Issue #1

PLANT IOWA LLC

NEWSLETTER

April 2026-November 2026

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WHAT IS PLANT IOWA LLC?

Greetings and welcome to the first addition of the Plant Iowa LLC newsletter. I hope you enjoy it! To start off I will talk about what Plant Iowa LLC is and what it stands for. Plant Iowa LLC is a native plant nursery at its core created by Max Havlik in June of 2025. Since its founding it has expanded to a few different avenues. I have diversidfied into general landscaping as well as natural resource work like removing invasvies in natural areas. At Plant Iowa LLC I believe that we need to reintroduce local ecotype native plants back into our landscapes. These plants are the baseline of the terrestrial ecosystem throughout Iowa. With the continual removal of native plants, we see a decline in the rest of the ecosystem as well. I believe pollinator gardens are the easiest way to reintroduce native plants into peoples landscapes. The showy flowers also double as habitat and food for countless vertibrates and invertibrates alike. Adding any amount of native plants to your landscape creates a stronger ecosystem.

POLLINATOR GARDENS

BEOFRE





AFTER

PLANT OF THE SEASON
SMOOTH BLUE ASTER
SYMPHIOTRICHUM LAEVE



After two weeks of gloomy rainy days the sunshine welcomed in the Smooth Blue Aster. Coming out to my garden I was immediately in awe of these flowers. The flowers arent just pretty to people, but they are literally buzzing with bees, flies, moths, and butterflies. This is an essential late season food source for many species of invertebrates. The flowers also catch the eye of rabbits and deer. I have seen many plants repeatedly demolished by rabbits again and again. This is a great plant as long as it is caged and protected!



SEASONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Since March I have been on a roll. Myself along with my teammate Eric Naberhaus won the 2026 National PAS Championship in Branson Missouri. We competed in a multimple choice “general knowledge” test, a plant identification test, and a sales pitch about which plant would fit best in the hypothetical scenario.



- I have prepped, designed, and installed 12 pollinator gardens throughout the state. I grew hundreds of plants to get into these sites and spent countless hours preparing the sites for the plants. This is by far the most rewarding part of my job. Seeing a plant that I grew from a seed go into a site that I know I’ve done my best to prepare is an amazing feeling. My gardens that are the easiest to view publicly are at The Mucky Duck Pub, and the Ames Romero House both located in Ames. Both are worth a visit!





- My final big update is that I bought a company truck! It has come in handy many times and is my best purchase for the business. She's not new but she is new for me!

Hello, I'm Cam. I started helping Max with Plant Iowa LLC mostly at the beginning of this year when I had a lot of free time and Max needed a lot of help. I've known max for around 6 years when he was a sophomore and I was in 8th grade. Since then I've gotten to see Max's nursery grow and I've loved to see how his passion has grown. Over the summer as I helped with more and more jobs the reality that I could help Max grow has become a greater and greater possibility. I've decided that If Max continues growing than I would love to work for my best friend doing something I enjoy. So I've decided to put effort into learning the plants we grow and learning everything there is to learn. I look forward to helping out for a long time to come.



Plant Iowa LLC merch is available

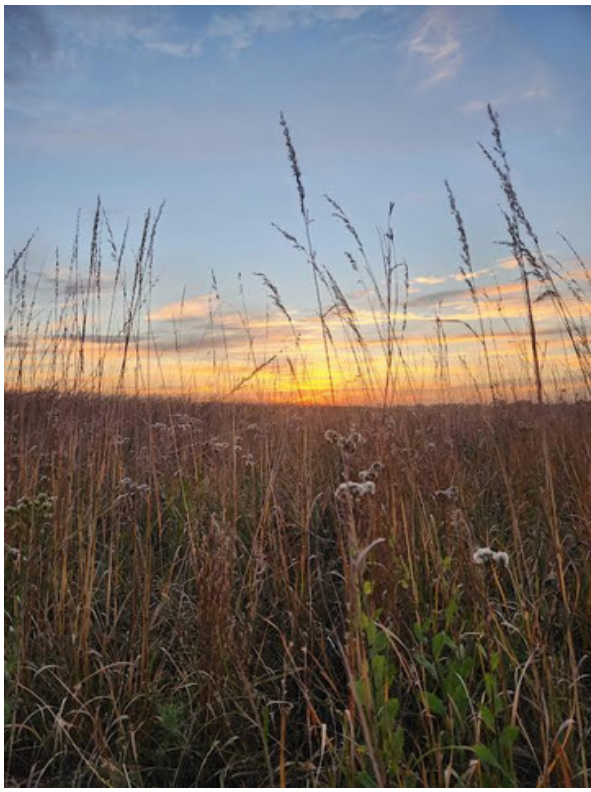






Molly's Memorable

The end of October begins the wind-down of a full season of volunteer prairie seed harvest. The growing season takes me out on the prairie each week from May-November. Fall is a naturally reflective time, but as a prairie lover, there is a permeating melancholy as I watch my prairie plant friends recall their nutrients and sugars back to their roots, leaving lifeless brown stems poking the sky. Looking back on the year, May seems light years away when the vibrant green prairie plants sprang from the newly blackened earth, warmed by the intensifying sun and spring rains. The first blooming plants were only inches high and the landscape was easily traversable. As these went to seed, my hamstrings strained to pick their delicate heads. June, July and August saw the prairie growing robustly, bursting with an ever changing combination of blooms, nesting birds and flitting pollinators. September and October brought the fullness of seed harvest, sunflowers, purple asters and the reddish golden glow of fall prairie sunsets.



I remember my surprise at age 23, when I first had the opportunity to be out on the prairie daily through a full growing season doing work and harvesting seed. The prairie had been a place I visited occasionally, thought I knew... But during this experience I began to form a relationship with the community of plants and animals. Was the bird nesting in this area successful? How did the plants respond to the storm last night? What new butterflies were visiting which plants? When were the seeds of each plant truly ready to harvest? Years later I can say I've had many opportunities to grow this relationship with the prairie as time and commitments have allowed. The pandemic rekindled my latest renewal of prairie volunteer time. I have felt a renewed sense of urgency to help the prairie, increase biodiversity of our prairie plantings, and reconnect more deeply to experience its beauty and surprises.



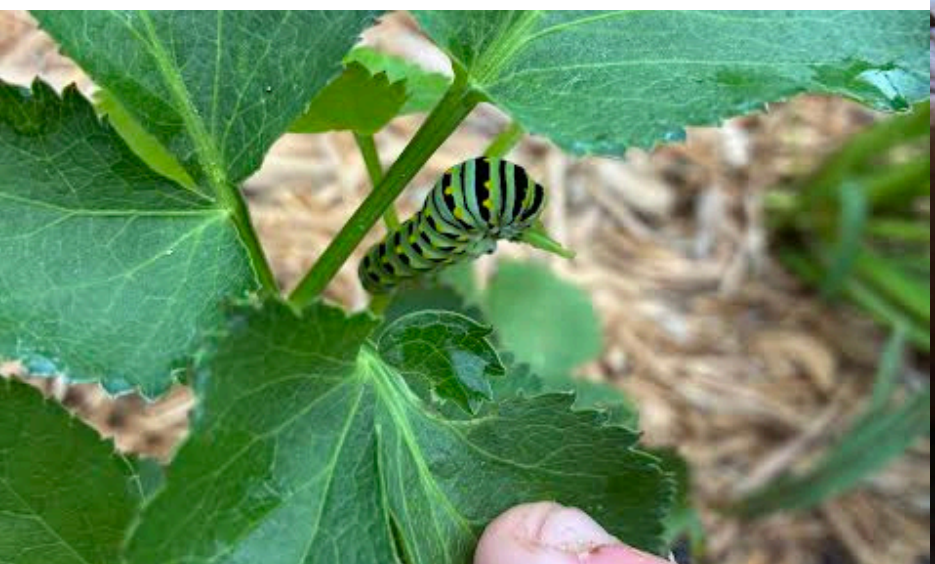
To visit the prairie at any point during the growing season, one only gets a glimpse of the gifts prairie has to offer. So as we bid our plant friends good-bye for the winter, think about planning regular trips next season to enjoy the spectrum of the prairie's glory daily, weekly or bi-weekly. Your favorite conservation organization (government or non-profit) may be looking for volunteers to help diversify prairie plantings if that speaks to you. Or just have a wander on a prairie at a nearby park or preserve, or create your own native habitat in your yard which is the most accessible of all!!

Something Sappy

As the season draws to an end I can't help but feel bittersweet. I look forward to my free time. I like to think I will have all the time in the world to watch the NBA and play as much pickup basketball as I can. I'll be able to relax without feeling like there is something I should be doing. I won't have the constant worry of how my plants are and are if they doing ok. I'll be able to take some days off and make time for me. That's nice for a few days but not for months. I am terrible at sitting still and doing nothing. If I dont have something to do I feel purposless. It's safe to say I am not excited for winter. I am hopeful to get some time off but not hopeful for those long dark days.

Thank you to everyone who read this far into the newsletter. You are either a real supporter or really bored. Thank you to everyone who supports me and hopefully that number only increases! If anyone is on the fence about my work and what I do just know that Plant Iowa LLC is dog friendly and pup approved!

Stay connected!
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Princess approves

