

NJ Forest Stewardship Program Guidelines for Addressing Invasive Plant Species in NJ Forest Stewardship Plans

The NJ Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee Meeting voted at the April 7, 2005 meeting to require that invasive plant species be addressed in all future Forest Stewardship Plans. The following are the general guidelines agreed to at that meeting. This takes effect for all Forest Stewardship Plans July 1, 2005.

1. Stewardship plans must address the presence of invasive species as a component of the site ecology and what species exist in the forested and non-forested portion of the property.* This should be incorporated in the stand descriptions as each stand is defined.
2. Plan must include quantitative data (i.e. amount per acre, percentage of area or acres affected).
3. Plan must address what affect the prescribed forest management practices will have on invasive plant species. Prescribed forest management practices should not contribute to the expansion of or be a contributing factor in their establishment. Prescribed practices must be modified or implemented in such a way to help control or prevent their proliferation or not contribute to their establishment.
4. The following species are the minimum that must be addressed if present.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Porcelain berry	<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>
Japanese barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>
Oriental bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculata</i>
Autumn olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> var. <i>parvifolia</i>
Winged spindle tree	<i>Euonymus alata</i>
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Bush honeysuckles: Fragrant honeysuckle Amur honeysuckle Morrow's honeysuckle Standish's honeysuckle Tartarian honeysuckle European fly honeysuckle Hybrid, pretty honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i> <i>L. maackii</i> <i>L. Morrowii</i> <i>L. standishii</i> <i>L. tatarica</i> <i>L. xylosteum</i> <i>L. X bella</i>
Japanese stiltgrass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>
Mile-a-minute weed	<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i> L.
Lesser celandine	<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>
Common buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>
Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
Wineberry	<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i>
Chinese and Japanese wisteria	<i>Wisteria sinensis</i> ; <i>Wisteria floribunda</i>

* Non-forest lands shall be considered those lands immediately adjacent to and not extending more than 200 feet from a forest edge; lands previously harvested or clearcut for purposes of managing the forest; new emergent forest or advanced early successional forest lands; lands that do not include farmed cropland, pasture, grazing lands, or open fields.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: Should the list of invasive species be open-ended or should the list be fixed with only specific species that are eligible for cost share?

A: Yes, open to the extent that species can be added when deemed a problem.

Q2: Should the regional forester have the flexibility to make an eligibility decision? for a species not on the list?

A: Yes.

Q3: Do landowners enrolled in Stewardship have to treat and control invasive plant species?

A: Yes, to the extent noted in Number 3 of guidelines.

Q4: Is control also required to treat invasive plant species that are adversely affecting threatened or endangered plant species?

A: It is not required but encouraged or unless it is required under Number 3 of guidelines. However, controls must be done in such a manor that does not adversely affect the threatened or endangered plant species.

Q5: In the event that cost-share funding becomes limited, should the list of invasive species be prioritized giving more of a priority ranking to some species over others?

A: No, not at this time.

Q6: Is there cost-share available for invasive plant species control measures?

A: Yes, under NJ FLEP 8.

Q7: When more than one invasive species is present, must all be treated or is there a priority of which ones should be treated?

A: The consultant forester must address the required species. However, not all might need immediate control. This will greatly depend on whether there is likelihood for the species to expend or become established as a result of the prescribed forest management practices.

May 27, 2005