

Controlling the rapid spread of invasive plants in Indiana is crucial for the future of native songbirds, pollinating insects and other forms of wildlife.

This brochure showcases eleven common invasive plants.



The Asian Bush Honeysuckle, pictured above, is the most common invasive plant in Central Indiana. They sap moisture and nutrients from other plants as well as shading out young native plants. Its fruit does not provide the fat and protein needed by migratory birds, instead being high in sugars.

For more information

West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)
317-439-0827

Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society
www.inpaws.org

Midwest Invasive Plant Network
www.mipn.org

IDNR Division of Nature Preserves
317-232-4052
www.in.gov/dnr/naturepreserve

Plant Conservation Alliance
www.nps.gov/plants

Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov

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What's That Weird Plant?

Identifying Common Invasive Plants of Central Indiana



Asian Bush Honeysuckle, pictured above, is an invasive plant that destroys Indiana landscapes like this young woodland. Recognizing invasives is the first step in controlling them.

Non native plants (plants from other countries) are invading Indiana and damaging natural areas at an alarming rate primarily because there are no predators to stop their spread. They are especially prevalent in non-cultivated areas such as woodlands, parks, roadsides, and stream corridors. Controlling the spread of invasive plants is crucial for the future of native songbirds, pollinating insects and wildlife. In many locations they have completely destroyed the native vegetation, thus upsetting the natural ecological balance, and have severely affected timber production.



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1. **Garlic Mustard:** Brought to the US from Europe by the early settlers as a seasoning for the bland tasting wild game. It has naturalized and destroys native plants.
2. **Multiflora Rose:** First brought to the US in the mid 1800's to serve as root stock for grafting horticultural roses. It has been declared **illegal to sell** in Indiana because it is highly invasive.
3. **Autumn Olive:** An Oriental plant that was brought to the US for landscaping, wildlife food and erosion control that has gone wild. Some people use the fruit for jelly-making.
4. **Tree of Heaven:** Also called Ailanthus, this plant is taking over many forest areas because of it begins to produce seeds at only three years of age. Comparatively, quality hardwoods like the oaks and hickories must be nearly 30 years old to produce seed.
5. **Winter Creeper:** Often referred to as Euonymus or Purple Winter Creeper because of its late fall leaf color. This evergreen vine and ground cover plant is still used as a landscape plant.
6. **Japanese Honeysuckle:** An Oriental plant brought here for landscape purposes. It has since escaped and is aggressively **destroying young trees** in woodlands as well as along streams and fencerows.
7. **Johnson Grass:** This plant was brought from Europe as a forage grass for the hot southern states. It served that purpose but soon became invasive and spread rapidly to the north and has become a major pest.
8. **Oriental Bittersweet:** This invasive plant spreads quickly and is rapidly creeping along streams in central Indiana. It is a vine that swiftly covers the crowns of trees, eventually **killing the tree**.
9. **Poison Hemlock:** Careful! This is a **lethally poisonous** plant that is a member of the Parsley Family, it has purple blotches on the hollow stem and many small white flowers on a flat topped cluster.
10. **Japanese Knotweed:** Rapidly expanding woody perennial that grows up to 12 feet tall. Stems are reminiscent of bamboo. Strong growing points can **pierce concrete** and asphalt.