



CISMA volunteers pulling garlic mustard.

The Indiana Invasives Initiative

In late 2017, SICIM and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) entered into a contribution agreement for the purpose of developing local Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) throughout Indiana. Both SICIM and the NRCS have been working for many years to combat invasive plants and raise public awareness of the devastation being caused by these non-native pests, and both have come to the realization that we will not begin to make much headway until the problem is addressed at the local level by local people using local resources.

Through the III, SICIM has been able to hire a small staff throughout the state of Indiana to bring partners together and assist with CISMA creation, conduct landowner surveys and provide invasive species management plans, and provide outreach and educational opportunities for citizens and professionals in Indiana.



The USDA and its partners are equal opportunity providers, employers, and lenders.

SICIM'S MISSION

Protect, restore, and enhance Indiana's landscapes by coordinating efforts to identify, prevent, and control invasive species.

Visit our website if you are interested in:

- Finding and volunteering with a local CISMA
- Scheduling a landowner survey with one of our Regional Specialists to determine invasive species on your property and create a management plan
- Volunteering on the board or other committees of SICIM
- Becoming a sponsor or partner
- Finding resources to learn more about invasive species and how to manage them
- Scheduling a Weed Wrangle
- Finding events related to invasive species in Indiana
- Information on reporting invasives found in natural areas or being sold

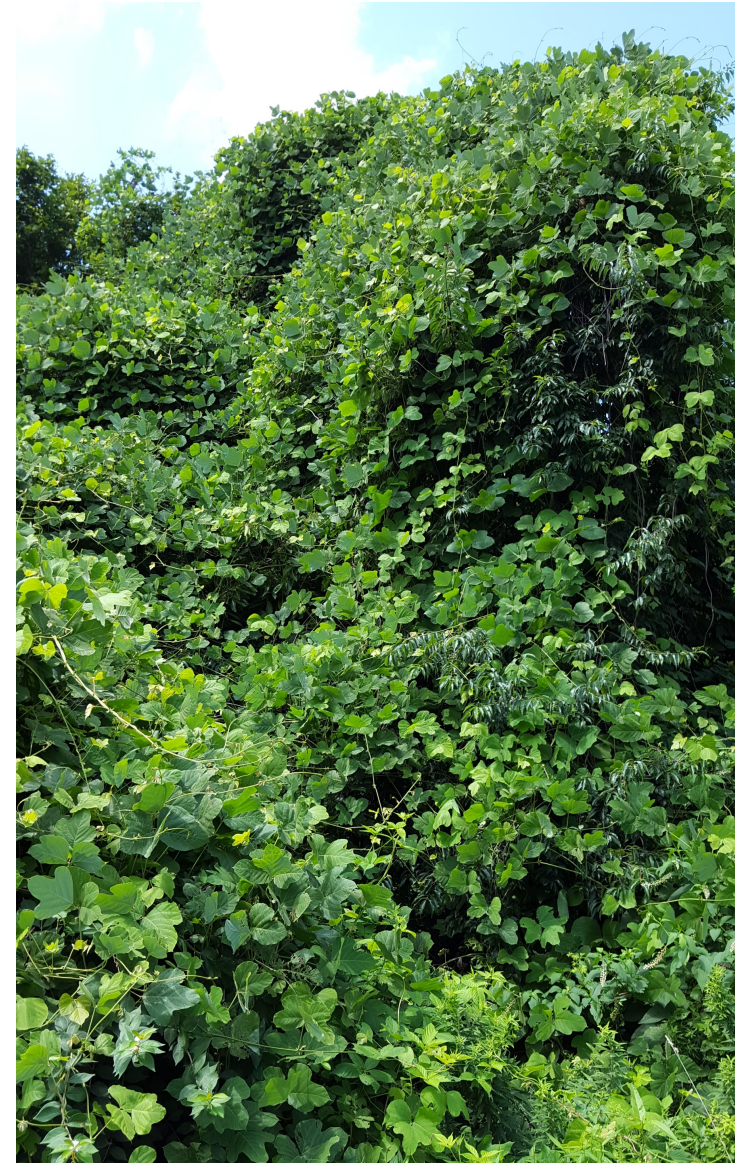
To donate to the III, get more involved with SICIM, or to be added to the email list, visit our website:

www.sicim.info

or email us at sicim.info@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook and Instagram: [@sicim35](https://www.facebook.com/sicim35)

Scan to visit our website:



Front Cover: Kudzu overtaking woodlands in Knox County.



State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management

What is SICIM?

State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) is the umbrella organization leading efforts to develop and support sustainable Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) throughout the state. It's a non-profit, grassroots organization that coordinates efforts and programs by public entities, other non-profit organizations, and private landowners to address the threat of invasive plants.

Where does SICIM operate?

Originally, the 35 counties in the southern 1/3 of the state of Indiana were within the SICIM area. However, SICIM expanded to cover the entire state of Indiana in 2017 with the creation of the Indiana Invasives Initiative project (III).

Why are invasive plants a problem?

An invasive plant is one that is not native to the area, but has been introduced, is starting to spread, and is causing damage to the natural environment. Since these plants are in a new environment, free of natural predators, parasites, or competitors, they often spread quickly. These large populations can out-compete and displace native species, and can reduce wildlife food and habitat. Some species can also disrupt vital ecosystem functions like nutrient cycling or soil decomposition. Other invasive plants cause economic damage to agriculture. They can harm or kill trees and other crops, clog equipment, and reduce yields. Some invasive plants can even cause direct harm to humans or domestic animals.

Why is SICIM important?

Even though several agencies, organizations, and individuals are working to manage and control invasive plants, more needs to be done for us to sustainably manage invasives. Through the Indiana Invasives Initiative project, SICIM coordinates and enhances these efforts. It improves the effectiveness and efficiency of management activities, manages across boundaries, pools available resources, and prioritizes issues. Additionally, professional expertise and research is shared among partners.

Aren't invasive plants already being managed?

Not to the degree that they need to be. Some organizations and individuals are controlling invasive species but can't keep up. Many nurseries and landscapers still sell invasive plants and there are few regulations (noxious weed laws, the Terrestrial Plant Rule, and local ordinances) in place to prevent them from doing so.



CISMA volunteers hosting a Weed Wrangle.

How can I get involved?

As a partner you participate in improved land management, committee work, educational efforts, and invasive species mapping and control projects. As a non-profit, we rely on private donations to fund the III project. You as an individual, agency, or organization can support improved land management in Indiana by becoming a donor.

It's also important to be aware of, and not plant or spread, invasive species. Learn to identify the invasive plants in your area. Stop the spread by cleaning your shoes, brushing off your clothes, and removing any dirt from equipment after being in an area with invasive plants. Wash down watercraft and trailers to remove invasive plants and aquatic organisms. Start a control program on your land. Report invasives that you find to: <https://www.eddmaps.org/indiana/>

For more information on how you can support the III, please contact us.



CISMA volunteers participating in a Weed Wrangle.