



# INVASIVE MANAGEMENT

## HOW TO CREATE A PLAN TO PREVENT INVASION

1. Assess your site for habitat type(s) and invasive plant species.
  - a. Is there wetland on your property? You may have narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), common reed grass (*Phragmites australis*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) or others.
  - b. Is there woodland on your property? You may have garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), morrow honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*), Nepalgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) or others.
  - c. Do you have scrub/shrub or a field on your property? You may have autumn-olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) or others.
  - d. About how many individuals of each invasive plant are there on your site? Where are they located?
  - e. Are there invasive plants growing on adjacent properties? You may not be able to control invasive plants on adjacent properties, but these are important sources of invasive seed to be aware of when developing your management plan.
  - f. Consider drawing a simple map of your site showing where invasive species are.
2. Confirm identifications of the invasive species at your site using your favorite botanical key or plant ID guide, or crowdsource the identification by uploading pictures of the plant(s) to [iNaturalist](#).
3. Familiarize yourself with effective management strategies for the invasive plants on your site. The United States Department of Agriculture has lots of information on [integrated pest management \(IPM\) strategies for invasive plant species control mechanisms](#).
4. Now armed with awareness of the most effective strategies for controlling the invasive plants on your site, write out a simple plan for when you will treat each species and which method(s) you will use. Some invasive plants respond better to chemical treatment in the summer just before flowering, while others will respond better in the fall before leaf drop, so be aware of effective timing as you schedule treatment(s).
5. Implement your management plan and track its success.
6. Revisit periodically as needed. Some invasive species may require more than one treatment or may require a combination of methods for effective elimination. After invasive plants are removed from your site, plan to survey periodically to spot any new invasive plants spreading from adjacent properties or germinating from the seed bank. Revise your management plan as necessary.