Introduction to

Invasive Plant Management

New to Invasive Plant Management?

Invasive plants are plants that are not native to Ohio but have grown prolifically throughout the state, having ecological consequences for native vegetation. There are several considerations and options for invasive plant management. Below are some questions to think about when creating your land management plan.

How much land do I have to manage?
Do I have priority areas?

The size of your management area may influence your approach to invasive plant management. Working on a quarter acre by hand is much different than working on 10 acres by hand. Assess the areas you would like to manage. You may even prioritize certain areas of your land depending on your goals.

What invasive plants do I have?

Before you can manage your invasive plants, you will need to identify which species are considered invasive on your property. Once you know which invasives you have, examine which ones are most problematic. These may be the plants that are most abundant or the largest or may be plants inhabiting spaces you would like to renovate or restore.

What is my comfort level with herbicides?

The answer to this question will determine how you approach invasive plant management. Many of the recommended or best management practices for invasive species recommend herbicide. You need to decide if you want to tackle your invasive species with or without herbicides. (Most property managers use a combination of chemical and non-chemical management.)

Remember, an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach, which utilizes a combination of methods, is often the most effective.

Invasive Amur Honeysuckle

Invasive Lesser Celandine

Invasive Burning Bush

If you have questions, or would like more information about Greenacres Foundation, please email us at mail@green-acres.org

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Options for Invasive Plant Management

Control Mechanism	Method	Pros	Cons
Cultural	Equipment cleaning	- Prevents transfer of seeds/plant material	- Time
	Establish native competition	- Enhances ecosystem function	- Time - Cost
Mechanical	Hand pull	- Chemical free - Manageable over small areas - Highly selective	- Labor intensive in large areas - Limited to small plants and populations - May leave roots
	Cut	- Effective on larger stems - Year-round treatment window	- Equipment and fuel required - Labor intensive - Brush accumulation
	Mow/mulch	- Efficient - Effective on large plants and populations	- Expensive to rent equipment or contract out - Non-selective - Plants may return - Limited by ground and site conditions
Chemical	Cut stump treatment	- Effective on larger stems - Highly selective	- High herbicide concentration - Labor intensive - Brush accumulation
	Foliar spray	- Lower herbicide concentration - Efficient for small-medium plants and populations	- Overspray of target species may occur - Timing is important
	Basal bark	- Highly selective - Large treatment window - Reduced non-target risk compared to foliar	- High herbicide concentration - Oil based herbicide - Non-target damage if over applied across treatment area - Not effective on trees with thick bark
	Hack and squirt/ girdle	- Highly selective - More efficient than cut stump on large stems	- High herbicide concentration - Proper cut depth required

Resources

The Ohio Invasive Plant Council
lists and characterizes Ohio Invasive Species and provides suggested native alternatives

OHIO STATE EXTENSION OFFICE

PENN STATE EXTENSION OFFICE

Ohio State and Penn State Extension Offices
offer management guidelines for a number of invasive species

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network
offers a database on control methods for invasive species found in the Midwest

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Greenacres Cincinnati • Greenacres Lewis Township
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learn more at: green-acres.org

Questions?
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