

Request for Proposals

Ohio Invasive Plants Council
Invasive Plants Research Grants



www.oipc.info

Deadline: February 29, 2024

Award Amounts: Up to \$1,500/project

Overview: The Ohio Invasive Plants Council seeks proposals for research *that enhances the understanding and effective control of invasive plants that are significant threats to Ohio's natural areas*. Projects initiated by graduate students, land managers, or amateur botanists are welcomed.

We will accept and review proposals that focus on basic biology, ecology, management, distribution, or horticultural aspects of invasive plants in Ohio. However, we have several priority topics that will receive additional points in the proposal scoring. Our highest priority for funding is for proposals that address questions about potential invasive plants for which the lack of published data hinders their evaluation by the OIPC Assessment Team. These proposals should describe research that will help answer on of the specific questions from the OIPC Assessment Team. These questions are included at the end of this document and are also available online at <https://www.oipc.info/help-answer-research-questions.html>

In addition, we will also prioritize research proposals that directly connect to management of invasives. Close collaboration with a land manager may help make such proposals more relevant.

Format: Proposals should be written using 12 point font, submitted as a single PDF file, and should include a cover sheet, proposal, CV/resume, and letter of support. Student applicants should have a letter of support from their advisor, and otherwise the letter could be from a park district or manager involved in the project, or a supervisor or other qualified colleague with knowledge of the feasibility of the project. The cover sheet is limited to 1 page and must include (a) title, (b) names and contact information for all individuals involved in the project, (c) and the specific OIPC research priority addressed, and (d) the total dollar amount of the request. The body of the proposal should be no more than 4 pages, and should include the following sections: Introduction, Problem Statement and/or Hypotheses, Methods, Timeline, Itemized Budget with Justification, and Plans for Disseminating Findings. If the proposal is part of a larger project, this should be briefly described along with other funding sources. An optional literature cited section may be included, and does not count toward this 4-page limit. The author of the proposal (PI) should include a 2-page curriculum vita (CV, biosketch, or resume).

Review Process: Proposals will be submitted as PDF documents to Dr. Emily Rauschert at the following email address: e.rauschert@csuohio.edu. If there are any questions during proposal development, Dr. Rauschert may be contacted at the same email address. The email should have "OIPC Research Grant" in subject line. The file name of the document submitted should be in the following format: LastNameofPI_OIPC_Grant_2019. Grants will be first screened for appropriateness to the RFP and formatting, and then reviewed for content by a panel of experts.

Restrictions: OIPC funds cannot be used for University overhead, travel to meetings, or expenses that are a necessary part of a research lab. Funds must be clearly justified in the budget justification section and can include equipment, supplies, stipend, and travel to conduct research.

Reporting: Awardees are required to deliver a 1-page final report to OIPC at the conclusion of the project, and any publication or presentation of the data collected during this project must provide acknowledgement of support by OIPC. We encourage the awardees to present their findings at the OIPC Annual Meeting the year following the award.

**Please contact Emily Rauschert, e.rauschert@csuohio.edu,
if you have any questions about this grant opportunity or award.**

OIPC Research Questions 2024

Viburnum Species - *V. plicatum*, *V. sieboldii*

- How often do these species escape into natural areas in Ohio?
- What is their method of spread?
- Need GPS locations of wild populations

Porcelainberry - *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*

- What is the typical population density of this species in Ohio?
- What role in succession, if any, does porcelainberry play in Ohio?

English Ivy - *Hedera helix* (note that this species is often confused with *H. hibernica*)

- What is rate of seed production of this species?
- What is germination rate and survival of seedlings in natural areas in Ohio?
- Are there any known impacts of this species on native plants or animals in Ohio?

Sweet Autumn Clematis - *Clematis terniflora*

- What is the number of viable seeds per fruit and per plant?
- What is the flowering period of an individual plant (not just a population)?
- Can this species hybridize with native OH *Clematis* species?

Amur Corktree - *Phellodendron amurense*

- At what age does this tree begins reproducing in Ohio? Note that it has been reported to be "male" for years before one or more branches may suddenly begin producing fruit.
- What is the seed dispersal mechanism of this species?
- Need GPS locations of wild populations

Vinca, Periwinkle - *Vinca minor*

- What is the dispersal distance of vinca seeds? NOTE: Fruit production may be rare in this species.

Rose-of-Sharon - *Hibiscus syriacus*

- Has this species been seen escaping into natural areas in Ohio? If so, what is the distance?

Asian Bittersweet - *Celastrus orbiculatus*

- What is the average number of seeds per plant under natural conditions in Ohio?
- What is the role of oriental bittersweet, if any, in succession - especially in Ohio?

White Mulberry - *Morus alba*

- When do individual plants reach reproductive maturity?
- What is the average density and percent coverage of this species in Ohio?
- What is the role of this species in succession in natural areas in Ohio?

Common Privet - *Ligustrum vulgare*

- What is the role of this species (if any) in establishing within healthy and intact natural areas in Ohio?
- Does common privet impact successional processes in any way?
- Does the species impact animals or native plants in any way in Ohio?
- Can common privet hybridize with any other *Privet* species?

Winged Burning Bush - *Euonymus alatus*

- What is the identity of individuals/populations of escaped individuals – are these the wild species, cultivars (such as 'Compactus'), or hybrid mixes?
- What is the average seed production of *E. alatus* in the wild?
- Does this species impact (negatively or positively) any animals in Ohio?

Wineberry - *Rubus phoenicolasius*

- Does wineberry have any negative effects on native plant or animal species in Ohio?

Species to be on the lookout for - Note that these are NOT considered invasive at this point but we have started to hear of wild populations in OH, so they are on our radar:

- Weeping cherry
- Toringo (Siebold) crabapple - *Malus sieboldii*
- Golden Raintree - *Koelreuteria paniculata*