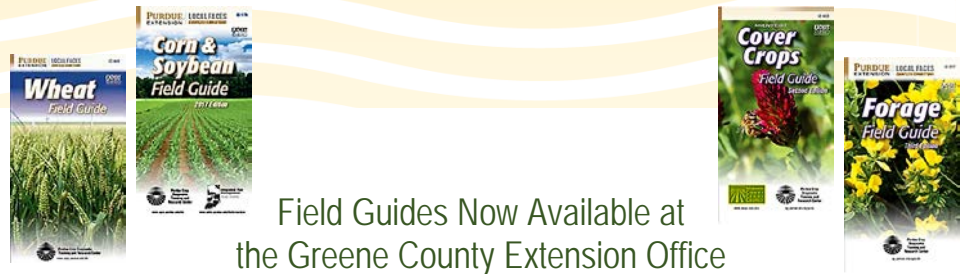


Purdue Extension

Greene County Agriculture & Natural Resource Newsletter



Field Guides Now Available at the Greene County Extension Office

These pocket-size, in-field references provide detailed and descriptive information for corn & soybeans, wheat, cover crops and forages.

The 2016 Edition of the Corn & Soybean Field Guide includes topics of identifying and managing insects, diseases and weeds; diagnosing herbicide injuries; soil fertility; making planting decisions and understanding crop growth.

The completely revised third edition of the Forage Field Guide contains more than 300 pages of information for forage and livestock producers and the agricultural industries that serve them. This guide has updated selection information, nutrient management, pest management and more! New and better photos have been added as well.

The Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide is in its second edition. It helps readers effectively select, grow and use cover crops in their farming systems. It was written by members of the Midwest Cover Crops Council. Topics include choosing cover crops, fitting cover crops into your system and positive and negative effects of cover crops.

The pocket-size, in-field Wheat Field Guide provides detailed and descriptive information for wheat producers. Topics include selecting varieties, harvest practices, insects, diseases, weeds and fertility.

If you are interested in any of these Field Guides, please stop by the Purdue Extension – Greene County Office and speak with Sadie Davis. Feel free to call ahead at 812-659-2122. Supplies are limited so don't hesitate to get your Field Guide!

In This Issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| What's normal for Indiana Property taxes? | 2 |
| Indiana Pesticide Clean Sweep Coming To Greene County | 2 |
| July Yard & Garden Calendar | 3 |
| Why Plants Fail to Bloom | 3 |

Important Upcoming Dates:

Indiana State Fair

August 4-20

Indiana State Fairgrounds;
Indianapolis

Indiana Clean Sweep

Wednesday, August 23

Farm Bureau Commercial Building;
Greene County Fairgrounds

Forest Management Seminar

Saturday, September 23

Orleans, Indiana;
RSVP to Orange County SWCD @
812-203-3033

Indiana Corn Marketing Council Elections

Indiana counties have entered the absentee ballot period for the Indiana Corn Marketing Council's 2017 Director Elections. Greene County does not have a District position up for election this year, but our producers can vote for the At-Large positions. The Greene County Extension Office has both Absentee Ballots and Regular Ballots available for this year's Indiana Corn Marketing Council Election.

If a producer requests the Absentee Ballot from the Extension Office, Sadie Davis, Greene County ANR Educator, can distribute the Absentee Ballot to the producer in person, by mail or email between now and August 11. The Absentee Ballots must be returned/postmarked by August 11 to the Extension Office or to Dr. Mike Schutz's attention at Purdue.

According to the Indiana Corn Market Development Law (IC 15-15-12), those who vote in the election of directors to the Indiana Corn Marketing Council Board must be an Indiana producer which is defined as:

"Any person engaged in the business of producing and marketing corn in Indiana under the producer's own name or the name of an entity in which the producer has ownership."

What's normal for Indiana Property taxes?

Think of the changes in the Indiana property tax system between 1998 and 2010. The Indiana Supreme Court threw out the assessment system in December 1998. We started using market values for the reassessment in 2003. In 2002, we changed the formula for calculating the maximum property tax levy, and created a huge deduction for homesteads. In 2004, we amended the Indiana Constitution to allow those big homestead deductions. In 2008, we increased them even more.

We phased out the property tax on inventories from 2003 to 2007. We began annual adjustments of property assessments in 2007, which we call trending. We eliminated the property taxes for school general funds in 2009. We put property tax caps in the Constitution in November 2010. That's a partial list.

In the midst of all this policy chaos, we had the worst recession since the Great Depression, so bad that it reduced the value of property. Our new assessment system caught that decline in property values, so assessed value actually decreased for a couple of years. Practically every year for 12 years, policy changes or economic disruptions rocked Indiana's property tax system. By the end of it all, we had no idea what "normal" looked like. In a normal year, how much would the assessed value of property grow? How much would the tax levy increase? How would tax rates and tax cap credits change? There was no way to know.

We've had fewer policy changes since 2010. Now, two economic measures that affect our tax system are back to normal. In the 20 years between the recession of 1981-82 and the Great Recession, Indiana home prices increased about 4 percent per year, on average. They fell by a point a year during the recession, but in the past two years they're back to 4 percent increases. Trending captures the home price changes in assessments, and homesteads are a third of taxable assessed value.

The maximum levy restricts the amount that Indiana local governments can raise with the property tax. The assessed value growth quotient (AVGQ) allows the maximum to increase each year by the 6-year average percent change of Indiana non-farm personal income. From 2011 to 2016, the AVGQ included the income change for 2009, which was negative 3 percent. That was the Great Recession at its worst. It's the only negative number in the income series in the past 60 years.

That negative number dropped out of the AVGQ calculation for 2017, and the allowable growth rate jumped from 2.6 percent to 3.8 percent. We'll see a number near 4 percent for 2018 too.

With these two indicators back to normal, 2017 may give a clue about what normal looks like for Indiana property taxes. Statewide gross assessed value increased by 2.2 percent in 2017. After deductions, taxable assessed value increased by 2 percent. The total property tax levy before credits increased by 2.5 percent.

The property tax rate is the levy divided by taxable assessed value. Since the levy increased half a percent more than assessed value, the average tax rate increased from \$2.44 to \$2.46 per \$100 assessed value.

Tax cap credits keep tax bills under the constitutional caps. They are taxes that local governments levy but taxpayers don't pay. When tax rates increase, more taxpayers become eligible for more tax cap credits. Credits rose from 10.5 percent of the levy in 2016 to 10.8 percent of the levy in 2017.

After the tax cap and local income tax credits, net tax bills increased by 2 percent, half a point less than the levy before credits. The implied net tax rate, calculated by dividing tax bills by net assessed value, stayed nearly constant at \$2.07 per \$100 assessed value.

So here's a guess about normal, based on just one year. Gross and net assessed value grow between 2 percent and 3 percent. The levy increases a little more than that, causing the average tax rate to rise slightly. That increases tax cap credits, which hold the tax bill increase closer to the rise in assessed value. The implied net tax rate is unchanged. Results for local governments will vary a lot around the statewide averages.

Maybe that's normal. Maybe it's not. If our economic expansion keeps going for a while, we can find out.

Writer: Larry DeBoer, Purdue Agricultural Economics Professor

Indiana Pesticide Clean Sweep Coming to Greene County

The Indiana Pesticide Clean Sweep Project is designed to collect and dispose of suspended, canceled, banned, unusable, opened, unopened or just unwanted pesticides (weed killers, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, miticides, etc.). The event is being sponsored by the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC). This disposal service is free of charge up to 250 pounds per participant. Over 250 pounds there will be a \$2.00 per pound charge. This is a great opportunity for you to legally dispose of unwanted products at little or no cost. All public and private schools, golf courses, nurseries, farmers, ag dealers, cities, towns, municipalities and county units of government or others are able to participate. This event will run from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Greene County Fairgrounds in the Farm Bureau Commercial Building.

Each participant will be required to fill out the Pesticide Clean Sweep Planning Form to the best of their ability. These forms are available from the Extension Office. Mail, fax or e-mail the completed form to Kevin Neal at 175 South University Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2063, 765-494-4331 (fax) or nealk@purdue.edu no later than Monday, July 31, 2017. Then bring your labeled, leak free and safe to transport containers to the collection site. DO NOT mix materials. In case of an emergency, participants should bring with them a list of products they are carrying and a contact phone number.

*NOTE: OISC reserves the right to cancel this Pesticide Clean Sweep Project if there is not adequate demand. Participants submitting the planning form by July 31, 2017, will be contacted immediately if cancellation is necessary.

July Yard & Garden Calendar

HOME (Houseplants and indoor activities)

- Watch closely houseplants that have been set outdoors. They need more water than they did indoors. They can dry out rapidly in hot, summer breezes.
- Propagate houseplants by taking cuttings from vigorously growing plants. Place cut end in rooting media, such as perlite, vermiculite or peat moss soil mix. Enclose in plastic, and keep out of direct sunlight.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Keep newly established plants watered during dry weather. Allow water to penetrate deeply into soil rather than sprinkling frequently and lightly.
- Apply mulch around young plants to help conserve soil moisture and control weeds.
- Do not plant bare-root or ball-and-burlap stock at this time of year. Container-grown plants still may be planted, but only if you can keep them well watered.
- Continue a fruit tree spray program to keep diseases and insects under control.
- Remove water sprouts (sprouts from the trunk) and suckers (sprouts from the roots) from fruit trees.
- For those fortunate growers who have a good crop this year, prop up fruit tree branches that are heavy with fruit.
- Pinch off faded rose blossoms. Continue rose spray program to control insects and diseases.
- Mow grass one-half inch higher than usual during the dry, summer months to help conserve soil moisture. Do not mow when lawn is under severe drought stress.
- Don't remove clippings from the lawn unless grass is excessively tall or weedy. Clippings return some nutrients to the soil and do not add to thatch buildup.

GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits and flowers)

- Start seeds of broccoli, cabbage and Brussels sprouts to transplant later for a fall harvest. Harvest crops such as tomatoes, squash, okra, peppers, beans and cucumbers frequently to encourage further production.
- Standard sweet corn is at its peak for only a day or so. The supersweet corn maintains its peak quality for a longer period. Harvest when silks begin to dry and kernels exude a milky, rather than watery or doughy, juice when punctured.
- Broccoli will form edible side shoots after the main head is removed.
- Make sure potato tubers, carrot shoulders and onion bulbs are covered with soil to prevent development of green color and off flavors. Applying a layer of mulch will help keep them covered.
- Allow blossoms on newly planted everbearing strawberry plants to develop for a fall crop.
- July is a good time to fertilize strawberries with .5 pound of actual nitrogen per 100 feet of row.

Source: Rosie Lerner, Purdue Consumer Horticulturalist

Why Plants Fail to Bloom

Flowering plants that don't bloom as promised can be a big disappointment in your garden. Reasons for lack of blooming are as diverse as the palette of plants from which to choose, but a little detective work can usually pinpoint the trouble. The most common factors associated with blooming, or lack thereof, include light, plant age, nutrition, extreme temperatures and improper pruning.



Many woody plants must reach a certain age before they are mature enough to produce flowers. Fruit trees, such as apples and pears, can require as many as five or six years to become fruitful. Ginkgo trees can take up to 15 years to bloom. Add a stressful environment to a juvenile plant, and flowering may be delayed even further. Plants that are old enough to flower, or have done so in the past, may quit doing so for a variety of reasons. Flowering may be sparse or completely absent when a plant is under stress, so be sure the plant is positioned in an appropriate location for that particular species. For example, some plants flower best in full sun; others may prefer the cooler conditions found in the shade.

Some plants, such as peonies, will flower sparsely or not at all when grown in shade. Similarly, shade-loving plants, such as begonias, will not bloom well in full sun. In gardens where other trees and shrubs are nearby, light conditions can change drastically over time as landscape plants cast more shade, or removal of a large plant suddenly leaves formerly shaded plants exposed. Some plants, such as chrysanthemums and poinsettias, flower in response to short day lengths, or more accurately, long nights. If the plants don't receive the appropriate break from light, their season of bloom will be delayed indefinitely.

Overfeeding plants with nitrogen can encourage them to produce lush foliage at the expense of blossoms. A lack of nutrients, particularly nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, also may delay flowering. Stick with a balanced, low-analysis fertilizer, such as 12-12-12 or 6-10-4, to apply adequate nutrition without overdoing.

Some gardeners unknowingly remove flower potential from their plants by pruning at the wrong time of year. Landscape plants that bloom in early spring set their flower buds in autumn on last year's growth. If you prune these plants in late winter, you'll also be removing many or all of the flower buds. The rule of thumb is to prune spring-flowering shrubs and vines after blooms have faded.

Mother Nature can deal a blow to buds with extreme low winter temperatures or late frosts in spring after growth has begun. Though this past winter was relatively mild, we did have some late spring freezes. And some plants may be winter hardy, but their flower buds are routinely killed, even by normal spring weather. A common example is the big-leaf hydrangea, successfully grown in southern Indiana and beyond, but in northern Indiana often just provides great foliage but rarely, if ever, blooms.

So if you have landscape plants that are not performing up to par, do your homework to find the appropriate requirements, and plan to replace the "duds" with plants that are better adapted to your growing conditions.

Source: Rosie Lerner, Purdue Consumer Horticulturalist

For additional information, please visit our website at:
www.extension.purdue.edu/greene



You can also find the Purdue Extension – Greene County Office on Social Media!



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