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AN INVENTORY OF THE HERBACEOUS PLANTS OF THE

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Figures 1, 2. —1. Map of Indiana showing Posey County (darkened)

the location (*) of the Twin Swamps Nature Preserve. Posey County enlarged, showing

plants seen at preserve; infrequent—seen oc-
casionally, but

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dry woods" may reach slightly over 1 m (such
as Verbesina helianthoides, yellow crown-
beard); those in the "high, dry woods" may
reach 2 m or more (Phytolacca americana is

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per), and Euphorbia corollata (flowering
spurge, which was seen in 1997 and 1999, but
not in 1998).
Low, dry woods.—(This habitat is well-
shaded and often wet but dries out more read-

ily than the low, wet woods habitat.)
As the trail rises out of the moist flood-prone portion of the preserve, it branches in two directions. The main trail continues west

toward the cypress swamp. A secondary trail heads southwest to skirt the overcup oak

slough. This secondary trail rises slightly into an area of somewhat better-drained soil. Though the slope is nearly imperceptible, the
plant community changes significantly. In the early spring (through April), few spe-
cies bloom in the low, dry area. The only plants noted in this study are Thalictrum thal-ictroides, Viola eriocarpa (smooth yellow vi-olet), and V. papilionacea.
Through May, however, a number of new species come into bloom. These plants, which tend to reach 0.5-1.5 m in height, include As-clepias purpurascens (purple milkweed), Phryma leptostachya (lopseed), Porteranthus stipulatus (American ipecac or Indian physic),

Ruellia strepens (wild petunia), Smilacina ra- cemosa (false Solomon's seal), and Verbesina
helianthoides (yellow crownbeard). Also seen are several species noted in the low, wet woods.

By the end of July, species in this habitat include Agrimonia rostellata (woodland agri-mony), Chasmanthium latifolium (spangle grass), Helianthus divaricatus (woodland sun-flower), Lobelia inflata (Indian tobacco), Oen-othera biennis (evening primrose), Polygonum

virginiannm (Virginia knotweed), Silene Stel- la ta (starry campion), and Verbena urticifolia
(white vervain), to name the most conspicu-

ous.Through August, the selection of flowering
species changes little. Many of the plants found in July continue to bloom. A notable addition is Hymenocallis caroliniana (spider lily), a showy species of southern swamplands that may reach its northern limit in Posey County.
High, dry woods.—(This habitat is well-shaded and well-drained without standing wa-

ter.)

The main trail continues through low-lying woods for about 0.8 km, when it rises notice-ably. The rise is not great, only about 1 m,

but it creates an area of much drier soil. The plant community changes significantly. The secondary trail, which passed through the "low, dry woods" as it skirted the overcup oak slough, turns north and eventually also rises into the high, dry woods.
Throughout the growing season, the variety of flowering plants is greatest in this section

of the preserve. Plants here tend to grow tall. Through April, this is the area of the pre- serve where one is most likely to find plants
in flower. The first to bloom are Claytonia vir- ginica (spring beauty), Dentaria laciniata
(cut-leaved toothwort), and Thalictrum thal-ictroides. They will be followed by Corydalis flavula (yellow corydalis), Cynoglossum

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Cypress swamp.—(This habitat is well-
shaded, usually with standing water that varies
from a few centimeters to an estimated depth
of 0.5 m as judged by traces of a waterline on
the cypress trees.)

The variety of flowering plants is much

smaller in the cypress swamp than in the rest of the preserve. Only plants that can thrive in standing water are found in this habitat.

The dominant tree in the swamp is bald cy-

press tree (Taxodium distichum). According to the IDNR list (1993), Taxodium distichum is listed as threatened in Indiana. Another prom-

inent tree is Populus heterophylla (swamp cottonwood), which in May drops cotton-like
clusters of seeds that float on the dark waters of the swamp.
The only flowering species noted in April

is Ranunculus flabellaris (yellow water but-tercup). Also in April, the surface of the

swamp is often covered with duckweed (Lem- na sp.). In May, the unusual Hottonia inftata (feath-
erfoil) might be seen. This aquatic plant is sparse in some years and abundant in others.
According to the IDNR list (1993). Hottonia

inflata, is listed as a threatened species in In- diana.
Cephalanthus occidental is (buttonbush)

and Rosa palustris (swamp rose) come into bloom in June.

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Aster pilosus Willd.: Frost- weed aster; Septem-

ber; low, wet woods; infrequent; USIH 976. Bidens aristosa (Michx.) Britt.: Western tickseed
sunflower; August; field; infrequent, though very

conspicuous; USIH 989. Bidens discoidea (Torr. & Gray) Britt.: Swamp
beggar-tick; August-September; cypress swamp;

abundant; USIH 990. Boltonia asteroides (L.) L'Her.: False aster; Au-gust; field; sparse; USIH 927. Cirsium discolor (Muhl.) Spreng.: Field thistle; August-September; field; frequent; USIH 1018. Conyza canadensis (L.) Cronq.: Horseweed; Au-gust; field; frequent; USIH 1019. Erigeron annuus (L.)

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Phytolaccaceae (Pokeweed Family)
Phytolacca americana L.: Pokeweed; June-July;

high, dry woods; abundant; USIH 1017. Plantaginaceae (Plantain Family)
Plantago major L.: Common plantain; July;

rield; abundant; USIH 1044. Poaceae (Grass Family)
Agrostis sp.: August; low, wet woods; frequent;

USIH 1026. Andropogon virginicus L.: Broom sedge; August; field; abundant; USIH 1056. Chasmanthium latifolium (Michx.) Yates: Span-
gle grass or

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Verbenaceae (Vervain Family)
Verbena urticifolia L.: White vervain; June-Au-
gust; low wet to high, dry woods; abundant; USIH

1052. Violaceae (Violet Family)
Viola eriocarpa (Schwein.) Russell: Smooth yel-
low violet; April; plentiful in high, dry woods; USIH 917.

Viola papilionacea Pursh: Common violet; April;

low, wet to low, dry woods; abundant; USIH 912. Vitaceae (Grape Family)
Parthenocissus quinquefolia (L.) Planch.: Virgin-ia creeper; throughout woods; abundant; USIH

1051. LITERATURE CITED