Invasive Species Updates and the Indiana Invasives Initiative (III)

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SICIM Chair
Indiana Invasive Species Updates

• Upcoming threats
  — Mile a Minute vine (*Persicaria perfoliata*)
  — Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*)
  — Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*)
• Indiana Invasive Plant List updated
• TPR updates
Mile a Minute vine (*Persicaria perfoliata*)

- Herbaceous, annual vine
- Found in Monroe County in late 2018
- Treated by landowner and private contractor
- Known for growing incredibly fast (“a mile a minute”)
  - Actually up to ~6 in./day
- Threat to upland forests
Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*)

- Planthopper
- First reported in PA in 2014
- Not found in IN yet
- Generalist tendencies
- Threat to horticultural crops and forests
Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*)

- Fungal pathogen
- First reported in CA in mid 1990s
- Found last year in IN
  - Infected rhododendron nursery stock
- Spreads via alternative hosts and soil and water
- Browning of leaves occur suddenly, but takes ~2 years to kill a mature tree
- Threat to oak trees/forests
Indiana Invasive Plant List Updated

• The Invasive Plant Advisory Committee (IPAC) has been working for the past couple years to update the official Indiana Invasive Plant List.
• First list approved by IISC on 10/11/13
• Finished some reassessments and new assessments at the end of 2019
• Voted on and passed at an Indiana Invasive Species Council (IISC) meeting earlier this year
• **Does not** affect Terrestrial Plant Rule (TPR)
IPAC - Ranking Invasive Plants

- Plants are ranked using a standardized form and scientific evidence.
- Two different forms
  - Plants in trade and not
- Different rankings
  - High, Medium, Low, and Caution
- IPAC members assess plants and have assessments double-checked by experts.
Updated Invasive Plant Species

- Chinese Wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) – moved up to medium
- European Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum opulus*) – moved up to high
- Moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*) – newly assessed as high
- Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*) – moved up to high
- Ravenna Grass (*Saccharum ravennae*) – newly assessed as medium
- Spreading/Japanese Hedge Parsley (*Torilis arvensis/T. japonica*) – moved up to high
- Wild Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) – moved up to high
- Chinese Silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) – moved up to high
- Japanese Spirea (*Spiraea japonica*) – moved up to medium
- Sweet Autumn Clematis (*Clematis terniflora*) – moved up to high
- Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*) – newly assessed as high
- Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*) – newly assessed as medium
- Beefsteak Plant (*Perilla frutescens*) – newly assessed as medium
- Princess Tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) – moved up to medium
- Jet Bead (*Rhodotypos scandens*) – moved up to medium
Terrestrial Plant Rule

- IISC asked DNR to remove the invasive plants rated “high” in 2013
- DNR Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology drafted rule in mid 2014
- TPR was passed on April 18, 2019 (prohibits 44 of the 46 invasive plants rated high starting in April 18, 2020)
- Will start to be enforced on April 20, 2020
- Callery Pear and Norway Maple left off the list
- IPAC working on a field guide for species on the list
Indiana Invasives Initiative (III)

- SICIM is a regional nonprofit organization based in Southern Indiana to address the threat of invasive plants.
- Entered into a NRCS Contribution Agreement in 2017
- Expanded the scope of SICIM to the entire state of IN
- This program is what is referred to as the Indiana Invasives Initiative (III)
- Hired two regional specialists and a program coordinator in 2018
- Now up to 5 regional specialists and a program coordinator
III Outline

• The NRCS contribution agreement is for 5 years.
• The project is supported by NRCS, SICIM, TNC, and various other grants, donations, and contributions.
• Regional Specialists work with SWCDs and other conservation organizations to
  — increase Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (or CISMA) representation across the state
  — help counties find the resources they need to manage invasives in their areas.
• Not just Southern Indiana, for the whole state
• The project also aims to provide technical assistance to landowners, including invasive species property surveys and management plans.
III Program Coordinator

DAWN SLACK
With The Nature Conservancy
SICIM Regional Specialists

AMBER SLAUGHTERBECK
Serving West Central Indiana

KAILA KNIES
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MARY WELZ
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ERICA LUCHIK
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LIZ YETTER
Serving East Central Indiana

SICIM™
Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management
III Highlights

- Statistics so far:
  - 125+ landowner surveys
  - 4,200+ acres assessed
  - 430+ outreach events
  - 51,000+ people engaged
- Indiana CISMA by numbers:
  - Working in 69 counties
  - 21 established CISMA in 23 counties
  - 11 organizing CISMAs in 15 counties
Spring 2020 CISMA Conference

INVASIVE SPECIES AND WATERSHEDS

THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH, 2020 - 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
Hamilton County, Indiana 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Center
2003 Pleasant St, Noblesville, IN 46060

Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management
Weed Wrangle® Indiana

- Fun, interactive events to get people out removing invasive plants from parks and natural areas
- Weed Wrangle Indiana Events:
  - 2018: 17
  - 2019: 38
  - 2020: 40+
- Spring 2020 Weed Wrangle Indiana Contest
  - Designed to increase participation in Weed Wrangles
  - Points distributed for promoting and holding events
  - Points relate to entries into doorprize
  - Winning group gets $500 for invasive species management and 4 hours of hands-on assistance from one of the RSs
  - Winner announced at SICIM’s Annual Meeting on June 25th
The III’s goal is to create local invasive species action.
Questions?

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For more info about SICIM, check out our out our website & Facebook pages:

- Website: http://www.sicim.info/
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/sicim35/