

# As a Legislator, You Should Know the Impacts of Invasive Species.

## THE PROBLEM

Non-native invasive species are diminishing the natural beauty and productivity of Indiana. Our soils, water quality, forests, fisheries, recreation industry, parks and preserves are being negatively impacted.

### ***Invasive Species Cause Harm by:***

1. Increasing costs of crop production
2. Creating monocultures and altering natural resources
3. Damaging infrastructure
4. Threatening human health
5. Diminishing forest health and tree growth
6. Threatening our rare and endangered native species



### ***Harm from Invasive Species Leads to:***

1. Decreased yield in commodity production (soybeans, lumber, etc.)
2. Decline in fisheries and natural fish populations
3. Drop in real estate values and increase in Infrastructure maintenance
4. Increase in disease (zika, tuberculosis, etc.)
5. Higher incidence of exposure to toxins (poison hemlock can result in death in children and adults; wild parsnip can cause severe blistering upon skin contact)
6. Loss of biodiversity and alteration of our natural resources which contributes to reduction of forests and forest health, decrease in water quality, decline of native species (plants, insects, fish, birds, amphibians, etc.)



## THE COST TO CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES IS SUBSTANTIAL

### ***Estimated Annual Costs Nationwide***

- ~ \$120 billion to manage invasive species
- ~ \$34 billion to control invasive plants

### ***Estimated Annual Costs in Indiana***

- \$8.6 million to manage invasive species
- \$600,000 on Eurasian watermilfoil and curly leaf pondweed

- \$188,000 to control starry stonewort
- \$500,000 on gypsy moth control & monitoring
- \$100,000 on new pests and pathogens surveys
- \$5.7 million by land managers on invasive plants
- \$15,000 to monitor for sudden oak death
- >\$15,000 on reed canary grass control in IN
- >\$75,000 by IDNR alone for kudzu management
- 4 - 5 million for emerald ash borer control

# INVASIVE SPECIES NEGATIVELY IMPACT OUR...

| Agriculture | Biodiversity | Fisheries | Forestry | Human Health | Infrastructure |  
| Outdoor Recreation | Soil Health | Natural Resources | National Security | Water Quality |



Woodland understory dominated by wintercreeper  
- photo by Dawn R. Slack, Director of Stewardship for The Nature Conservancy in Indiana

We lack concerted coordination and communication of information that would allow groups to better leverage resources for prevention, eradication and control of invasive species.

## THE SOLUTION

1. **Early Detection/Rapid Response** – crucial to stop and prevent new infestations
2. **Research** – critical to understand control and management
3. **Education and Outreach** – necessary for effective prevention and control
4. **Collaboration** – essential for effective and efficient management of invasive species
5. **Funding** – critical to control and manage invasive species in Indiana

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Bolster invasive species management in Indiana by supporting CISMA development and success, and funding for a state program that will coordinate and collaborate management efforts and support technical assistance.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Contact:** Will Drews, Chair of State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM)  
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## CURRENT RESOURCES

**Soil and Water Conservation Districts** support invasive species management. These SWCDs work with conservation partners through the **Indiana Invasives Initiative (III)** project to help create **Cooperative Species Management Areas (CISMAs)** in each county. CISMAs work locally to decrease and limit the economic and environmental damage caused by invasive species.

**Indiana Invasive Species Council** and **Purdue University School of Agriculture** is working with state and regional agencies and partners to coalesce efforts and data to more effectively and efficiently manage invasive species.

**Government Agencies** and **Conservation Partners** have expertise and limited resources to garner grants for surveying and spot management.

**State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM)**, a volunteer nonprofit, is pairing experts with citizens in every county in Indiana to manage invasive species through the **Indiana Invasives Initiative (III)**.

***These agencies and organizations are working hard but need support!***



Aerial view of Callery pear colonization  
- photo courtesy of New Haven, Adams Township Parks & Recreation



State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management

