

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/>

How much do you have?

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.

What is the value of the area being invaded?

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 ?

What is the plant's impact to the site?

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.

How hard is the plant to control?

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

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 it's 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.