



Invasive Plants

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.

Why Should You Be Concerned?

Invasive plants 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 ecosystem. 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.



Photo of kudzu courtesy of: USDA



Photo of bush honeysuckle courtesy of: USDA



Photo of Japanese honeysuckle courtesy of: USDA © Elaine Haug



Photo of crown vetch courtesy of: USDA

How to Combat Invasives:

Invasives can be difficult to control due to their quick spreading behavior. Early detection is key, so 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. If you use chemical control, *follow the label directions!*

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 <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu> or www.invasivespecies.in.gov.

Common Invasives in Hamilton County:

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

Contact the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District for more information:

1717 Pleasant St.
Noblesville, IN 46060
317.773.2181
www.hamiltonswcd.org



Before beginning any project, check homeowner association covenants, as well as local and county ordinances. Do not work in a drainage, utility, or other easement without the proper permits.