

***Request for Proposals***  
Ohio Invasive Plants Council  
*Invasive Plants Research Grants*

**Deadline:** December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**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.



**[www.oipc.info](http://www.oipc.info)**

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 one of the specific questions from the OIPC Assessment Team. Some of those questions include:

- How often do *Viburnum plicatum* and *V. sieboldii* escape into natural areas in Ohio and how do they spread?
- At what age does Amur corktree (*Phellodendron amurense*) begin reproducing in Ohio? What is the seed dispersal of this species?
- What is the dispersal distance of vinca /periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) seeds?
- Has Rose-of-Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) been seen escaping into natural areas in Ohio? If so, what is the distance?
- Once English ivy (*Headera helix*) is in a natural site, what is the extent of its colonization? Are there any known impacts of this species on native plants or animals in Ohio? How many seeds does it produce?
- What is the typical population density of porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) in Ohio? What role in succession, if any, does porcelainberry play in Ohio?
- What is the average number of oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) seeds per plant under natural conditions in Ohio? What is the role of oriental bittersweet, if any, in succession - especially in Ohio?
- When do individual white mulberry (*Morus alba*) 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?
- What is the role of common privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) in establishing in healthy and intact natural areas in Ohio? Does it impact successional processes in any way? Does the species impact animals or native plants in any way in Ohio?

- What is the extent of spread of princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) in Ohio?
- What is the identity of individuals/populations of escaped winged burning bush (*Euonymus alatus* individuals? What is the average seed production of *E. alatus* in the wild? Does this species impact (negatively or positively) any animals in Ohio?
- Does wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*) have any negative effects on native plant or animal species in Ohio?

Please see the [OIPC website](#) for more detail on these research questions.

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 (optional) letter of collaboration. 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). The proposal may also include a letter of collaboration (e.g., from a student's advisor and/or a collaborating land manager).

**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](mailto:e.rauschert@csuohio.edu),  
if you have any questions about this grant opportunity or award.**