Biological Invasion Terminology

Biological invasion
The expansion of a species into an area where it did not previously live. This can refer to both human-caused introductions AND natural range expansions, and it implies that there is some harm caused by the species.

Native range
The area where a species naturally occurs.

Native species, indigenous species
These terms refer to species that occur naturally in an area, and have NOT been introduced or transported there by humans (on purpose or by accident).

Introduced species, non-indigenous species, non-native species, alien species
These terms generally refer to species that have spread beyond their native range. These terms are typically used to describe species which are established (there is a population reproducing in the wild). However, they do not specify whether or not a species is “invasive” (and therefore considered harmful).

Invasive species
Generally, this term refers to a species that is introduced to an area outside its native range which survives and reproduces, AND causes economical and/or environmental harm in the area of introduction.

Vector, pathway
The way in which a species is moved from one place to another. The term typically refers to objects or materials, such as soil, ballast water, hiking boots, boat hulls, etc. It can also refer to an action, such as intentional stocking.

Disturbance
A change in the environment or ecosystem that alters the biological community. This can occur on a large or small scale, and can be natural (such as a hurricane or forest fire) or a result of human activity (such as urbanization or agriculture).

Invasibility
This term describes how easily a habitat or ecosystem is invaded by introduced species.

Propagule pressure
Describes how many individuals of a non-native species are introduced, how many times they are introduced, and in how many locations in a given ecosystem.
Resources for more information on invasive species

National:

USDA invasive species website
https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/index.shtml

Center for invasive species and ecosystem health
www.invasives.org

USGS invasive species website
https://www2.usgs.gov/ecosystems/invasive_species/index.html

State:

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Ohio Invasive Plants Council
http://www.oipc.info/invasive-plants-of-ohio.html

Ohio Plants
http://ohioplasts.org/invasives/

Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council
https://www.se-eppc.org/ky/

Local organizations involved with invasive species eradication:

Western Wildlife Corridor
http://westernwildlifecorridor.org/

Great Parks of Hamilton County
http://www.greatparks.org/discovery/projects/removing-invasive-species

Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society
http://www.cincywildflower.org/

Wild Ones Greater Cincinnati chapter (many educational materials)
http://www.cincinnatiwildones.org/