



CONSERVATION CONNECTION

The Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

SUMMER 2026 | VOL 6 ISSUE 2

In this newsletter:

Native Plant Sale
Page 1

2026 Garden Walk
Prairie Photo
Page 2

Invasive Species Spotlight
Brickyard Invasive Project
Page 3

Upcoming Events
Page 4



Native Plant Sale

May started off to the races with our native plant sale in conjunction with the Master Gardeners Plant Sale and Garden Show! We've upgraded to be able to take in person sales while previously only being able to take preorders online. Every year we try to increase our offerings and we thank all those who support the sale and the mission of getting more native plants in the ground here in Montgomery County. Native plants are getting more popular every year and it's thanks to all of you who spread the word and plant native! The wildlife certainly appreciate it, and we are certain you've since found newcomers to your yard because of it.

Local greenhouses are even starting to carry more native plants too! While some of the more common plants are more readily available there are still some hard to find plants out there, things you can only find at annual sales throughout the state. If there is something you really want to buy you can always ask your favorite greenhouse if they can start carrying it. Drumming up demand and word of mouth for natives helps grow business and wildlife right here at home. Until next year, happy planting!



2026 GARDEN WALK

JULY 25TH

Brought to you by the Community Growers of Montgomery County

Join the Community Growers of Montgomery County for their 5th annual Garden Walk! Check out this year's gardens that will be highlighted:

Wabash Prairie Garden - Planted in 2025, hear from Dr. Amanda Ingram about how the garden is doing in its 2nd year! Wabash College students and staff have been managing the prairie garden for the benefit of the community.

Kathy Walker- Kathy is a Community Grower and makes excellent use of her space, using raised beds and also growing food in her flower beds of beautiful plants both grown and gifted to her by friends over the years.

Alex Thompson - Alex's Garden is a classroom for her kids to experiment and grow all kinds of foods, many atypical of the average home garden. Her love of insects has led her to cultivating a vibrant garden of native wildflowers that put on a show of color and hum with life.

REGISTER HERE



<https://forms.gle/giRA8hbJGhAhGWS19>

In March 2025, the SWCD planted a 6-acre native prairie at the Brickyard Nature Park. A sea of Black-eyed Susans have made themselves known, offering a beautiful habitat for wildlife and striking photo-op for the visitor!
(Photo by Lea Dick)



Invasive Species Spotlight: Japanese Stiltgrass

(*Microstegium vimineum*)

In our next installment putting a spotlight on invasive species, we take a look at Japanese Stiltgrass. Stiltgrass is an annual that is a prolific producer of seeds, which assist it in spreading across forest floors and bottomlands and choking out the native flora. While not as common in Northern Indiana as it is in the South, it is still present in Montgomery County and can be found in woodlands near the creek or in disturbed areas. Because of how small the seeds are it can be transported by vehicles easily. Heavy equipment are common transporters of this plant and should be cleaned thoroughly with power washers between worksites. This is especially advisable if you are having any sort of work done on your property near or in your woods.

To control stiltgrass catching it early is key, as it can remain in the seedbank for sometime. Spraying with a grass selective herbicide is effective but small patches can also be pulled before it sets seed in late summer/early fall. We also recommend starting control efforts at the highest elevation of the infestation to control the spread.



Brickyard Nature Park

INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL

Check out our website
to learn more!



<https://montgomerycoswcd.com/brickyard-nature-park-invasive-removal-project/>

Get in contact with us!



Lea Dick

Conservation Director

lhickle@montgomerycoswcd.com
(765) 362-0405 ext 2641



Sam Lovold

Program Coordinator

programs@montgomerycoswcd.com
(765) 362-0405 ext 2653

Visit our
website!



Upcoming Events & Important Dates

- July 2: SWCD Board Meeting, 8am, USDA Service Center
- July 3: Office closed
- July 15: Q3 CGMC Meeting, 11:30pm, The Table Spoon
- July 25: CGMC Garden Walk, 10am-12pm, See page 2 for details
- August 6: SWCD Board Meeting, 8am, USDA Service Center
- August 12: Q3 Cisma Meeting, 4:00pm, USDA Service Center
- September 3: SWCD Board Meeting, 8am, USDA Service Center
- September 7: Office closed