



Indiana Invasive Species Council Biennial Report

2020-2021

I. Overview:

The Indiana General Assembly established the Indiana Invasive Species Council within the Purdue University College of Agriculture in 2009 to enhance the ability of state agencies to detect, prevent, monitor and manage new and long established invasive species; work with agencies and partners to effectively and efficiently slow the spread and thwart the impact of invasive species in Indiana; and give citizens and industries a way to voice concerns and opinions about management of invasive species in Indiana. In 2015, with the assistance of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Council was reauthorized until July 1, 2023.

II. Indiana Invasive Species Council Objectives:

As set forth by the Indiana General Assembly in 2009 under [IC 15-16-10](#), the objectives of the council are to enhance the ability of state agencies to detect, prevent, monitor, and manage new and long-established invasive species. Invasive species are exotic insects, plants, fish, birds, mammals, and other organisms that are a serious threat to Hoosier homes, environment, and the economy. To achieve its objectives, the Council works with responsible state agencies and conservation partners across Indiana.

The Indiana Invasive Species Council:

- Communicates with other states, federal agencies, and state and regional organizations to enhance consistency and effectiveness in preventing the spread of early detection of response to and management of invasive species.
- Coordinates education and outreach activities.
- Assists governmental agencies in reviewing current invasive species policies and procedures, addressing any deficiencies or inconsistencies in such policies and performance measures for accountability concerning the agencies' invasive species actions.
- Receives and manages reports from all governmental agencies that act on the Council's recommendations.
- Can apply for and provide grants for education and management of invasive species.
- Makes recommendations to the Indiana State Legislators relating to invasive species management needs.

As the Council has evolved, our strategic plan is revised and updated by the Council annually.

III. Recent accomplishments of the Indiana Invasive Species Council (IISC):

- The corona virus pandemic pushed all Council meetings online in 2020 and as they continued in 2021. No meetings were cancelled, and all remained open to the public during the period covered by this report.
- Initiated the Terrestrial Plant Rule approved in 2019 came into effect in April 2020.
- Co-sponsored the production of 550 high-quality printed copies of a new Invasive Species Field Guide to help with the identification of plant species prohibited in trade by the new Terrestrial Plant Rule. The guide is available as a PDF from the Indiana Native Plant Society.
- Initiated an economic analysis of plants in trade listed as highly invasive. This will form the basis for any new terrestrial plant rule that may be proposed in the future.
- Initiated Invasive Species Awareness weeks with gubernatorial proclamations in 2020 and 2021.
- Co-hosted a postponed and rescheduled biennial conference on invasive species on August 20th, 2020, that attracted 317 live registrants and 121 Zoom participants.
- Council members contributed to the 2021 CISMA Conference Social Networking Session held August 2021.
- Served as the reporting hub for early detection, and distribution and mapping for invasive species in Indiana.
- Fostered communications regarding the Council with members of the regulatory communities and interested stakeholders by maintaining a IISC website.
- Among the new invasive species found in the state during this reporting period are the sudden oak death pathogen, boxwood blight, oak wilt, jumping worms and spotted lanternfly.

IV. Key Needs and Recommendations:

- Develop a strategy that will address the long-term funding needs and support for Indiana Invasives Initiative ([III](#)) and the emerging Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas ([CISMAs](#)) across the state. This support system should be provided through a partnership of Private, State, and Federal resources.
- Add Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana* Decne.) and Norway maple (*Acer platanoides* L.) to Indiana's newly enacted Terrestrial Plant Rule ([312 IAC 18-3-25](#)) and continue to identify and evaluate emerging invasive species threats.
- Continue to identify and quantify the short- and long-term costs and environmental impacts of the invasive species problem in Indiana.
- Reauthorize the Indiana Invasive Species Council ([IC 15-16-10](#)) that is set to expire July 1, 2023.

V. Message from the Chair:

The time to address the invasive species problem in Indiana is NOW!

As the Indiana General Assembly and other organizations consider the future of Indiana's natural resources, attention must be given to the control of invasive species that threaten the State's economy, continue to cause environmental harm, are impacting Hoosiers and their livestock, as well as plant health within the state, and across the country. A well-funded organization is needed to lead and coordinate a statewide effort for invasive species management and engage people to act.

An invasive species is an organism **that causes or may cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health**. Invasive species can cause economic harm by threatening the health of hardwood forests, agricultural lands, grasslands, wetlands, and other natural areas. In Indiana, the cost of invasive species impacts

is growing and is estimated to be in the billions of dollars annually. Rapid detection and early action are key in reducing the amount of time, energy, and dollars needed to control invasive species before they spread.

A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM FOR INDIANA

- The Indiana Invasive Species Council has identified 126 plants in the state as invasive so far.
- Highly invasive plants like Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) continue to be offered for sale throughout the state.
- More invasive species threats are being identified every year. The highly destructive spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) has just recently been discovered in Indiana.
- Invasive species threats also include invasive animals, fish, and insects. Feral hogs, Asian Carp and the Emerald Ash Borer are some well-known examples.
- Invasive species are outcompeting and replacing native plants and animals.
- Invasive species negatively impact agricultural crop yields, forest regeneration and growth, and water quality.
- Invasive species decrease recreational opportunities, reduce economic productivity, and decrease biodiversity.
- Landowners are generally unaware of the issues and comprise approximately 95% of the land ownership in Indiana.

What is being done?

- Under the leadership of the Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) organization the Indiana Invasive Initiative (III) is developing local **Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) to organize local groups** throughout Indiana.
- The mission of the III is to engage people and its partners in the restoration and protection of Indiana's natural resources by cultivating and coordinating efforts to manage invasive species.
- This initiative is the grass root foundation for Indiana's invasive management strategy to address Indiana's invasive species issues.

Some of the recent SICIM / III accomplishments:

- Developed over 31 CISMAs representing 37 counties.
- Conducted over 460 outreach events reaching over 7,000 people.
- Written over 290 landowner surveys for over 18,000 acres.
- Conducted over 80 Weed Wrangles® across Indiana in partnership with agencies, professionals, and citizens.
- Hosted annual conferences reaching over 500 people that focused on the latest research and technology for invasive species management and the use of native plants for landscaping.
- Partnered with Purdue Extension, Department of Natural Resources, and other organizations such as the Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owners Association to provide education and training for citizens and professionals in the natural resource fields.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Warner

Michael Warner, Chairman

Indiana Invasive Species Council Member List:

Member	Organization and Title	Email address	Representing
Michael Warner	President of ArborTerra Consulting, Inc	mwarner@arboterra.com	forestry industry
Megan Abraham	Director, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology	MAbraham@dnr.in.gov	Department of Natural Resources Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology
Eric Fischer	Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator	efischer@dnr.in.gov	Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife
Rick Haggard	Executive Director, Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association	haggard.rick@att.net	nursery industry
Matthew Kraushar	Roadside Maintenance Specialist	mkraushar@indot.in.gov	Indiana Department of Transportation
Linda Broadfoot	Director of Indianapolis Parks & Recreation	lindabroadfoot@indy.gov	parks and recreation
Heather Reynolds	Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Biology, Indiana University	hreynol@indiana.edu	research
Kate Sanders	Resource Specialist	kasanders1@isda.in.gov	Indiana State Department of Agriculture
Kelli Werling	Director of Swine Health Programs	kwerling@boah.in.gov	Indiana State Board of Animal Health
Steve Yaninek	Professor of Entomology, Purdue University	yaninek@purdue.edu	Dean of Agriculture, Purdue University

Council members of current biennium also include:

Phylliss Boyd, Director of Indianapolis Parks & Recreation, lindabroadfoot@indy.gov representing parks and recreation (replacing Linda Broadfoot)

Joe Schmees, Executive Director, representing Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, joseph-schmees@iaswcd.org, representing land trusts (vacancy filled by gubernatorial appointment).