



2025 Annual Report



Restored prairie with native big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
photo by Michelle Beloskur

Mission

The mission of the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) is to reduce the impact of invasive plant species in the Midwest. MIPN's service area includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Ontario, and Wisconsin.

A year in review

In 2025, MIPN delivered invasive species information and resources to nearly half a million individuals and organizations. On page 2, we highlight a variety of resources that can help you access the latest information on invasive plant early detection, management, and regulation, as well as resources for site restoration.

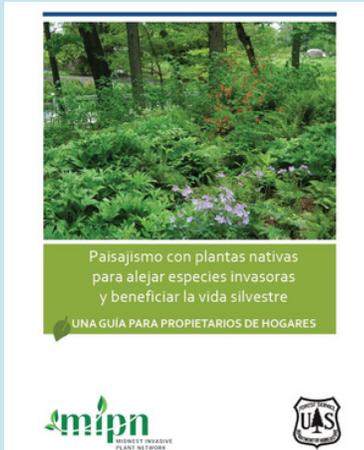
MIPN expanded our conference offerings last year, administering the first Ohio River Valley Invasive Species Conference in Burlington, Kentucky. The event received outstanding feedback from attendees and we're looking forward to hosting this conference again in Carbondale, Illinois on September 28-29, 2027.

MIPN remains pivotal to the continued expansion of the Public Gardens as Sentinels against Invasive Plants initiative as well as to regional efforts to increase invasive plant early detections in high priority Midwest forests. We appreciate all of you who support MIPN and partner with us to make this work possible!

Outreach & Education Resources

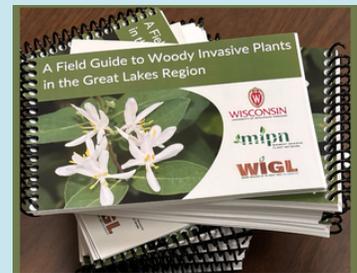
Visit [MIPN.org](https://mipn.org) to connect to invasive plant information, events, and resources.

- Midwest Invasive Plant List - current information on listed and regulated plants
- NEW Events Calendar - find webinars and conferences across the region
- NEW Protect our Upper Midwest Forests info sheet - highlights priority invasive plants
- NEW Spanish language outreach materials
- Contact information for your local invasive species management organization
- Directory for native seed & plant nurseries
- Directory for revegetation & restoration contractors



Visit the Woody Invasives of the Great Lakes Collaborative (WIGL) for in-depth information on 28 regulated woody invasive plants in the Great Lakes region.

- New woody invasive plant field guide
- Check out the WIGL blog for the latest woody invasive plant news and research
- Browse galleries of alternatives to woody invasive plants



Stay connected to MIPN on Facebook and Instagram, and by subscribing to our listserv, YouTube channel and quarterly newsletter. Visit [MIPN.ORG](https://mipn.org)

Access our 2025 Webinar Series on YouTube

- Midwest Priority Plants & Regulatory Updates
- Controlling Wild Parsnip in Prairies
- The Crab Apple Conundrum
- Biocontrol Options for Tree of Heaven
- Restoration Outcomes Differ in City Forests
- Deer & Invasive Plants: Impacts and Interactions



Webinar recordings are available at [MIPN's YouTube channel](https://mipn.org).
Download or purchase MIPN publications at mipn.org/learn/mipn-publications.

Emerging Invasive Plants

In late 2025, MIPN issued our 5th annual survey to invasive plants experts across the Midwest and asked them to identify early detection species for the region. Our team reviewed the list and have selected terrestrial and aquatic species to highlight in 2026. We have summarized the most frequently cited species, those expanding their range, and a few local priority species. Access the summary as well as a year-to-year comparison of all species cited at mipn.org/prevent-detect/#species.



Stiltgrass (left) and chaff flower (center left) were the most frequently cited terrestrial plants in our survey. Hydrilla (center right) and European frog-bit (right) were the most frequently cited aquatic invasive plants in our survey. Images from Bugwood.org.

Conferences

MIPN administered the first Ohio River Valley Invasive Species Conference (ORVISC) on March 19–20, 2025 in Burlington, Kentucky. We had an amazing event with 175 attendees, dozens of sponsors & exhibitors, expert presenters, field trips, workshops, and plenty of opportunities for networking. Over 96% of those who responded to our post-conference survey rated the conference as exceeding expectations or outstanding!

The conference was supported by more than 20 generous sponsors and exhibitors, including Boone County Extension who provided the venue and staff support. The program was robust with 28 oral and 10 poster presentations, 2 workshops, and 5 field trips. Dr. Daniel Simberloff, University of Tennessee–Knoxville gave an excellent keynote address to kick off the event.

Be sure to join us for the 10th Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference in La Crosse, Wisconsin October 6–8, 2026.



Public Gardens as Sentinels against Invasive Plants

Public gardens and arboreta can play a unique and proactive role in assessing which non-native plants exhibit invasive tendencies. These institutions have the expertise and opportunity to observe the reproduction and spread of plants that are not well known and may not yet be available in the horticultural trade.

To date, 68 public gardens in 28 states and provinces have shared observations of plants escaping cultivation, contributing to a database with over 1,100 plant records. A publicly available [data dashboard](#) showcases plants commonly reported by public gardens, with an option to filter data by state or region.

These data contributions have enabled PGSIP to issue two new [Plant Alerts](#), one on Japanese tree lilac and one on golden rain tree. We also updated our original Alert on Amur corktree. These Alerts are designed to raise awareness of ornamental plants that gardens have flagged due to concerns about their unintended spread and to provide recommended actions.

Learn more at pgsip.mortonarb.org/BoI/pgsip.

PLANT ALERT
Public Gardens as Sentinels
against Invasive Plants
ISSUED SEPTEMBER 2025

Japanese tree lilac
Syringa reticulata

Japanese tree lilac has been identified by the PGSIP working group as a plant of concern due to a growing number of botanic gardens and arboreta reporting on its ability to escape from cultivation.

Public gardens across North America are sharing their horticultural expertise to document cases of plants escaping from cultivation. The goal of this alert is to increase awareness of gardens' observations about Japanese tree lilac's behavior within their properties and to recommend actions to reduce its capacity to spread. For more information visit the [PGSIP website](#).

Data from PGSIP Gardens
Ten out of 66 gardens have used the PGSIP guidelines to record and rank Japanese tree lilac according to its ability to escape from cultivation. Three records specify a subspecies or cultivar (*S. reticulata* subsp. *reticulata* 'Elliott', subsp. *reticulata* 'Ivory Silk', and subsp. *amurensis*). A regional trend is emerging with gardens reporting from Illinois, Ohio, New York, Wisconsin, and Ontario. Japanese tree lilac has not been recognized as invasive in the scientific invasive literature and there is concern that it may be an overlooked, potentially invasive, taxon. Click on the map below for current PGSIP records.

How Gardens Ranked Japanese Tree Lilac

Ranking	Number of Gardens	Percentage
Watchlist	3	5%
Potentially Invasive	4	6%
Invasive	59	89%
Assessed as Invasive	0	0%

Recommended Actions
PGSIP urges these next steps for propagators, nurseries, landscape architects, invasive plant councils, and public gardens.

- Increase public garden monitoring and reporting
- Eradicate spontaneous populations
- Develop and evaluate cultivars for reduced fertility

Public gardens Sign up for PGSIP [here](#) | Share feedback on this Alert | Not a public garden? [Share data here](#)

Click map to visit the PGSIP Data Dashboard



Visit the PGSIP Website

Prevention & Early Detection of Invasive Plants in High Priority Midwest Forests



This project is strategically sustaining the health of Midwest forests through prevention and early detection of forest invasive plants. A multi-state advisory panel is improving collaboration around invasive species messaging, prioritization, and regulatory consistency.

MIPN is hosting educational webinars and will be releasing a new forest invasives field guide in 2026 to improve early detection efforts. This project also supports the work of partners in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan who conduct invasive species monitoring through participatory science programs. To date, over 73,000 acres have been surveyed and over 5,000 invasive plant reports have been submitted through the recruitment and training of volunteers.

MIPN Sponsors & Supporters

Thank you to the organizations, businesses, and individuals who supported us in 2025!

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Thank You!

MIPN supporters receive conference and publication discounts, recognition online and in our annual report, quarterly updates from the MIPN Director, and complimentary copies of new MIPN publications. To become a 2026 supporter visit mipn.org/about/supporters/.



Financial & Administrative Support

In 2025, the Midwest Invasive Plant Network was funded in part through federal grants via our fiscal sponsor, The Morton Arboretum. Grants were awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, Eastern Region, State, Private, and Tribal Forestry and the North Central Integrated Pest Management Center (NCIPMC). The NCIPMC is supported by the Crop Protection and Pest Management Program from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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Special Recognition of Service

We would like to express our gratitude to three board members for their extended and exceptional service to the MIPN Board of Directors. We will miss having them on the board, but wish them all the best as they pursue other adventures.



Kurt Dreisilker – 13 Years of Service

Kurt served as MIPN Treasurer and played a pivotal role in the development of much of MIPN’s current programming. We have appreciated Kurt’s longstanding dedication to MIPN and wish him all the best in his new Executive Director role at Wellfield Gardens.



David Gorden – 12 Years of Service

David has been key to MIPN’s success, serving on the Sponsorship Committee and helping to make the first Ohio River Valley Invasive Species Conference a reality. We have appreciated his enthusiasm and innovative spirit and are grateful for the time he devoted to MIPN.



Kim Bogenschutz – 10 Years of Service

Kim has been an integral part of MIPN, serving on multiple committees and sharing her expertise on aquatic invasive plants, effective community engagement, and much more. We have appreciated Kim’s dedication to MIPN and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

