



## **Bluegrass PRIDE Grant Allows for Native Plants to Welcome Cynthiana Visitors**

By Kate Darnell, News writer

Native Kentucky plants now welcome residents and visitors to downtown Cynthiana. Cynthiana and Harrison County were two of 10 cities/counties awarded the Celebrate Kentucky Plants grant, funded by Bluegrass PRIDE and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. The city's \$1,000 grant was used to install plantings in front of the Papa John's parking lot and a garden along the opposite side of the street, near Curves.

The plantings and garden were planted last weekend.

Grant coordinator Jesse Ammerman said \$750 of the city's grant went to purchase plants that are native to the state, including Prarie Switchgrass, Bee Balm, Marsh Milkweed, Eastern Bergamot, False Blue Indigo, Slender Mountain Mint, Carolina Lupine, Giant Purple Hyssop, Garden Phlox, Wild Quinine, Culver's Root, Showy Primrose, Boneset, Blaaing Star, Blue Sage and Orange Coneflower.

"The benefits of using native plants in your garden are many," Ammerman said. "The garden will be low maintenance because the plants are suited for Kentucky's climate. Also, many of the plants attract butterflies, birds and hummingbirds. Finally, when placed close to a river, the garden will reduce erosion and improve water quality."

Ammerman said the plantings will only heighten the downtown beautification progress, following the TEA-21 grant, which provided new sidewalks, lamp posts, benches, trash cans and flower pots along Main Street.

"Bluegrass PRIDE is happy to be able to award these grants for such outstanding projects," said Amy Sohner, executive director of Bluegrass PRIDE. "Not only will the funding enable these communities to enhance their inherent natural beauty, it will facilitate hands-on environmental education and promote an appreciation for native plants."

The county will use their grant to plant a garden in the Leesburg area.