

# SHELL Eco-marathon Biodiversity Scavenger Hunt

INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY



## Brickyard Biodiversity: What plant species live in Pagoda Plaza?

Today, we are embarking on a scavenger hunt. You and your class will compete to find some of the plant species that call the Indianapolis Motor Speedway home. At first glance, the speedway looks like it's made up of lots of concrete, but there are many green spaces here, including the golf course, the infield and more. Today, you will be exploring Pagoda Plaza where some of our species live... Let's go search for some plants!

How fast can you find them? 

**What is biodiversity?** Biodiversity is used to describe every living organism on Earth, from tiny bacteria to the largest animals on our planet. Biodiversity includes **EVERY living thing on earth**, and is essential for our planet's health, because more biodiversity means that there's more genetic diversity among organisms that makes them more resilient to changes in their environments.

These are the plants you will search for today:



= Native to Indiana

### 1. Pin Oak



Scientific name: *Quercus palustris*

The pin oak is a deciduous tree with glossy, pointy-tipped leaves. Its bark is rough, but not deeply grooved.

### 2. White Oak



Scientific name: *Quercus alba*

This slow grower is a deciduous tree with leaves that have rounded lobes. Its acorns are food for many local species.

### 3. Bald Cypress



**Scientific name:** *Taxodium Distichum*

This triangle-shaped tree is an evergreen. Its grey bark peels off the tree trunk. It is a 'conifer,' so it has little cones and ridged leaves. It is native to the Midwestern U.S.

### 4. Creeping Juniper



**Scientific name:** *Juniperus horizontalis*

This plant is low-growing and often creeps over the ground horizontally. It is an evergreen with short needles that likes rocky/sandy soil. It is native to Alaska, Canada and the northern U.S. from New England to New York to the Great Lakes.

### 5. Boxwood



**Scientific name:** *Buxus sempervirens*

This shrub is often shaped into hedges for decoration, so look for the leaves, which are small and rounded. They aren't native to North America.

### 6. Serviceberry



**Scientific name:** *Amelanchier spp.*

The serviceberry tree usually grows to about 15 feet tall. It blooms in March or April and makes small berries that are ripe in June, which birds love to eat.



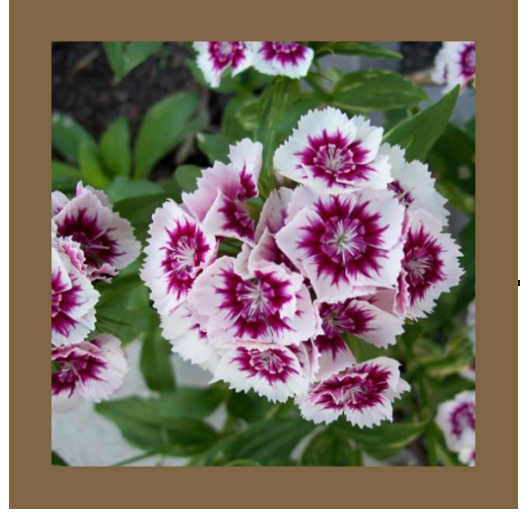
## 7. Brompton Stock



Scientific name: *Matthiola incana*

These plants are known for their colorful flowers that bloom in clusters on top of a straight green stalk with lots of leaves at the bottom. This plant originated in Europe.

## 8. Sweet William



Scientific name: *Dianthus barbatus*

This plant comes in different colors like white, purple or pink. It's a popular ornamental plant. Flowers grow in a cluster at the top of the stem. It originated in Europe/Asia.

## 9. Pansy



Scientific name: *Viola wittrockiana*

This plant is a common European wildflower that is used for decoration. The flowers are usually purple and yellow but can be many other colors as well. They usually have five petals atop a small stalk.

## 10. English Ivy 'Gold Child'



Scientific name: *Hedera helix 'gold child'*

This woody vine often crawls across the ground or up walls for decoration. It grows very fast and is considered invasive in many places if it escapes where it has been purposefully planted. The leaves have three points. English Ivy is **invasive** to Indiana.



