



# How to Prioritize and Set Goals for Invasive Plant Management

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# Ways to prioritize invasive plant work

## Plant species basis:

- New to property or new to area
- Unacceptable impacts

## Site basis:

- Outliers first
- Protect priority habitats
- Start upstream
- Areas soon to be harvested

# Prevention and Early Detection

Best practices for prevention

Watch List

“Nip it in the bud”

Goal = eradicate from site



# Species not yet widespread in ME

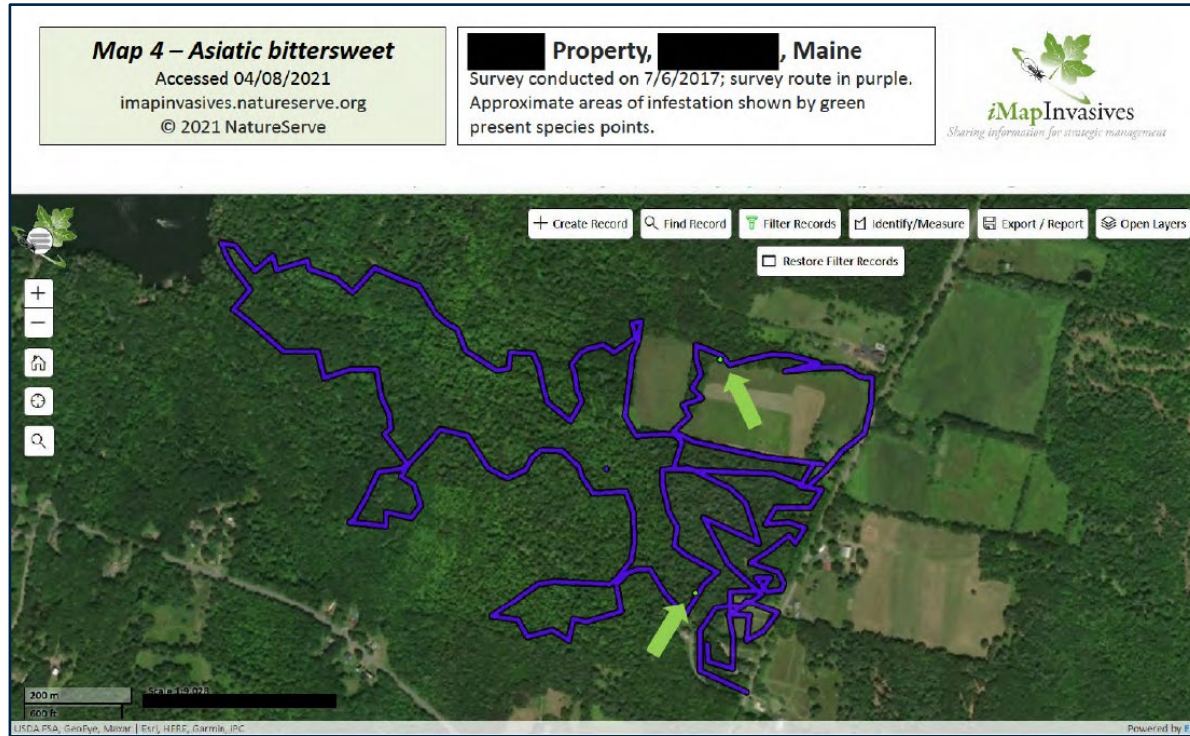
Table 2. Target invasive plants that are localized (present in fewer than eight counties) or not yet detected in Maine. Stiltgrass and mile-a-minute weed are Early Detection, Rapid Response species – please alert the Maine Natural Areas Program immediately if you suspect a stiltgrass or Mile-a-minute infestation.

Program Manual  
Appendix 2c

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status in Maine	Habit/Life Cycle	Habitat
Hardy kiwi	<i>Actinidia arguta</i>	Localized	Woody vine	Uplands
Tree of heaven^	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Localized	Tree	Uplands
<u>Porcelainberry</u>	<i>Ampelopsis glandulosa</i>	Localized	Woody shrub	Uplands
Pale swallowwort*	<i>Cynanchum rossicum</i>	Localized	Perennial herbaceous vine	Uplands
Giant knotweed	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	Localized	Perennial tough herb	Uplands
Giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Localized	Perennial tough herb (monocarpic)	Uplands or wetlands
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Localized	Woody vine	Uplands
Japanese stilt grass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Localized/EDRR	Annual grass	Uplands
Wall lettuce	<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Localized	Annual herb	Uplands or wetlands
Mile-a-minute weed	<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>	Not Yet Detected/EDRR	Annual herbaceous vine	Uplands

Higher priority to treat to prevent further spread!

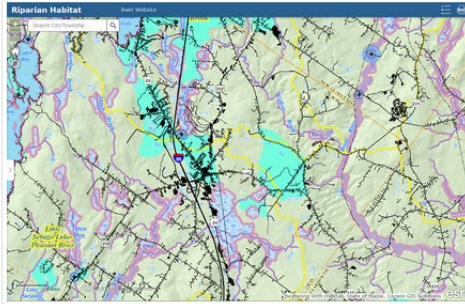
# Isolated or low abundance on site



Higher priority to treat; goal = eradicate from site

## Map Viewers

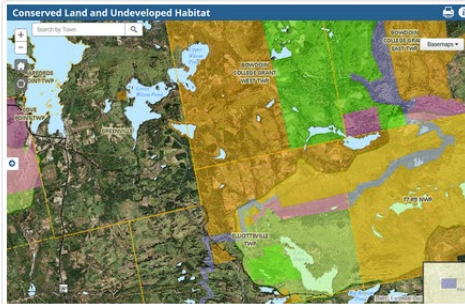
Riparian  
habitats



Map 1- Riparian Habitats

Beginning with Habitat Map 1 depicts major surface water features and drainage areas, associated shoreline habitats and riparian zones, and aquifers and wells that supply public drinking water.

[Open Viewer](#)



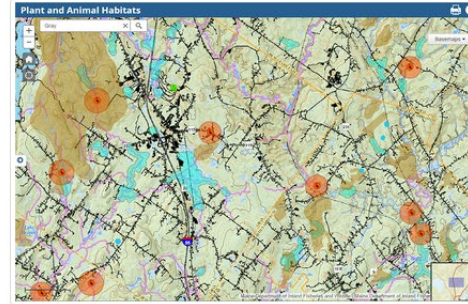
Map 3- Conserved Land and Undeveloped Habitat

Beginning with Habitat Map 3 depicts the State of Maine's conserved lands database including lands in federal, state, and nonprofit ownership.

[Open Viewer](#)

Conserved  
Land and  
Undeveloped  
habitat

Special Plant  
and Animal  
habitats



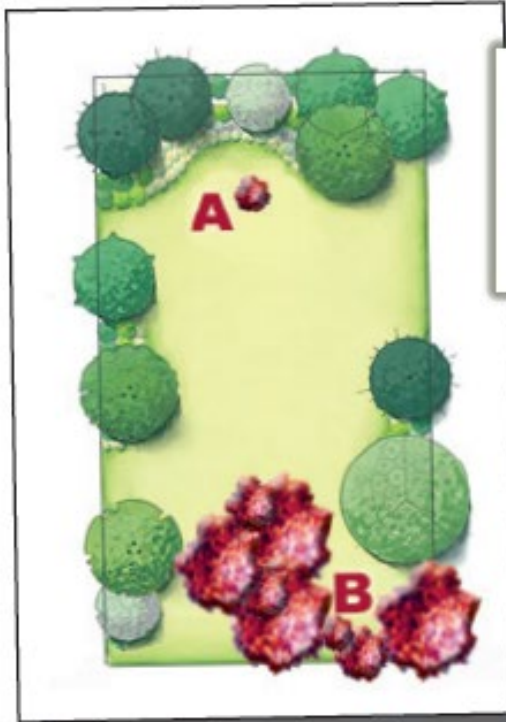
Map 2- Plant and Animal Habitats

Beginning with Habitat Map 2 depicts known rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal occurrences, as well as "Significant Wildlife Habitat," "Essential Wildlife Habitat," and other important wildlife habitats.

[Open Viewer](#)

High quality  
habitat  
&/or important to  
landowner

# Containment and suppression



**Strategy: Start with Small Populations, or Deal With “Spot Fires” / **Outliers****

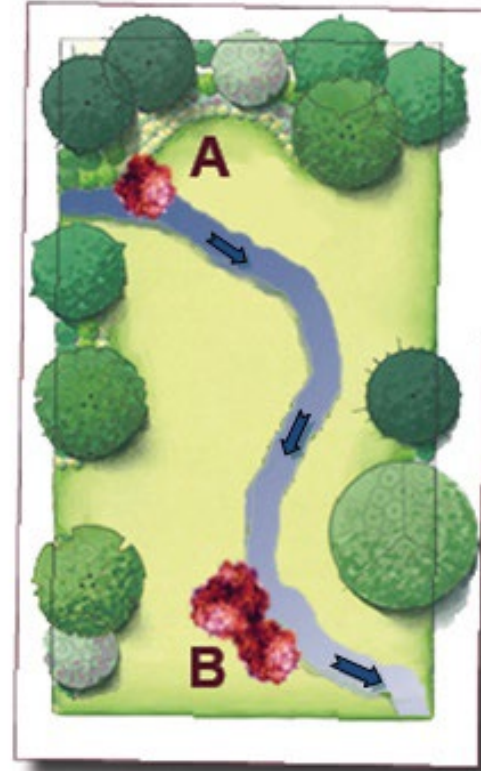
Starting with small populations is more likely to result in early success.

**Could use multipronged approach: eradicate outliers, suppress “source population”**

Graphic courtesy of NH Fish and Game Dept., *Picking Our Battles*

# Containment and suppression

Strategy: start upstream, work downstream



Graphic courtesy of NH Fish and Game Dept., *Picking Our Battles*



# Set specific goals

- **Eradicate:** get rid of for good, with low chance of re-infestation *\*eradication is not the only good goal\**
- **Contain:** keep in existing footprint; do not allow to expand
- **Exclude:** keep out of uninfested areas
- **Suppress:** restrict ability to grow and produce seeds

## Examples:

- Reduce extent
- Decrease density
- Prevent seed production
- Allow crop trees to grow normally
- Maintain access to infrastructure



# Timber harvesting & Invasive plants

- Assess site, identify plants and average densities.
- Plan harvest layout, i.e. landing, trails, crossings.
- Consider pre-harvest treatment strategies.
- Consider harvest timing.
- Plan follow up field visits and assess need for follow up treatments.



# Preventative Measures



- Ask contractors to clean bunchers and skidders before delivering them to the woodlot. Pressure washing is best, but using compressed air is more readily available.

- Ask contractors to shovel out buncher tracks to prevent seeds from being deposited.

- Write this into timber harvesting contracts if it is not known where the equipment was used last.

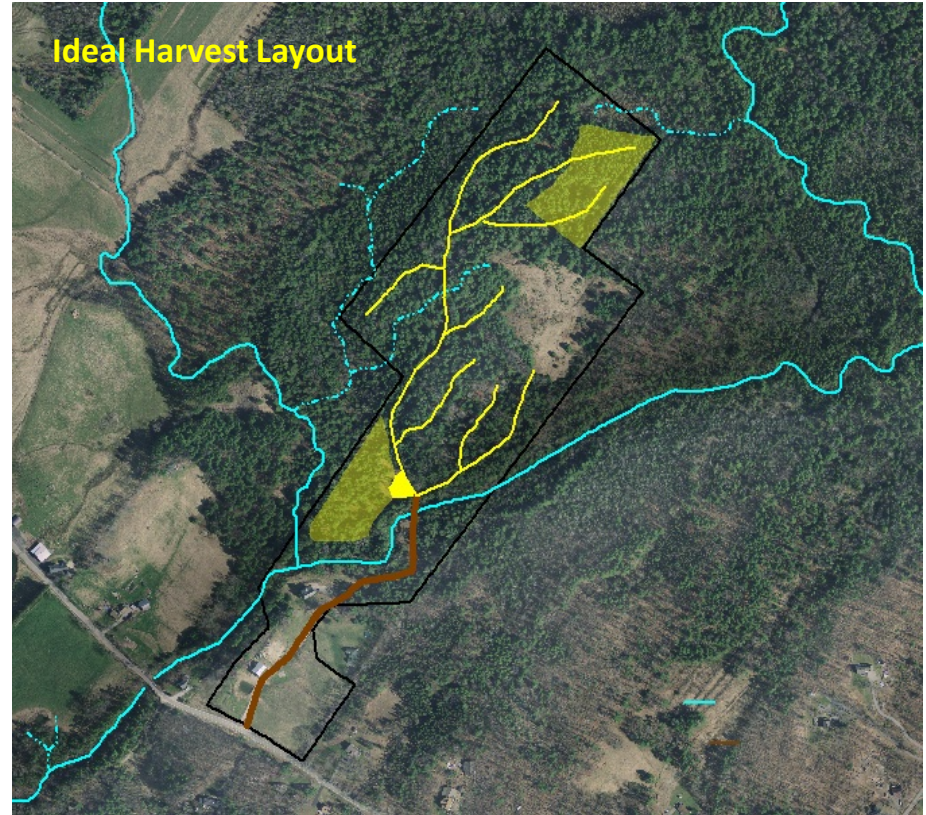
- Know where your fill or gravel comes from!



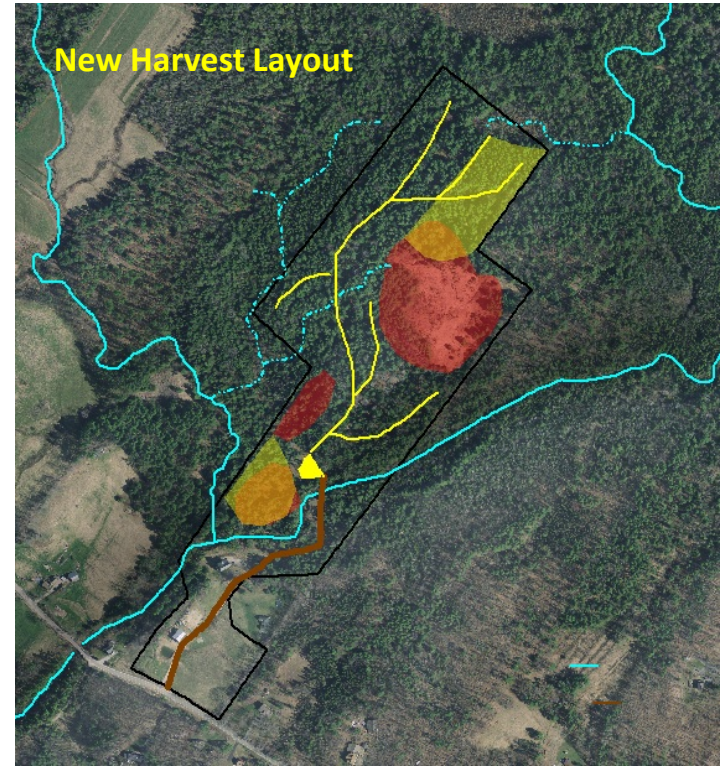
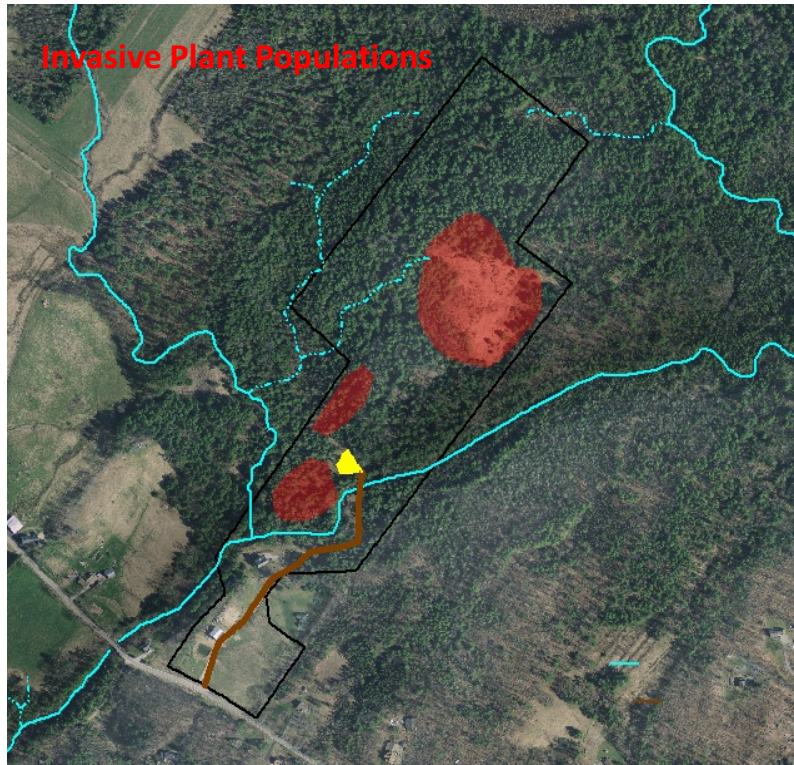
# Harvest Planning and Layout

- **Trouble spots:** Field edges, riparian areas, low density canopies, areas of past disturbance.

- **Limiting factors:** Truck road, landing area, topography, stream crossings, established trails, stone walls, special sites.



# Harvest Planning and Layout



# Harvest Planning and Layout

- Know the plants you are working with





Thank You!

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