

# Benefits of Removing Invasive Plants

*Presented by the Ohio Chapter International Society of Arboriculture*

The Ohio Chapter International Society of the Arboriculture is committed to advancing responsible tree care practices through research, technology, and education while promoting the benefits of trees. We remind those who own and manage trees, that trees need to have landscape sites that is free of invasive plants.

## Why Are Invasive Plants So Bad?

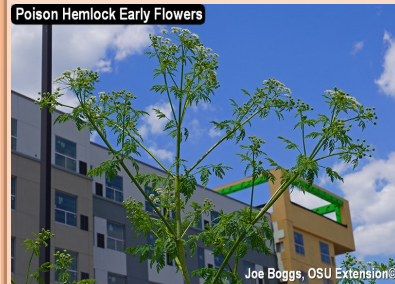
Invasive species are among the leading threats to native plants and wildlife. Approximately 42 percent of threatened or endangered species of plants and animals are at risk due to invasive species. Human health and economies are also at risk from invasive species. The impacts of invasive species on our natural ecosystems and economy cost billions of dollars each year. Many of our commercial, agricultural, and recreational activities depend on healthy native ecosystems.

There are indirect threats of invasive species as well. Invasive species can change the food web in an ecosystem by destroying or replacing native food sources. The invasive species may provide little to no food value for wildlife. Invasive species can also alter the abundance or diversity of species that are important habitat for native wildlife. Aggressive plant species like Honeysuckle can quickly replace a diverse ecosystem with a monoculture of just kudzu. Additionally, some invasive species are capable of changing the conditions in an ecosystem, such as changing soil chemistry and increase the populations of pests that affect you and your family like ticks that carry Lyme Disease and mosquitoes that carry zika virus. While others have the potential to cause serious life threatening injuries.

## Invasive Plants

Why They Should be Removed  
from your Property

### Poison-Hemlock



All parts of poison-hemlock (leaves, stem, fruit, and root) are poisonous.

### Honeysuckle



Honeysuckle adversely affects soil health and increase the populations of harmful ticks.

### Wild Parsnip



Wild parsnip sap contains psoralens which cause severe blistering to the skin.

There are over 1,000 qualified tree experts in Ohio that have been designated by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) as certified arborists. To find an ISA Certified Arborist® in your area, visit [www.Trees4Ohio.org](http://www.Trees4Ohio.org).

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