

center for invasive species eradication

cise.tamu.edu

Texas AgriLife Research and Texas AgriLife Extension Service through the Texas Water Resources Institute have established the Center for Invasive Species Eradication (CISE) at Texas A&M University to direct research, demonstrations, educational programs and treatment activities with a goal of eradicating noxious non-native plant species invading Texas.

The Center for Invasive Species Eradication (CISE) was established in response to funding provided to Texas AgriLife Research and Texas AgriLife Extension Service by Congress. The initial focus of CISE is providing needed research on giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) control methods while using Caddo Lake as a living laboratory.

CISE is now expanding to address other invasive species threats to Texas' aquatic and riparian ecosystems. Invasive species are affecting aquatic and riparian areas throughout the state, and critical habitats are at risk in many locations. More than half of the plant species on the Texas Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed List (more than 20 species) are riparian or aquatic invasives. Further, seven fish species, one clam species (Asian clam), one mussel species (zebra mussel), numerous gastropods and others are known aquatic invaders.

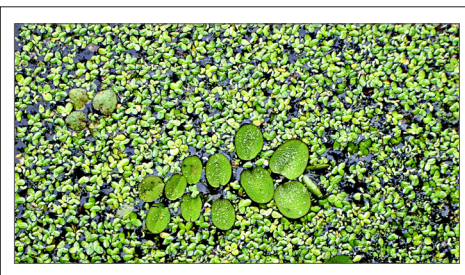
Expanded efforts of CISE will initially include providing support for efforts to better understand the threat and reduce the impacts of zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and to develop a statewide risk and threat assessment for future invasive species attacks to aquatic and riparian ecosystems.

The objectives of the center are to develop invasive species management techniques; coordinate local, state and federal efforts to manage invasive species; and deliver treatment and management information through enhanced education and management programs.

CISE develops relationships with other federal, state and local entities to coordinate research, extension and management efforts that focus on developing systems for controlling and managing invasive species while working to prevent future infestations. Ongoing invasive species work in and around Texas will be complemented and leveraged through the CISE to develop the most effective and cost efficient systems for managing invasive species.

Current Objectives

- Develop and verify the control and management techniques for giant salvinia
- Assess potential invasive species threats to Texas and evaluate the associated risk of each identified threat



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- Advance the knowledge of invasives species threats to enhance prevention and preparedness for potential future exotic species invasions

Project Leaders

- Texas Water Resources Institute
- Texas AgriLife Extension Service
- Texas AgriLife Research

Potential Collaborators

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Forest Service
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- Texas Water Development Board
- Caddo Lake Institute
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
- USDA Agricultural Research Service
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Water districts, cities, others



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