

Request for Proposals

Ohio Invasive Plants Council *Invasive Plants Research Grants*



www.oipc.info

Deadline: January 15, 2025

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 threaten 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 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 one 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) 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, which does not count toward the 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 a single PDF document 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_2025. Grants will be first screened for appropriateness to the RFP and formatting, and then reviewed for content by a panel of researchers and managers.

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 2025

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 or in nearby regions, so they are on our radar. ANY information (plant traits, distribution, ecological impacts, etc.) you can provide would be extremely helpful:

- Weeping cherry - it is unknown what species is actually escaping
- Toringo (Siebold) crabapple - *Malus sieboldii*
- Golden Raintree - *Koelreuteria paniculata*
- Beautyberry - *Callicarpa dichotoma*
- Chocolate Vine - *Akebia quinata*
- Hoary Alyssum - *Berteroa incana*
- Dahurian buckthorn - *Rhamnus davurica*

Viburnum plicatum

- Need any basic information on reproduction (flowering time, number of seeds/plant, seed germination)
- Be careful not to confuse this species with *V. opulus* var. *opulus*

Viburnum opulus var. *opulus*

- This species has much taxonomic confusion surrounding it. It would be ideal to have a clear distinction (including visible key traits) of this species versus *V. trilobum* (some sources say they are the same species but others indicate they are different - the OIPC assessment team believes each is distinct).

Porcelainberry - *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*

- This seems to be a very quickly spreading species in Ohio
- Need basic information on reproduction
- What is the typical population density of this species in Ohio?
- Does porcelainberry interfere with succession 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?

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?
- How often does this species hybridize with other mulberry species?

Common Privet - *Ligustrum vulgare*

- Can common privet hybridize with any other *Privet* species?
- What is the identity of "wild privet" in Ohio forests?