

## SOME FLOODPLAIN FOREST NATIVE PLANTS IN CENTRAL INDIANA

Floodplain forests, occurring adjacent to rivers, help protect water quality, help prevent soil erosion, and promote the accumulation of organic, carbon-containing matter (See Ruch 2012 below). The following list of some native plants found in the Central Indiana White River floodplain forests was compiled in 2018 by Friends of the White River, using the literature cited after the list.

### Trees

*Acer saccharinum* – silver maple  
*Platanus occidentalis* – American sycamore  
*Acer negundo* – box elder  
*Populus deltoides* – eastern cottonwood  
*Celtis occidentalis* – hackberry  
*Ulmus americana* – American elm  
*Fraxinus* spp. – ash species  
*Juglans nigra* – black walnut  
*Aesculus glabra* – Ohio buckeye  
*Salix nigra* – black willow  
*Cercis canadensis*- redbud  
*Ulmus rubra* – slippery elm  
*Crataegus* spp. – hawthorn  
*Gleditsia triacanthus* – honey locust  
*Quercus macrocarpa* – bur oak  
*Quercus shumardii*- shumard oak  
*Carya laciniosa* – shellbark hickory  
*Staphylea trifolia* – bladdernut  
*Tilia americana* – American basswood

### Shrubs and Woody Vines

*Sambucus canadensis* – elderberry  
*Asimina triloba* – pawpaw  
*Euonymus atropurpureus* – wahoo  
*Lindera benzoin* – spicebush  
*Cornus drummondii* – rough-leaved dogwood  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia* – Virginia creeper  
*Toxicodendron radicans* – poison ivy  
*Vitis riparia* - riverbank grape  
*Vitis vulpina* – frost grape

### Herbaceous Wildflowers, Grasses and Sedges

#### Spring-Early Summer

*Carex davisii* – awned graceful sedge  
*Carex grisea* – wood gray sedge (Inflated narrowleaf sedge)  
*Carex normalis* – spreading oval sedge  
*Claytonia virginica* – spring beauty  
*Cryptotaenia canadensis* – honewort  
*Dicentra cucullaria* – dutchman’s breeches  
*Galium aparine* - cleavers  
*Geum vernum* – spring avens  
*Hydrophyllum appendiculatum* – appendaged waterleaf  
*Mertensia virginica* –Virginia bluebells  
*Ranunculus abortivus* – small-flowered buttercup  
*Viola sororia* – common blue violet  
*Viola striata* – cream violet

## Herbaceous Wildflowers, Grasses and Sedges (continued)

### Summer-Fall

*Eupatorium rugosum* (*Argentina altissima*) – white snakeroot  
*Campanulastrum americanum* (*Campanula americana*) – tall bellflower  
*Carex grayi* – Gray's sedge  
*Cinna arundinacea* – common wood reed  
*Elymus riparius* – riverbank wild rye  
*Elymus virginicus* - Virginia wild rye  
*Galium triflorum* – fragrant bedstraw  
*Impatiens capensis* – spotted touch-me-not  
*Laportea canadensis* – wood nettle  
*Lactuca biennis*- tall blue lettuce (blue wood lettuce)  
*Phlox paniculata* – garden phlox  
*Pilea pumila* – clearweed  
*Polygonum virginianum* (*Tovara virginiana*) – Virginia knotweed  
*Rudbeckia laciniata* – cutleaf coneflower  
*Sanicula* spp. - snakeroot  
*Silphium perfoliatum* – cup plant  
*Solidago gigantea* – late goldenrod  
*Symphotrichum lanceolatum* – paniced aster  
*Symphotrichum lateriflorum* (*Aster lateriflorus*) – calico aster (side-flowering aster)  
*Stellaria pubera* – great chickweed  
*Tradescantia subaspera* – zigzag spiderwort  
*Verbesina alternifolia* – wingstem

### Ferns

*Adiantum pedatum* – maidenhair fern  
*Asplenium rhizophyllum* – walking fern  
*Athyrium filix-femina* - lady fern  
*Botrychium dissectum* - cut-leaved grape fern  
*Botrychium virginianum* – rattlesnake fern  
*Cystopteris protrusa* – southern fragile fern  
*Deparia acrostichoides* – silvery spleenwort  
*Diplazium pycnocarpon* – glade fern  
*Dryopteris carthusiana* – spinulose wood fern  
*Onoclea sensibilis* – sensitive fern  
*Polystichum acrostichoides* – Christmas fern

### Literature Consulted:

Homoya, M.A. 2012. Wildflowers and ferns of Indiana forests. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana. 442 pp.  
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