

## CLINTON COUNTY CONSERVATION CONNECTION



### Native Tree and Shrub Sale

Each year, the CCSWCD offers a variety of quality container grown native trees and shrubs for sale. Why plant native? Once established native plants generally require less maintenance; are adapted to the local environmental conditions, require far less water, saving time, money, and perhaps the most valuable natural resource, water; by choosing native plants for your landscaping, you are not only helping wildlife, but you are creating a healthier place for yourself, your family, and your community.

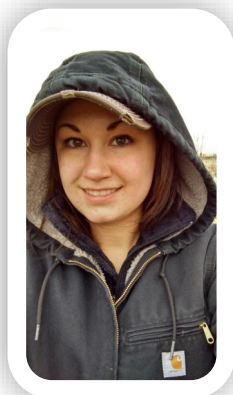
Autumn is a great time to plant trees! From the Morton Arboretum...."fall season planting (mid-August through mid-October) offers many advantages that may outweigh spring planting. Transpiration is low and root generation potential is high. Temperatures are typically moderate to cool, and are easier on the plants so there is less chance for the trees to be stressed by extreme heat. The fall moisture (rains) help the trees and shrubs to establish their root systems. When the air temperatures are cooler than the soil, new root growth is encouraged without new top growth. The result is a stronger, better developed root system for the next spring when the plant begins to grow."

All trees and shrubs are grown and shipped in 3-gallon containers. Height is dependent on species of tree or shrub. Orders forms are available on the SWCD website at [www.clintonswcd.org](http://www.clintonswcd.org). To request an order form be mailed or emailed to you please contact the CCSWCD at [leah.harden@in.nacdn.net](mailto:leah.harden@in.nacdn.net) or call 765-659-1223, extension 3.

**Orders must be placed with payment prior to September 25<sup>th</sup>.** Tree pick-up is scheduled for October 2nd. Any proceeds from the sale will be used to help fund ongoing conservation education efforts of the Soil and Water Conservation District.



### USDA, NRCS Welcomes New District Conservationist



The USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service recently appointed Katelyn Fagan as District Conservationist serving Clinton County residents.

Katie grew up on a small family farm in Gosport, IN. She graduated from Purdue University in 2015 with a degree in Natural Resource Planning and a minor in Soil Science. Katie became interested in conservation working at the Natural Resources Social Science Lab with Dr. Linda Prokopy and learned about NRCS with encouragement from her soils judging coach, Dr. Gary Steinhart. She began her career with NRCS as a Pathways intern in Eureka, Illinois and joined the agency full-time as a Soil Conservationist based out of the Lafayette field office in March 2016. Katelyn began her duties at the Frankfort field office in May 2020.

#### Inside this issue

Conservation Video Series .....	2
How My Waterway App.....	2
Brillion Seeder for sale.....	2
BWSC cost-share program .....	3
SFW cost-share program.....	4
CWI cost-share program .....	4
Hoosier Riverwatch Wkshp .....	5
Hedgerow Revival .....	5

#### Special points of interest

- Native tree and shrub order deadline September 25th.
- Learn more about conservation programs and cost-share opportunities.
- Hoosier Riverwatch Workshop September 29 and 30. Register soon!
- Create a "Living Fence"—read Hedgerow Revival and get started by ordering plants from the SWCD annual plant sale.

## New Conservation at Work Video Series

Earlier this year, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) unveiled a new video series, Conservation at Work, which consists of 30 sort, 90-t0-120 second videos that highlight common conservation practices.

The videos feature farmers, ranchers, and forestland owners from across the U.S. who explain why they have implemented the a variety of conservation practices and how they work on their land. They also provide insight into how each practice is helping them to protect and improve resources and save time and money.

Current videos highlight practices such as high tunnels, waste storage, nutrient management, rotational grazing, cover crops, wetland restoration, brush management, forest stand improvement, grade stabilization, and many others.

Our hope is that by sharing the conservation successes will help motive the general public, farmers and landowners to consider conservation.



***Video series will help landowners and farmers learn more about how conservation can help improve their operation.***

### Brillion Seeder For Sale

The Clinton County SWCD currently has a Brillion SS8 Sure Stand Seeder for sale. Please contact the SWCD at 765-659-1223 extension 3 to request more information or to schedule a time to see the equipment.

The full operations manual may be found at [http://www.landoll.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Sure\\_Stand\\_Seeder\\_Operators\\_Manual\\_1P480rev0913.pdf](http://www.landoll.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Sure_Stand_Seeder_Operators_Manual_1P480rev0913.pdf)



## "How's My Waterway" - New Water Data Transparency Tool Now Available

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released a new tool that assembles publicly available water quality data into a user-friendly package. How's My Waterway provides users with an easily accessible and understandable summary of water quality at the community, state, and national level. The tool was created in partnership with states and water stakeholders and will facilitate next steps in a collective effort to continue providing clean water for recreation and safe drinking water for communities across the nation.

EPA's new How's My Waterway provides the public with an easy to use tool to learn about water, explore data and to find out what is happening around the county to improve the health of our waters. How's my Waterway works on all different screen sizes—from desktop computers and tablets to mobile phones.

- **Community:** Learn about the health of local waters, identify challenges and learn about what is being done to restore or protect the waters. Find out more about your drinking water. Discover if waters in your community are suitable for swimming, eating fish and if they support healthy aquatic life.
- **State:** Choose a state to find basic facts about a state's waters, summaries of specific assessments, a statewide survey of water quality and state drinking water metrics.
- **National:** Learn about the quality of water resources (lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and coastal areas) across the nation and the main challenges to our water resources nationwide.

Learn more about How's My Waterway at <https://mywaterway.epa.gov>



## 4 Concepts to Keep Nutrients Out of Streams

By Don Donovan, District Conservationist (Parke County), USDA, NRCS

Whether it be the hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico or algae in Lake Erie, water quality is in the news frequently. While not all problems lie at agriculture's feet, the farming industry does need to proactively step up to the plate and address its part of the problem. How? If your goal is limiting soil erosion and nutrient loss into waterways, start with these four concepts:

**Implement a never-till system.** Notice this is not a no-till system or a no-till most-of-the-time system, but a never-till system. Of course, you must be flexible, but many years of soil health benefits can be undone by just one tillage pass.

**Start using cover crops.** The list of cover crop benefits is long; reduced erosion, more diversity in your cropping system to provide more food and habitat for microbiology in the soil, roots growing year-round to build organic matter and protect the soil, nutrient production and scavenging, weed suppression as part of an overall pest management strategy, winter grazing, and more.

Start with something simple such as cover crop species that winter kills. Then move into more challenging cover crops and mixes. Have a plan and a purpose in mind when you develop your mix. Know how you will plan the cover crop, have a termination plan with a contingency plan, and understand that cover crops require another level of management.

**Adapt your nutrient management plan.** Each farm is different, and as soil health improves, so will nutrient recycling, availability and nutrient use efficiency on each field. Start with a precise system of soil testing and nutrient application. Test various nutrient management rates, placements, timing and products. Find what works best for your crops to maximize your nutrient use efficiency. Remember, commercial products can be expensive, so inefficient use costs money and cuts into profit.

**Install buffers.** Your yield monitor will show you areas that are low yielding each year. Seed them down, and save the time and inputs to invest in the rest of your farm. Filter that water before it leaves your farm. There are programs available to help offset the cost of lost acres. You will be doing more to protect water quality in your community.

You can complete these steps with somewhat limited changes to your operation. Implementing some practices will require greater levels of management over conventional systems, but your soil health will surely improve. Make today the day of change!

Thank you to our  
sponsors!



**MICHAEL RINEHART EXCAVATING, INC.**

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**BEARD WASTE  
APPLICATIONS SERVICES**  
4249 N COUNTY RD. 450 W.  
FRANKFORT, IN 46041  
765-659-8568



# Browns Wonder Sugar Creek Cost-Share Program

## Browns Wonder-Sugar Creek Stewardship Initiative: Phase I

The targeted, eligible areas will be the Tier 1-High Priority Critical Land Areas (CLA's). If you find your acres within the Tier 1 areas (Red) and are interested in one or more of the practices below in the Available Practices, then contact the Boone or Clinton County SWCD office to set up an appointment. If you are interested in these practices and are NOT located in the Tier 1 areas, you may still contact our office for information on other programs that you may be eligible for!

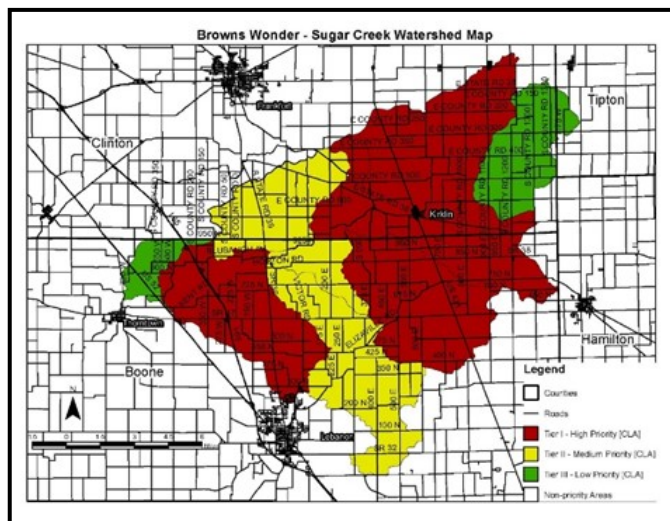
### Some Available

Practices  
Fencing  
Heavy Use Protection Area  
Forage and Biomass Planting  
Livestock Watering Facilities  
Waste Facility Closure  
Underground Outlet  
Grassed Waterway  
Cover Crops  
Filter Strip  
Denitrification Bioreactor  
Conservation Cover  
Residue and Tillage Management  
Riparian Forested Buffer  
Riparian Herbaceous Cover  
Streambank Stabilization  
Rain Garden

*This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement 37907 to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The contents of this document do not reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.*

Whether you are considering converting your farm management to more conservation friendly practices, or installing a rain garden in your yard; you may be eligible for cost-share programs in your area! These cost-share programs are volunteer incentive based programs that can reimburse up to 75% of the total cost.

In the fall of 2019, Browns Wonder-Sugar Creek Watershed Implementation Project-Phase I was fully executed. The cost-share program is available from fall of 2019 to the fall of 2022. The areas referenced in the map above were ranked into Tiers based off their high likelihood of contributing pollutant loads (nutrients, sediment, and bacteria & pathogens) to the watershed as well as the recovery potential, with Tier 1 being the highest rank and Tier 3 the lowest. Implementation efforts (cost-share funds) will be limited to Tier 1 Critical Land Areas (CLA's) and Priority Protection Areas (PPA's) in Phase 1 until opportunities for water quality improvement have been exhausted, which will be identified by the steering committee and approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Once Tier 1 has exhausted opportunities for water quality improvement then Tier 1 CLA's, Tier 2 CLA's & PPA's will be targeted (Phase 2).



The focus and purpose of these grants are to improve water quality and reduce non-point pollution from the streams. Non-point source pollution is a result from land runoff, precipitation, drainage, seepage, etc. that comes from many diffuse sources (agriculture, roadways, lawns, etc.), while point pollution can be easily identified such as an outlet from an industrial facility. Point source pollution is regulated, while non-point pollution is addressed through education, planning, and implementation of watershed programs, such as the Browns Wonder Sugar Creek Cost-Share Program!

If you are interested in helping us remediate this non-point source pollution issue by installing BMP's on your land, contact the Clinton County or Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District for more information!

## Clean Water Indiana Cost-Share Program

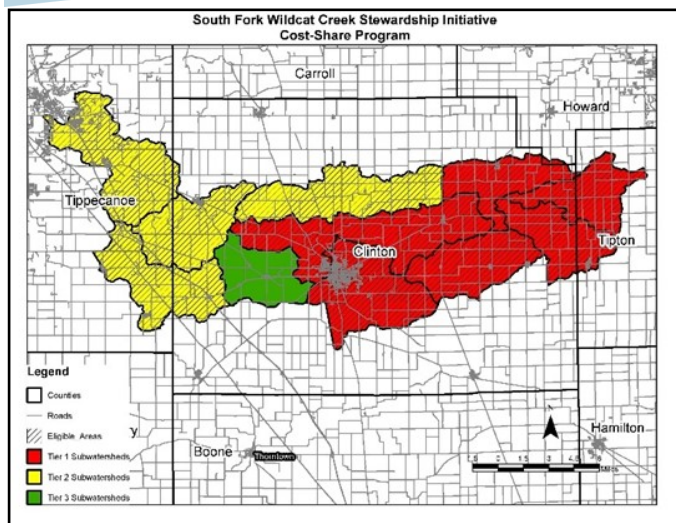
The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups in the State of Indiana. The financial assistance supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce non-point sources of pollution through education, technical assistance, training, and financial incentives (cost-share). The CWI fund is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation under the direction of the State Soil Conservation Board.

The Clinton County SWCD received \$33,000.00/3 yr. through the competitive grants program and will utilize the funds to provide a cost-share program that

focuses on practices consistent with conservation cropping systems such as cover crops, transition to no-till, integrated crop management and gypsum application. In addition cost-share funds will be available for soil testing to ag. producers not currently subscribing to regular soil testing on farm field(s) and using fertility information to help develop a plan for nutrient management using the 4R principles—right source, rate, time and place.



# South Fork Wildcat Creek Cost-Share Program



Limited funding

Expires April 2021

Deadline to apply 9/15/20

**The South Fork Wildcat Creek Cost-Share Program is now available in Tier 2 areas!**

This cost-share program originally has only been available to the Tier 1 Critical Land Areas which are displayed in red, but now those who own or operate on acres located in the yellow, Tier 2, are eligible as well!

There is limited funding available so apply quickly for assistance in implementing conservation friendly practices! All interested parties must have an application sent in by September 15<sup>th</sup> if they wish to enroll in this program. Please contact Clinton County SWCD and check out our website at <https://www.clintonswcd.org/> for more information!

**Fallow field syndrome** is what many producers hate to hear, but has unfortunately been quite a hot topic for 2020. Due to prevent plant in 2019, many are experiencing this phenomena first hand. Fallow field syndrome occurs during lack of plant growth in fields, which reduces mycorrhizal fungi in populations in the soil. These fungi increase the surface area of plant roots and are critical in providing efficient uptake of nutrients and water. The symptoms are mainly focused in grass crops such as wheat and corn, causing them have zinc and phosphorus deficiencies. Prevent-plant fields managed with tillage or herbicide may be more susceptible to this syndrome. Not only are nutrient and water uptake affected, but prevent plant fields may also have issues with compaction from tillage and lack of living roots.

## How do we combat this issue?

While fallow field syndrome has already affected 2020, you can reduce its effect on 2021. By planting cover crops and converting to a reduced or no-till system, you can reform those mycorrhizal fungi populations. Small grain or grass cover crops such as cereal rye, oats, and annual ryegrass encourage that reformation. Brassicas such as radishes do not form those associations, but are good for reducing that compaction and building organic matter.

For funding opportunities for cover crops or converting to no-till, check with the local NRCS and SWCD office to see what programs are available!



## South Fork Wildcat Creek Stewardship Initiative: Phase II

The targeted, eligible areas will be the Tier 1-High Priority Critical Land Areas (CLA's) and Tier 2-Moderate Priority CLA's. If you find your acres within the Tier 1 areas (Blue) and are interested in one or more of the practices listed below in the Available Practices, then contact the Clinton County SWCD office to set up an appointment. If you are interested in these practices and are NOT located in the Tier 1 areas, you may still contact our office for information on other programs that you may be eligible for!

**Some Available Practices**

- Fencing
- Heavy Use Protection Area
- Forage and Biomass Planting
- Livestock Watering Facilities
- Waste Facility Closure
- Underground Outlet
- Grassed Waterway
- Cover Crops
- Conservation Cover
- Residue and Tillage Management
- Riparian Forested Buffer
- Streambank Stabilization
- Rain Garden

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## Hoosier Riverwatch Volunteer Stream Monitoring Training

The Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District will host a Hoosier Riverwatch basic training workshop on Tuesday, September 29 and Wednesday, September 30th from 5:30PM to 9:00 PM . Must attend both sessions.

Hoosier Riverwatch is a statewide program that supports volunteer water quality monitoring of local waterways. Workshop participants will learn about stream ecology and tools for assessing water quality through several *fun* activities both indoors and outdoors. Teachers, home school educators and Scout leaders may be especially interested in this workshop as many of the activities can be adapted for use with all grade levels and are cross-referenced with state teaching standards. The workshop is free of charge and open to individuals of high school age or older.

The workshop will be led by Hoosier Riverwatch trained facilitator Leah Harden. All activities will take place at the Camp Cullom Nature Center. There is no fee for the workshop however registration is required. Masks will be required and class size limited to the first eight participants to register.

If you would like to be part of this *fun* citizen-science program, please call the Clinton County SWCD at (765) 659-1223 ext. 3 or email [leah.harden@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:leah.harden@in.nacdnet.net) to register.

Indiana volunteer stream monitoring groups have entered data collected during habitat, chemical, and biological sampling events at over 1,800 river and stream segments across Indiana. This information can be found at the online database at: <http://www.in.gov/idem/riverwatch/>

## USDA Expands Farmers.gov Features to Help Manage Conservation Activities



New self-service features on farmers.gov will help Indiana farmers and forestland owners manage their conservation activities online and request assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "These conservation features join a number of others already available through farmers.gov, including the ability to view farm loan information," said Jerry Raynor, State Conservationist in Indiana. "As more content and capabilities are added, farmers.gov is quickly becoming the online hub for producers to find resources, submit applications, request assistance and make connections. Now, amid this pandemic, we recognize the importance of online options for producers to manage their USDA business."

Producers can access these conservation features by desktop computer, tablet or phone. They can now:

- ◆ View, download and e-sign documents request conservation assistance
- ◆ Reference technical terms and submit questions
- ◆ Access information on current and past conservation practices
- ◆ View detailed information on all previous and ongoing contracts, including the amount of planned and received cost-share assistance.

The new conservation features enhance the request process with a customer-friendly unified mapping tool that allows farmers to locate areas of interest in minutes, with high-resolution aerial imagery and multi-layered display functionality. The new features include the most popular functionalities from NRCS's Conservation

Client Gateway (CCG) while providing enhanced functionality and an improved user experience. CCG is the NRCS portal for producers, but now these functionalities are being moved to farmers.gov to give producers one place to do business with NRCS, Farm Service Agency and other USDA agencies.

To access their information, producers will need a USDA eAuth account to login into farmers.gov. After obtaining an eAuth account, producers should visit farmers.gov and sign into the site's authenticated portal via the "Sign In / Sign Up" link at the top right of the website. Current CCG users can use their existing login and password to access the conservation features on farmers.gov. CCG will continue to be actively maintained and supported until all core components have been migrated to farmers.gov later this year.

Currently, only producers doing business as individuals can view information. Entities, such as an LLC or Trust, or producers doing business on behalf of another customer cannot access the portal at this time, but access is being planned. Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox or Microsoft Edge are the recommended browsers to access the feature.

USDA is building farmers.gov for farmers, by farmers. Future self-service features available through the farmers.gov portal include: authority for FSA and NRCS customers to work in the portal and act on behalf of their active power-of-attorney entitlements and their current authorities for business entities, updated e-sign capabilities to enhance the single and multi-signer functionalities and a robust document management system that enables customers to download, upload and interact with their important conservation practice and contract documents.

To learn more about [www.farmer.gov](http://www.farmer.gov), Conservation Client Gateway or how to obtain an eAuth account, contact your District Conservationist, Katelyn Fagan at 765-659-1223 extension 3.

# Hedgerow Revival: Growing a Living Fence

Source: Native Plant Herald/Prairie Nursery <http://nativeplantherald.prairienursery.com>

Once a common farming practice in Britain, the hedgerow is making a comeback in the U.S. as the classic hedgerow is being adapted for urban and suburban gardens. An exciting and positive direction in modern landscaping, the use of native shrubs and perennials in hedgerows is unsurpassed for increasing diversity and supporting life in the landscape.

Even a privet hedge offers shelter, nesting sites for birds, and some nectar for pollinators – but a hedgerow comprised of native shrubs will be alive with birds and pollinators. Native shrubs are host plants for a wide variety of butterfly and moth (lepidoptera) caterpillars. The caterpillars are a critical food source for birds when they are raising their young.

## How to Increase Biodiversity with Hedges

- Link your hedge to existing trees, water sources, woodland habitat or neighboring hedges, or
- Merge the hedge into a planting of native perennial plants.
- Include flowering native shrubs that provide nectar and fruit.
- Include a variety of shrubs that flower and fruit throughout the growing season.
- Avoid the use of pesticides, entirely. Do not apply herbicide to your lawn, and avoid using it whenever possible.
- Choose plants that are appropriate for your area and growing conditions.
- Avoid unnecessary pruning or trimming, especially during spring through mid-summer when you are likely to disturb nesting birds.

Avoid unnecessary raking especially in spring and fall. Many species of Lepidoptera roll up in leaves and over-winter in leaf litter which provides additional insulation. The environment created by leaf litter and dead plant material is critical habitat for insects, toads and salamanders. An existing tree (in this example a large deciduous tree) offers a starting point from which to anchor a hedge. Layers that include trees, shrubs, and perennials will create excellent bird habitat.

## More Hedgerow Benefits

Hedgerows come in many shapes and sizes to serve a variety of

needs. A well-planned hedgerow is a multi-tasking feature in gardens where every square inch counts. Hedgerow width and plant selection will depend upon your landscape size, your needs, the soil and location.

**Privacy and Noise Reduction.** Maybe the most common use of hedgerow in modern urban and suburban landscapes. If you have the luxury of space, include deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs and native perennials. You can build-out a hedgerow around an existing row of trees. Or, a low hedge of shrubs and perennials may be the right solution for the strip of land between houses on a city lot.

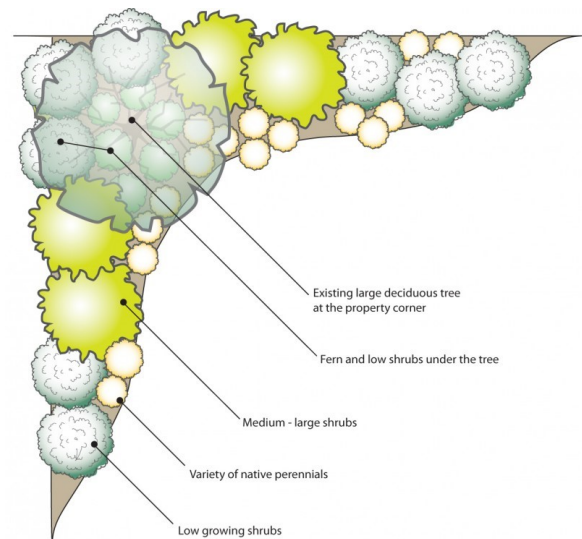
**Edible Landscaping.** Not just for the birds, a hedgerow can be an edible landscape feature with the use of shrubs such as [American Hazelnut](#), [Elderberry](#), and [Chokecherry](#).

**Food & Cover for Wildlife.** Whether an unplowed patch between agricultural fields or something small in the backyard.

**Reduce Your Mowing Area.** Always a good idea to save time, conserve resources, and increase habitat at the same time.

**Windbreaks.** A traditional windbreak hedge is around 20 feet wide, but you can still reap some benefits with a 10 – 12 foot wide hedgerow. An effective windbreak include trees (evergreens work well) and shrubs, all planted (spaced) so that they will overlap when mature.

**Hedgerows are Beautiful.** The plants in your hedgerow will offer a beautiful mixture of colors, textures and shapes that change with every season.



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Frankfort, IN 46041

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facebook.com/clintonswcd

Website: [www.clintonswcd.org](http://www.clintonswcd.org) (NEW  
SITE!)

Return Service Requested

## Common Invasive Plants and Native Alternatives

### Notice to Service Center Visitors

Due to recent public health concerns,  
this Service Center is now open for in-office visits by  
appointment only.

Call to make an appointment:  
FSA: 765-659-1223 ext 2  
NRCS and SWCD: 765-659-1223 ext 3

#### Things You Should Know About Your Appointment:

- When you call for an appointment, you will be screened for recent health concerns and recent travel.
- Our office doors will remain locked and you will be allowed entry at your scheduled appointment time.
- You may be asked to wear a face covering during your appointment and adhere to social distancing guidelines.

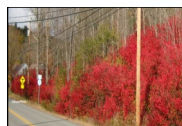
#### Information Regarding USDA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program:

- May 26 to Aug. 28, Farm Service Agency is accepting applications from agricultural producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19.
- In addition to in-person appointments, FSA will be working with agricultural producers by phone and using email and online tools to process applications.
- Visit [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap) for program information including eligible crops, payment rates, and Frequently Asked Questions, or call 877-508-8364 for assistance.

Some commonly sold landscaping plants are invasive, and although a few are now prohibited under the Indiana Invasive Terrestrial Plant Rule, you may find some for sale or already planted in your yard. Here are a few to do without, and some suggested native alternatives:

#### **Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)**

**Status:** Invading forest understories throughout Indiana; very popular landscaping shrub for its bright red foliage in the fall.



**Description:** Deciduous shrub to 15 feet tall and wide; opposite leaves oval to obovate and finely toothed, 1-3 inches long and 1/2 to 1 1/4 inches wide, stalkless or nearly so; leaves turn bright red in fall, pink in shade; green to brown stems often have 2-4 prominent corky wings; small green flowers with 4 petals. **Threat:** Creates dense thickets in forest understory,

displacing native plants. **Native Alternatives:** Blackhaw (*Viburnum prunifolium*), highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*).

#### **Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)**

**Status:** Rapidly invading roadsides and forests across the state; one of the most widely sold landscaping trees in the eastern U.S.



**Description:** Deciduous tree to 30 feet tall; leaves alternate, ovate, smooth, finely toothed and wavy edged, shiny green above and paler below; flowers white, 5 petals, in dense clusters, unpleasant odor; small, round, brown fruits.

**Threat:** Produces large number of fruits which are spread by starlings; can establish densely in forest understory and outcompete native trees. **Native Alternatives:** Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis* and *A. arborea*), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*), American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*),