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I would like to become active in this initiative.

Make Check Payable to:
Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council, Inc.

Mail to: Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council, Inc.
Discovery Hall, Suite 200
1202 East 38th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Thank you for your tax deductible donation!

The Resource Conservation & Development Councils and their partnering organizations are equal opportunity providers and employers.

This brochure is made possible through the generosity of the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, and by the cooperation of the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area, the Hoosier Heartland RC&D, the Sycamore Trails RC&D, and the Greater Wabash River RC&D

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

- The simplest thing anybody can do to get involved is to be aware of the issue and not plant or spread invasive species.
- Learn to identify the major invasive plants in your area.
- Check to see if a plant is invasive before planting it.
- Do not empty or dump houseplants into the wild.
- Be sure to clean your shoes and brush off your clothes after being in an area with invasive plants.
- Start a control program on your land.
- Talk to local groups, communities, or government officials about invasive plants.
- Donate money to help us spread the word about invasives. Any amount will help and donations are tax deductible!
- Help us organize volunteer removal projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

Contact the office of your local Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service or the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service.



WIN Against Invasives

**West Central Indiana
Cooperative
Weed Management Area**

Cover Photo: Oriental Bittersweet

WHAT IS THE WEST CENTRAL CWMA?

It is a partnership between county, state and federal agencies, organizations, universities, private businesses, landowners and land managers coordinating efforts to attack the threat of invasive plants. The West Central Indiana CWMA was organized in July of 2010 and works across county lines. Our area is rich in natural resources, recreational opportunities, rivers and streams, aesthetic beauty, wildlife and above all rich agricultural lands and bountiful forests. Invasive plants are a serious threat to all of these.

Indiana CWMA's
And Contacts for More Information

WHAT ARE INVASIVE PLANTS ?

An invasive plant is one that is not native to the area but that has been introduced and has *naturalized*—causing damage to the natural environment. Since these plants are in a new environment, free from the natural predators, parasites or competitors of their native habitats, they often increase their populations rapidly. These large populations can out-compete and displace native species and reduce wildlife food and habitat.

WHY ARE THEY A PROBLEM?

Invasive plants grow quickly and aggressively, spreading, crowding out, and killing desirable plants. Some species can also disrupt vital ecosystem functions, destroying wetlands, clogging waterways impacting drainage, and degrading water quality. Other invasive plants cause massive amounts of economic damage to agriculture and forests. They can reduce crop productivity, clog equipment and contaminate produce.

Some invasive plants can cause direct harm to humans or domestic animals. Economic damage caused by invasive plants exceeds an estimated \$40 billion dollars annually in the USA. In Indiana, nearly 100 plants have been identified as invasive or of special concern; unbelievably, many are still for sale at nurseries and garden centers.

WHAT DOES THE CWMA DO?

The CWMA provides education and information in the identification and control of invasive plants. Many landowners and land managers are unaware of invasive plants and the damage they cause. The same is true of many garden centers and nurseries. The CWMA conducts identification workshops and eradication field days. Landowners and managers will take steps to remove invasives when they can identify them and know control techniques.

We work with garden centers to encourage them to stop selling invasives. We work with county and city leaders to help them know about invasives and the important role they have in invasive plant management. Many invasive plants can be found on county and city owned or managed land such as roadsides, parks and regulated drains. We work with local groups that want to do hands on control days in parks, preserves or other lands. Another function we perform is to help potential vendors who want to start or expand their business into invasive control. The CWMA will also initiate “early detection—rapid response” actions to be on the watch for new species that may come into the area.