

EcoForesters 7 P's for Invasive Non-native Plant Management

1. **Protect** any at risk special ecological areas (rare, threatened, or endangered species or habitats) for carefully targeted invasive control.
2. **Prevent** invasives from spreading into un-infested “core” forest areas and rapidly respond to new infestations before they get established. Secondly, the long-term ongoing process of containing and controlling severe infestations can begin.
3. **Plan** for invasives control as much as 10 years before and after any forest disturbance such as timber management, as invasives can grow quickly and take over new growing space. Implement forestry practices that promote the health and vitality of diverse native species to compete more successfully with invasives over the long haul.
4. **Promote** long-term, community wide education and strategies to control existing infestations as invasive species do not respect property lines. Large-scale invasives control and sustainability is best achieved when landowners in communities work together under a cohesive approach.
5. **Prioritize** control of invasives that are the most significant threat to forest regeneration first. Species such as vines that can smother trees, have abundant seeds, are shade tolerant, and fast growing tend to be the greatest threats.
6. **Professional** planning is necessary to obtain the most cost effective and impactful results. A qualified forester can perform the complex tasks of demarcating special and core habitats, prioritizing invasives control areas, evaluating local site conditions, and assessing landowner objectives within a comprehensive invasives control plan.
7. **Persevere** as invasive species management is a long-term endeavor. Even if no invasives are present on a property, continuous monitoring for early detection and rapid response is essential. Additionally, areas that have been treated should be reevaluated regularly and management approaches adapted based on the results.