Where Do I Start?

Adapted from the Indiana Land Steward Fall 2010, Volume 19, No 3, Where do I Start?! Prioritizing Invasive Plant Control by Ellen Jacquart, https://www.inwoodlands.org/where-do-i-start-prioritizing/

<table>
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<th>How much do you have?</th>
<th>What is the value of the area being invaded?</th>
<th>What is the plant’s impact to the site?</th>
<th>How hard is the plant to control?</th>
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<td>Estimate how much of each invasive plant you may have in a given area. Plants that are not on your land or are just getting a foothold will be your highest priority while the infestation is small and easier to control.</td>
<td>Is this area a high quality forest, a valued grassland bird nesting area, a favorite place to walk, or has really nice spring wildflowers you love. Or is it along the fence adjacent to a property that is a mess? A severely infested area?</td>
<td>Some invasive plants are more destructive than others. If you are not sure, refer to the VA Invasive Plant Species list. Plants that are HIGHLY invasive will be 1 or 2 pts. Plants that are MEDIUM invasive are 3 pts. Plants that are LOW invasive are 4 pts.</td>
<td>Some plants are easy to control and some take a lot. 4 pts - none 3pts - kudzu, J. knotweed, stiltgrass, lesser celandine, Ailanthus 2pts - most shrubs, vines, and trees, garlic mustard, J hops 1 pt - paulownia</td>
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Answer the following questions for each invasive plant identified. Write the score in the circle. Total the columns.

Link to Virginia Invasive Plant Species List

The lower the score, the higher the priority for control.

How much do you have?
1 pt - I don't have any but it’s near by land.
2 pts - Just a small amount, but it's spreading.
3 pts - A fair amount, and it's still spreading.
4 pts - A lot! It's covering the whole area completely.

What is the value of the area being invaded?
1 pt - It's invading my favorite areas that have things I want to protect.
2 pts - It's invading a disturbed edge or areas that are not very important to me.

What is the plant's impact to your site?
1 pt - It's bad; changing the area so much that not much survives.
2 pts - It's invading undisturbed areas and outcompeting natives.
3 pts - It doesn't outcompete natives, but native plants aren't regenerating.
4 pts - It's just invading disturbed areas.

How hard is the plant to control?
1 pt - One treatment and its mostly gone.
2 pts - Multiple treatments. Eventually it's gone and natives replace it.
3 pts - Multiple treatments. Natives don't come back readily.
4 pts - No effective control options.

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