New Invasive Plants to Watch For –
And What to do When You Find Them

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Watch for These New Invasive Plants:

1. Japanese stiltgrass
2. Plumeless thistle
3. Black swallow-wort
4. Pale swallow-wort
5. Callery pear
6. Burning bush
7. Amur cork tree
8. Sweet autumn clematis
9. Japanese chaff flower
10. Mile-a-minute vine

And When You Find Them:
Japanese Stilt Grass
*Microstegium vimineum*
Red circles on each map show new counties that have been reported since Report IN started in August 2014.

Casey Jones of ACRES showing Japanese stiltgrass to Allen County Highways foreman.
Spiny plumeless thistle
*Carduus acanthoides*

- Magenta-flowered biennial thistle invasive in open areas
- Related to nodding thistle, *Carduus nutans* – same color flower, but flowers upright, smaller, and numerous on plant.
Spiny plumeless thistle
*Corduus acanthoides*

- First found by Scott Namestnik near Hamilton several years ago
- Mapping in effort in 2015 found 36 sites
- Landowner contact effort starting this year
Spiny plumeless thistle
Carduus acanthoides

- Highly branched, with one flower at the end of each branch
- Each flower up to 1” in diameter
- Looks like bull thistle, but:
  - Even spiner than bull thistle
  - Leaves paler
  - Flowers 2 weeks earlier (early July, versus bull thistle blooming in late July)
Black Swallow-wort  
*Vincetoxicum nigrum*

Leaves dark green, flowers dark purple, peduncles <2 cm

Pale Swallow-wort  
*Vincetoxicum rossicum*

Leaves medium green, flowers pink to reddish, peduncles >2 cm
Black and Pale Swallow-wort
Native Look-alike

Black swallow-wort

*Cynanchum laeve*, Honey vine
Note its heart-shaped leaf base and white flowers
Callery Pear

*Pyrus calleryana*
Martin County - Callery pear has invaded approximately 80% of a 62,473 acre reserve
Burning bush

*Euonymus alatus*

- Extremely popular landscaping shrub which is invading forests throughout Indiana
- Green, more or less winged twigs with finely-toothed opposite leaves, turning bright red in fall
Burning bush
Euonymus alatus
Amur cork tree
*Phellodendron amurense*

- Tree used in landscaping decades ago, now popping up in a few places around the state
- Pinnately compound leaves, opposite arrangement, with acute tips – smell like turpentine when crushed
- Fruits are drupes
- Corky bark
Amur cork tree
*Phellodendron amurense*

- Scattered locations; unsure how prevalent this species is.
Sweet autumn clematis
*Clematis terniflora*

- Invasive vine in open habitats, climbing over other vegetation
Sweet autumn clematis
*Clematis terniflora*

- Scattered in Indiana, unclear how widespread it is
- Has a native look-a-like, *Clematis virginiana*, which has toothed leaves
Achyranthes japonica

Japanese chaff flower

- A relatively new invader in Indiana
- The leaves are opposite, simple, and entire along the margins.
- The flowers occur on erect spikes at the end of the stems and upper branches.
Japanese chaff flower
*Achyranthes japonica*

- The flowers diverge at nearly a right angle from the spike, giving the flowers some what of a bottle-brush look.
- When the fruit are formed, the spikes elongate greatly and the fruit lay flat against the spike. Each fruit has a pair of stiff bracts that aid in dispersal.
Japanese chaff flower

Vanderburgh/Warrick County line, near river:
Just wanted to let you know that I recently saw Japanese chaff flower (in seed at about 5' tall) actually catch (entangle in seed heads) a bird, in this case, a juvenile downy woodpecker. I think the bird was probably aiming at the poke plant nearby. He was struggling to get free, which alerted me to his presence. I was able to disentangle him from the seed heads and pick as many seeds off him as I could before he "needed" to be let loose.

I'm not sure whether you have heard of any other "captures" by the chaff flower; if not, here's a first. It elevates the durn thing on my list of unfavorite things (tho it was probably at the top already). Excuse the language, but I call it "The Plant from Hell." I'm not sure whether it could catch a mature bird with its slicker coat of feathers, but this one still had quite a bit of baby fluff on his belly, etc.

Kate Lynch
Mile-a-minute vine
*Persicaria perfoliata*

- Not yet in Indiana – along Ohio River in Ohio.
- Invasive vine in open habitats
Mile-a-minute vine

*Persicaria perfoliata*
Report IN — and keep invasive species out!

• Grew out of an Early Detection Rapid Response conference held by the Indiana Invasive Species Council at Purdue University in October 2013

• Developed by the Invasive Plant Advisory Committee, it is a way to quickly and easily report invasive species and populate a public map
Report IN has two platforms...

**Computer**

EDDMapS.org/indiana
- Useful if you don’t have a smart phone
- More detail possible in reports

**OR**

**Smart phone**

Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) app
- Good to report in the field

EDDMapS Database Queue To Be Verified
Report IN – and keep invasive species out!

Go to EDDMaps.org/indiana and start using it today!