim.info/weed-wrangle-indiana).

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**Travel Garden and Nature Tours with C. Colston Burrell** Experience nature's beauty and diversity in designed and native landscapes with C. Colston Burrell, who offers personalized leisure tours to exceptional gardens and natural areas around the globe. 2021 Tours: October: Gardens and National Parks of New Zealand. <https://gardenandnaturetours.com/>

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**Photo Notes** Here come the goldenrods! More than 100 species of goldenrod native to North America bloom from late summer into fall, providing a smorgasbord of nectar and pollen for our precious pollinators. Our friend Doug Tallamy, author of [Bringing Nature Home](#), says goldenrods are "one of the best herbaceous native perennials for attracting and feeding wildlife." I devote a big patch of my garden to these valuable natives for just this reason. They look great next to New England asters, which are also pollinator magnets.

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**HortusScope**, an e-bulletin for the Central Indiana gardening community, is published the first of every month as a public service by Wendy Ford. To submit news items, add or update your e-mail address, or remove your name from the HortusScope e-mail list, please drop me a note at [hortusscope@comcast.net](mailto:hortusscope@comcast.net). Your supporting donation cheerfully accepted at 6911 Cabernet Way, Indianapolis, IN 46278, check made out to Wendy Ford.