



»»» QUARTLY NEWSLETTER «««

BOONE COUNTY SWCD

By: Keegan Cougill



UPCOMING DATES!

- FEBRUARY 22ND ZIONSVILLE CISMA MEETING
- FEBRUARY 21ST MONTHLY SWCD MEETING
- FEBRUARY 25TH – MARCH 2ND INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK
- MARCH 12TH BOONE COUNTY SWCD ANNUAL MEETING
- MARCH 19TH TREE NURSERY PICK-UP
- MARCH 21ST MONTHLY SWCD MEETING
- MARCH 29TH GOOD FRIDAY COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED

**INVASIVE
AWARENESS
WEEK**



Governor Eric J. Holcomb announces last week of February Invasive awareness week.

**WHY
NATIVE
PLANTS?**



Why native plants have to potential to save the environment, your time, and your wallet!

**COVER
CROP
HIGHLIGHT**



Could this cover crop be the perfect fit for your garden/field? See the benefit below!

INVASIVE AWARENESS WEEK

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

>>> DATES AND COST

The Governor of the State of Indiana has officially designated the week of February 25 - March 2, 2024, as Invasive Awareness Week. But why the emphasis on invasive plants, and what impact do they have on our state? Invasive plants are non-native species that pose significant threats to our native environments, affecting the ecosystem, human health, and the economy. The State of Indiana is deeply concerned about these species due to the substantial consequences they entail. Currently, efforts to prevent, monitor, and control invasive species in Indiana incur an annual cost of \$8 million.

>>> FACTS

Invasive species represent the second most significant threat to biodiversity. Notable invasive threats in our state include Amur Honeysuckle, Garlic Mustard, Tree of Heaven, Callery Pear, and more. These invasive species jeopardize the survival rates of native plants and animals, leading to severe alterations in nutrient flow, flooding, and watershed health.

Take Amur Honeysuckle, for example. This invasive plant is detrimental to forest regeneration as it outcompetes native species. Its unique characteristics, such as being the first to bloom and the last to drop its leaves, result in blocking sunlight for surrounding ground forest cover. The berries they produce lack essential nutrients, becoming essentially the fast food for native populations. Predictions suggest that these plants release toxins into the soil, harming healthy soil microbes and suppressing surrounding competition. In essence, it amounts to an invasion of nature, adversely impacting your backyard. To learn more about how you can contribute to spreading awareness or actively participate in combating these invasive pests, feel free to contact your local SWCD office and volunteer. Additional information is available at <https://www.sicim.info/cismas>

Let's work together to safeguard our environment from the threats posed by invasive plants during Invasive Awareness Week.

GET TO KNOW YOUR INVASIVES:



1. AMUR HONEY SUCKLE
2. GARLIC MUSTARD
3. WINTER CREEPER
4. CALLARY PEAR

**WHERE DO I GET THESE
NATIVE PLANTS?**

[HTTPS://INDIANANATIVEPLANTS.ORG/LANDSCAPING/WHERE-TO-BUY/](https://indiananativeplants.org/landscaping/where-to-buy/)



WHY NATIVE PLANTS?

ECOSYSTEM ROCKSTARS OF YOUR BACKYARD

>>> WHATS THE BUZZ?

You've likely heard the buzz around native plants and advocacy for more natives. But let's take a closer look at what exactly makes a tree, shrub, or herb: "native". Simply put, a native plant is one that naturally belongs in the natural vibrant landscape of Boone County, Indiana. Now, why should you care? Well, native plants are the low-maintenance rockstars of landscaping and ecosystem conservation. They're born to thrive in our local conditions, so say goodbye to all the fuss with fertilizers, bank erosion, flooding, and constant watering. An easy, eco-friendly solution for your outdoor space!

>>> UNLOCK YOUR BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY

Native plants are the often-overlooked puzzle piece essential for a diverse and healthy environment. They're the key to biodiversity, offering homes and snacks to a variety of creatures. With long-standing relationships with native animals for dispersal and spreading, they play a vital role in maintaining the delicate balance of the ecosystem.

They're not just greenery; they're the secret weapon for managing stormwater runoff and sediment pollution. Consider this; Native plant roots can grow up to 16 feet deep compared to other lawn substitutes who only grow inches deep. This is especially handy in the face of clay soil challenges. Native plants, armed with extensive root systems, effortlessly break down this stubborn soil type. By capturing and filtering water on-site, they're helping the soil soak it all in, making our ecosystem tougher and more sustainable. The intricate root systems of native plants play a pivotal role in slowing down runoff, preventing soil erosion along riverbanks, and purifying water before it reaches nearby water bodies. The increased infiltration by native plants enhances pollutant filtering and contributes to groundwater replenishment, resulting in a positive ecological impact. These guys can be a game-changer, especially if you're dealing with yard flooding.

>>> THE BASICS

In a nutshell, native plants are the plants born to thrive in your county. They're less maintenance than standard lawns, require less water, prevent flooding, break down pesky clay soil types, promote a healthy soil biome, and enhance biodiversity in your backyard, attracting beautiful birds and bugs. Plus, they look fantastic, and the bonus? Less standing water means fewer mosquitoes. It's a win-win for your yard and the environment! If you have more questions feel free to reach out to your local SWCD office.

**THERE ARE OVER 1500
PLANT THAT ARE
NATIVE TO INDIANA**



**NATIVE PLANTS
REQUIRE LESS WATER
THAN TURF AND HELP
WITH SOIL
EROSION/FLOODING**



COVER CROP HIGHLIGHT

YOUR POTENTIAL NEW COVER CROP FOR YOUR GARDEN/FIELD?



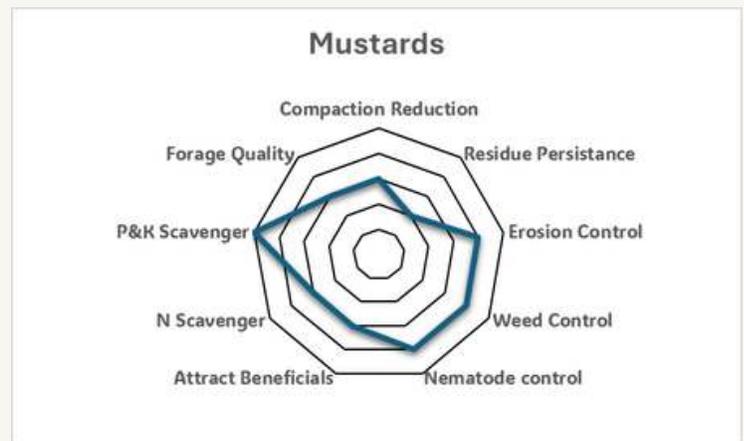
Mustard seeds make for an excellent cover crop for several reasons. Firstly, their rapid germination and robust growth create a dense cover that effectively suppresses weeds, reducing the competition for nutrients and sunlight. Additionally, mustard plants exhibit biofumigation properties, releasing compounds that help manage soil-borne pests and diseases. As a cruciferous plant, mustard acts as a natural biofumigant, improving soil health and reducing the need for chemical interventions. Beyond their agronomic benefits, mustard cover crops contribute to nutrient cycling, adding organic matter to the soil when incorporated. Mustard plants exhibit good heat and drought tolerance, have low shade tolerance, and do not tolerate flooding or ponding. Overall, their versatility, weed-suppressing qualities, and soil-enhancing attributes make mustard seeds a smart choice for sustainable and effective cover cropping strategies



Planting Date: September to early October. Soil temperatures between 45°F and 85°F



Before removing consider crop rotation goals and local conditions. Consult local experts for advice.



<https://boonecounty.in.gov/offices/soil-water/>



<https://www.facebook.com/SWCDBoone/>

ANNUAL MEETING

JOIN US FOR THE BOONE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 64TH ANNUAL MEETING

DULL'S TREE FARM & PUMPKIN HARVEST
1765 W BLUBAUGH AVENUE, THORNTOWN, INDIANA 46071

MARCH 12TH
11:00 AM - 1 PM

CALL KEEGAN C. BY MARCH 1ST AT 765 482-6355 EXT. 8676 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

