

Purdue Extension

# Greene County Agriculture & Natural Resource Newsletter

## Homegrown by Heroes Program Recognizes Hoosier Vets

Indiana farmers who are military veterans or on active duty can now market their products through the Indiana Grown Homegrown by Heroes initiative, a partnership between the state Department of Agriculture and Farmer Veteran Coalition with support from the Purdue University-based National AgrAbility Project.

Participating farmers are entitled to use a special logo on their packaging and signage, similar to the Indiana Grown campaign launched last year.

"As a result of this collaboration, our Hoosier farmer veterans now have an additional marketing tool available for their use," said Cindy Chastain, farmer veteran coordinator for the National AgrAbility Project. "Indiana communities will also benefit by knowing the food they are buying is local food grown by local American veterans who served their country and are now serving their communities."

To be eligible for the program, farmers must be on active duty or an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces and own at least 50 percent of an Indiana-based agribusiness. For more information on the program, go to the Indiana Grown website at <http://www.indianagrown.org/2016/02/indiana-grown-homegrown-by-heroes/>.

Source: Darrin J Pack, Ag Answers Editor/Writer



## Important Upcoming Dates:

Saturday, May 14 10 AM	<b>Putnam County Master Gardeners Plant Auction</b> Putnam County Fairgrounds
Friday, June 24 9 AM – 5 PM	<b>Greene County Master Gardeners Plant &amp; Garden Sale</b> Greene County Community Event Center
Saturday, June 25 9 AM – 1 PM	<b>Greene County Master Gardeners Plant &amp; Garden Sale</b> Linton Farmer's Market @ Linton City Park
Fri., July 8 – Sat., July 16	<b>Greene County 4-H Fair</b> Greene County Fairgrounds

## Purdue Debuts Mobile-friendly Cover Crops Series

A new Purdue Extension series of online publications enables farmers to peruse expert-reviewed information on cover crops straight from their smartphones.

The series presents mobile-friendly versions of Extension publications on a variety of issues, including how to integrate cover crops into a corn-soybean rotation, how to use cover crops for prevented planting acres and how to terminate cover crops.

"The mobile device is now an essential part of agricultural production," said Ron Turco, professor of agronomy and head of the project. "Commodity prices, weather updates and critical information are now available wherever you need it. Indiana's farming community will soon also have ready access to Purdue's best production information."

Farmers can access the series at <https://ag.purdue.edu/soilandwater/cover-crops/>.

The online cover crops publications are the first installment of Purdue's Indiana Soil and Water series, which aims to give growers easy-to-use tools and expert information on nutrient, soil and water management and is tailored to Indiana growing conditions.

"With a format designed for smartphones, the series will help drive effective and responsible decisions about Indiana soils and provide the knowledge needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of our state's agriculture systems", said Turco, who is also assistant dean for agricultural and environmental research.

Source: Natalie van Hoose, Research News Writer

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## Purdue Offers 10 Beginning Farmer Tours Statewide

Purdue's Beginning Farmer and Rancher program is offering new and aspiring farmers an opportunity to visit 10 Indiana agribusinesses and learn from Purdue Extension educators, producers and other experts about topics ranging from organic produce to aquaponics.

The series of tours runs from May through October and includes stops throughout the state.

"In our second year, we are very excited to be able to expand the number of tours as well as the scope of the topics we will address," said Kevin Gibson, professor of botany and plant pathology and one of the leaders of Purdue's Beginning Farmer and Rancher team.

Tour stops and topics:

- May 17: JT Shrimp, Wheatfield. Shrimp production, aquaponics and working with restaurants.
- May 26: South Circle Farm, Indianapolis. Urban agriculture, organic farming and key tools for managing small-scale farming operations.
- June 25: Silverthorn Farm, Rossville. Organic fruits and vegetables, pastured pork and working with restaurants.
- July 10: Harvest Moon Flower Farm, Spencer. Flower production and selling at farmers markets.
- July 14: Melon Acres, Oaktown. Community-supported agriculture and agritourism.
- Aug. 16: Greystone Farm, Lawrenceburg. Pasture management and the production of pastured-raised meats, eggs, honey and herbs.
- Sept. 8: Becker Farms, Mooreland. Multi-species grazing systems and producing your own feed for livestock and poultry.
- Sept. 29: River Ridge Farm, Roann. Four-season vegetable farming, operating an on-farm store, and farm-to-school programs.
- Oct. 7: Hawkins Family Farm, North Manchester. Poultry, hogs, cattle and vegetables and a discussion on processing meat.
- Oct. 20: Fields of Agape, Carthage. Developing partnerships and infrastructure to support small grain farming.

Lunch will be provided during each tour.

The tours are free, but registration is required. Registration is now open for the first six tours at [https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/wk\\_group.asp?wk\\_group=BeginFarmer](https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/wk_group.asp?wk_group=BeginFarmer). Registration for the remainder of the tours will be available in early June on the same website.

For more information about the Beginning Farmer and Rancher program, or the farm tour schedule, contact Kevin Gibson at 765-496-2161 or [kgibson@purdue.edu](mailto:kgibson@purdue.edu).

To join a mailing list to receive updates on the farm tours and other events planned by the Beginning Farmer team, send an email message to [beginningfarmers@lists.purdue.edu](mailto:beginningfarmers@lists.purdue.edu).

Source: Darrin J Pack, Ag Answers Editor/Writer

## 'Leaves of Three, Let It Be' Should be 'Leaflets of Three'

Most gardeners have heard of the wise advice "leaves of three, let it be" referring to the pest plant poison ivy. While not quite as catchy, the saying really should be "leaflets of three, let it be."

Poison ivy leaves are compound rather than simple – a single leaf is divided into three separate portions, called leaflets. Plants with three leaflets are often referred to as being trifoliate. Another key identifying characteristic is that one side of a leaflet may have an irregularly toothed margin, while the opposite edge may be smooth or barely toothed.



Poison ivy is typically a vine that can climb quite high by means of aerial rootlets. But older poison ivy plants, especially those that have been cut back repeatedly, can take the form of a shrub.

Poison ivy flowers are rather inconspicuous and usually not noticed by gardeners. The subsequent fruits are greenish white, smooth berries in clusters about the size of currants. Birds and other wildlife eat the berries and then spread the seed in their droppings. So poison ivy can show just about anywhere.

There are a few look-alike plants that gardeners could mistake for poison ivy. Boston ivy is a common landscape vine that is trifoliate, but only the very young foliage. In Boston ivy, each leaflet is attached by a stalk. In poison ivy, generally only the top leaflet is attached by a stalk. Mature Boston ivy leaves are three-lobed, but not separated into separate leaflets.

Fragrant sumac, a small shrub, is also trifoliate, but none of the leaflets have stalks. Their fruit are red and slightly fuzzy.

All parts of the poison ivy plant, including the stem and roots, contain and secrete a nonvolatile oil that affects the skin. This oil is insoluble in water. That means if you simply wash with water alone after coming into contact with poison ivy, you may spread the oil to other areas and increase the discomfort.

Once established, the woodiness of the poison ivy plant makes it difficult to control. Repeatedly cutting the plant back to the ground may eventually starve the plant; however, each time you cut it you expose yourself to the oil. You can dig up and discard small plants, but if you leave behind any portion of the root system, the plant will likely re-sprout.

Several herbicides are available for poison ivy control. Keep in mind, however, that any herbicide that will kill poison ivy will also kill any desirable plants. So if the poison ivy is growing among shrubs and trees, you must apply chemical controls directly to the poison ivy plant and not to any of the other plants. If the poison ivy growth is severe enough, it may be worth sacrificing some desirable plants to eliminate the poison ivy. Always read and follow the label directions before using any pesticide product.

For more information on Poison Ivy, see Purdue Extension Bulletin HO-218-W, <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/HO/HO-218-W.pdf>.

Source: B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Consumer Horticulture Specialist

## May Yard & Garden Calendar

### HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Many indoor plants can be moved to shady locations outdoors but only after danger of frost is past. Plants will dry out more often outdoors, so keep a close eye on soil moisture. Sinking the pots in soil will help slow down moisture loss.
- Now is a good time to take cuttings of houseplants to increase a collection or share with friends. Root cuttings in media, such as vermiculite, perlite or potting soil. Roots grown in water tend to be weak from lack of oxygen and do not adjust well to planting in soil.
- Fertilize houseplants according to label directions. Foliage plants require relatively high nitrogen fertilizer; flowering houseplants respond best to fertilizer high in phosphorus.

### YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Prune early spring-flowering trees and shrubs after flowers fade.
- Plant balled-and-burlapped or container nursery stock, and water thoroughly.
- Remove and destroy overwintering bagworms from landscape trees and shrubs.
- Follow a spray schedule to keep home-orchard crops pest free. While trees are in bloom, use fungicide sprays without insecticide to avoid injury to bees. Follow label directions. More information is available in Purdue Extension publication ID-146 "Controlling Pests in the Home Fruit Planting," <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ID/ID-146-W.pdf>
- Thin fruits of apple trees, if needed, about three weeks after petal fall. Apples should be about 8 inches apart.
- Apply fungicides to roses to control diseases, such as black spot.
- Purdue turf experts recommend that if you are going to fertilize your lawn in May, apply three-fourths to 1 pound N/1,000 square feet with a product that contains 50 percent or more slow-release fertilizer. Try to schedule the application prior to a rain or irrigate following application to move the fertilizers off the leaf blade.

### GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits and flowers)

- Plant frost-tender plants after danger of frost has passed for your area. This includes warm-season vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and vine crops as well as most annual flowers and tender perennials, such as cannas, gladiolus, dahlias, tuberous begonias and caladiums.
- Pinch chrysanthemums and annual flower plants to keep them compact and well-branched.
- Make successive plantings of beans and sweet corn to extend the season of harvest.
- Thin seedlings of early-planted crops such as carrots, lettuce, spinach and beets to their proper spacing.
- Harvest early plantings of radishes, spinach and lettuce.
- Harvest asparagus by cutting or snapping spears at or just below soil level.
- Harvest rhubarb by cutting, or grasp the stalk and pull it up and slightly to one side.
- Control cucumber beetles, carriers of bacterial wilt, as soon as cucumber plants germinate or are transplanted to prevent disease.
- Remove blossoms from newly set strawberry plants to allow better runner formation.
- Remove unwanted sucker growth in raspberries when new shoots are about a foot tall.

Source: B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Consumer Horticulture Specialist

## Indiana Corn Marketing Council Seeking Nominations to Serve



The Indiana Corn Marketing Council (ICMC) is seeking Indiana corn producers interested in serving on its board of directors. The ICMC manages corn checkoff investments and determines promotional, educational and research activities that can strengthen Indiana's corn industry.

The ICMC board includes 17 voting farmer-directors. Five seats - in Districts 1, 4, 7 and two At-Large - will be filled through the ICMC's Annual Elections in August 2016.

- **District 1.** The counties of Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Starke, Pulaski, Jasper, White, Benton, and Newton.
- **District 4.** The counties include Warren, Tippecanoe, Montgomery, Putnam, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Parke, Vermillion, and Fountain.
- **District 7.** The counties of Sullivan, Greene, Daviess, Martin, Knox, Dubois, Pike, Gibson, Warrick, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Posey.
- **At Large.** The two open At-Large seats represent the entire state of Indiana.

Candidates for the ICMC board of directors are required to be registered voters, at least 18 years of age, and corn producers in Indiana. To be a candidate, you need to fill out and sign a petition form. It is available at the Greene County Extension Office (4503 W State Road 54, Bloomfield, IN 47424), at [www.incorn.org/elections](http://www.incorn.org/elections) or by calling the Indiana Corn office at 317-644-2791.

Petitions must be returned to the ICMC office and postmarked before June 30, 2016.

## 2016 Greene County Plant and Garden Yard Sale

On Friday, June 24, the Greene County Master Gardeners will be sponsoring a summer Plant and Garden Yard Sale at the Greene County Community Event Center (4503 W State Road 54, Bloomfield) from 9 AM – 5 PM.

The next day, June 25, the Plant and Garden Sale will continue at the Linton Farmer's Market from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Linton City Park.

Both days, Greene County Master Gardeners will have lots of perennials, daylilies, milkweed, herbs, succulents and house plants. Attendees will have the chance to purchase new and used garden yard sale items. Hope to see you there!



For additional information, please visit our website at:

[www.extension.purdue.edu/greene](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/greene)

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