

# BACKYARD CONSERVATION

*It'll grow on you.*

Hoosier Heartland Resource  
Conservation & Development  
Council, Inc.  
6041 Lakeside Boulevard  
Indianapolis, IN 46278  
(317) 290-3250  
(317) 290-3150/fax  
www.hhrccd.org  
hhrccd@hhrccd.org



## INVASIVE SPECIES

### What are Invasive Species?



Invasive plants are ones that spread prolifically, often dominating a landscape by out-competing all other plants. They are usually exotic, meaning that they are not originally from the area.

Multiflora rose —Photo: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

### How to Combat Invasives

Invasives can be difficult to control due to their quick spreading behavior. Early detection is key. Learn what common invasive species are and watch for them in your yard. If you do find them, you can manually pull them, mechanically cut or remove them, or chemically treat them. Sometimes a combination of these methods is most effective. The best method and time to remove a plant varies with each species, so carefully research the plant before taking action. Be sure to continue watching the area, as more plants are likely to sprout. On average, it takes 3-4 years for complete eradication. For more information on species identification and removal, visit the Midwest Invasive Plant Network at: <http://mipn.org>.



Bush honeysuckle/berries

### Why Should You be Concerned?

Invasive plants destroy the native ecosystem and take over the area in which they grow. They often out-compete other plant species for water, nutrients, and/or light. Reducing the diversity of plants in an area is detrimental to the health of the environment. Wildlife may be deprived of food or shelter, invasive species may feed exotic pests or spread disease, and invasive plants may not provide the same soil and water benefits that native species do. A landscape is more productive and provides more benefits when it contains a healthy balance of native species.



Japanese honeysuckle



Crown vetch  
courtesy of USDA



Canada thistle



Garlic mustard

### Common Invasives

- Autumn and Russian olive
- Buckthorns
- Bush honeysuckle
- Canada thistle
- Common reed or phragmites
- Common privet
- Crown vetch
- Common and cut-leaved teasel
- Garlic mustard
- Japanese honeysuckle
- Japanese stiltgrass
- Multiflora rose
- Oriental bittersweet
- Periwinkle
- Purple Loosestrife
- Reed canary grass
- Sericea lespedeza
- Siberian elm
- Smooth brome grass
- Sweet clover
- Tree of Heaven
- Winged burning bush
- Winter creeper

*(This is not a complete list.)*

**Contact your local county Soil & Water Conservation District for additional information.**



































# KEEP A LOOKOUT

for New **INVASIVE PLANTS** in the Midwest!



*These species could be spreading in your area; **early detection and eradication** can prevent an invasion.*

Current Midwest general distribution, including southern Ontario  Not Known  Isolated  Locally Abundant  Widespread

  <p><b>BLACK SWALLOW-WORT</b></p>	  <p><b>PALE SWALLOW-WORT</b></p>	  <p><b>JAPANESE HOPS</b></p>	  <p><b>KUDZU</b></p>
  <p><b>MILE-A-MINUTE WEED</b></p>	  <p><b>CHINESE YAM</b></p>	  <p><b>ASIAN BITTERSWEET</b></p>	  <p><b>TREE OF HEAVEN</b></p>
  <p><b>JAPANESE KNOTWEED</b></p>	  <p><b>JAPANESE STILT GRASS</b></p>	  <p><b>SPOTTED KNAPWEED</b></p>	  <p><b>CUT-LEAVED TEASEL</b></p>
  <p><b>GIANT HOGWEED</b></p>	  <p><b>JAPANESE HEDGE PARSLEY</b></p>	  <p><b>LEAFY SPURGE</b></p>	  <p><b>FLOWERING RUSH</b></p>

To report a sighting, please contact: [www.mipn.org/EDRRContacts.html](http://www.mipn.org/EDRRContacts.html)

This information is provided by the Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council's Backyard Conservation Committee and its partnering organizations: Soil and Water Conservation Districts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, County Extension Service, and Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

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