



***Welcome to the Native & Invasive Plants  
Resource for plants throughout  
the Village of Indian Hill***

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*This resource is intended to provide useful insight about plants found throughout the Village of Indian Hill that can have an impact on yards & green areas within our community.*

*Over the coming months & years, we'll continue to update this resource to provide guidance and answers to questions about native and invasive plants known to exist within the Village.*

***“What’s the difference between a Native plant and an Invasive one?”***

**Native Plants** are plants that are indigenous to a given area that have developed over hundreds or thousands of years. Only plants found in this country before European settlement are considered to be native. Native plants form a part of a cooperative environment, or plant community, where multiple species or environments have evolved to support them. As one example, a plant may exist because a certain animal pollinates the plant and that animal exists because it relies on the pollen as a source of food.

**Invasive Plants** are plants that are not native to a specific location (an introduced species), and have a tendency to spread to a degree believed to cause damage to the environment, human economy or human health. Invasives adversely affect the habitats and bioregions they invade, may disrupt by dominating a region, particular habitats, or wildland–urban interface land from loss of natural controls (such as predators or herbivores) and threaten biological diversity.

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## **“Why should I be concerned about whether plants are native or invasive?”**

### **5 Good Reasons to consider native plants in place of invasive plants**

1. **Grow in harmony with other plants.** The DNA of native plants is designed to allow and accommodate the growth of other native species in close proximity and enable future generations of native plants to thrive.
  - *Invasive plants prevent the growth of other plants by creating too much shade which thwarts other seasonal plant growth, and many crowd out other plants because of their aggressive root systems.*
2. **Attract more birds and beneficial insects.** Native plants provide high quality and abundant food sources which support wildlife diversity.
  - *The fruit of invasive plants has low nutrient value and the plants do not produce the volume of fruit needed to sustain a healthy habitat. Invasives provide a fraction of the demand wildlife needs to thrive compared to native plants.*
3. **Enhance the beauty of your property and green areas.** They have consistent flower blooms throughout the seasons and provide rich greenery.
  - Invasives may bloom sporadically and tend to dissipate quickly, and many become unsightly during the seasons.
4. **Reduce landscape maintenance needs.** Because of their native heritage, native plants adapt to local environmental conditions, they don't spread to unwanted areas, and are resilient to most pests and diseases, reducing the need for pesticides and fertilizers.
  - Invasives are less healthy, may require increased pruning, many necessitate ongoing effort to remove due to their tendency to spread rapidly to areas where they're not wanted, and some require pesticides to prevent insect damage or fertilizer to assist growth.
5. **Drought resistant.** Because of their adaptability to the local environment, native plants can withstand rainfall shortcomings.
  - Invasive plants have no mechanism to adjust for drought conditions requiring additional watering without adequate rainfall and may die out without sufficient watering.

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**“Some invasives are very pretty, so why should they be removed?”**

**Looks can be very deceiving. While some invasive plants are quite attractive, they often crowd out many other beautiful plants. For example, these pictures say it best**

<p><b>Native - Before</b> Multiple native varieties living together, with some blooming in Spring</p>	<p><b>Native - After</b> Because native plants coexists with each other, seasonal varieties thrive throughout their respective growing season</p>
 <p>statebystategardening.com</p>	 <p>blog.thbfarm.com</p>
<p><b>Invasive - Before</b> Lesser Celandine*(<i>ranunculus ficaria</i>) covering the forest floor looks pretty for 3-4 weeks in the Spring</p>	<p><b>Invasive - After</b> Because Lesser Celandine prevents natives from thriving, over time, it can lead to creating a barren landscape till it reappears in the Spring</p>
 <p>lfwa.org</p>	 <p>newenglandforests.blogspot</p>

*\*Lesser Celandine is an invasive ephemeral. Ephemerals typically bloom before the trees and shrubs leaf out and die back a few weeks after blooming. As Lesser Celandine spreads, it deprives us of experiencing the wonderful display of many of our native ephemerals that only appear for a short time in the spring.*

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***“If I remove the honeysuckle, what can I replace it with to provide the privacy I prefer?”***

**The short answer is Any native plant is suitable as a replacement for honeysuckle, it's up to your personal preference.** With so many choices, you may want to consider a mix of Blackhaw or Arrowwood Viburnums, Witchhazel, Winterberry, and perhaps Redbud or Dogwood, which can provide both privacy and a beautiful landscape.

***“How do I know if a plant at a local garden center is native?”***

With the increased interest in native plants, some garden centers designate sections of their nursery as native or may highlight individual plant descriptions as being “native”. When selecting plants, if not clearly labeled as being native, the better garden centers have gardening experts who can assist.

You could also print out the native plant list from the link below and take it with you when you visit a garden center, or access the link on your cell phone. With the list in hand, you can match the botanical name of a plant of interest with the botanical name on the native plant list to confirm whether a plant is native (Keep in mind that the list below includes many, but not all of the native plants available).

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***The following links are provided to assist with identifying native and invasive plants and may be useful in selecting native plants suitable for your landscape***

➤ **Native Plants to Consider Instead of Invasive Species [CLICK HERE](#)**

➤ **Images of Native Plants in the Village [CLICK HERE](#)**

➤ **Images of Invasive Plants in the Village [CLICK HERE](#)**

***If you have any questions or comments, we invite you to send an email to:***

**[PlantsofIndianHill@gmail.com](mailto:PlantsofIndianHill@gmail.com)**

***Thank you for visiting the Native & Invasive plants resource.***

*For even more insight, here are a few sites you may find useful:*

***Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Native Ohio plants by habitat***

**<http://ohiodnr.gov/gonative>**

***National Audubon Society – native plants beneficial to birds***

**<https://www.audubon.org/news/why-native-plants-are-better-birds-and-people>**

***Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Ohio's top invasives & facts***

**<http://ohiodnr.gov/invasiveplants>**