



Invasive Plant Advisory Committee

Invasive Species Best Management Practices The “Top Ten” List

1. ***Develop an organizational Invasive Species Strategy:***
 - ***Goals***
 - ***Objectives and Priorities***
 - ***Tactics – Policies and Procedures on:***
 - ***Employee education & training***
 - ***User education***
 - ***Contracting & sourcing***
 - ***Monitoring***
 - ***Prevention***
 - ***Control projects***
 - ***Schedule regular assessments – Measure and celebrate your success!***

2. ***Create and maintain an IS knowledge base:***
 - ***Maps – Where are current infestations***
 - ***Reporting & mapping process for staff and users***
 - ***Documentation of control projects – exact location, treatment protocol, dates, herbicide concentrations, weather and soil conditions, etc. – and assessment of results initially and after additional growing seasons***

3. ***Think ahead. Pre-plan major land development or maintenance activities:***
 - ***Avoid disturbing heavily infested areas when possible***
 - ***Pre-treat areas that must be disturbed well in advance***
 - ***If possible, conduct such activities when seeds are not easily movable***
 - ***If possible use existing roads, trails, landings, staging areas, and designated equipment cleaning areas***

4. ***Use native plants and seeds – and make sure they are from “weed-free” sources:***
 - ***Use species that are appropriate to site and conditions***
 - ***Assure that species received are as specified***
 - ***Assure that new plants and seeds are not contaminated***
 - ***Use “trusted sources” whenever possible [Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society Sources of Native Indiana Plants list](#)***
 - ***Ask for guarantees or make-good provisions in sourcing contracts***

5. ***Use uncontaminated construction/landscaping material (mulch, fill, gravel, straw, etc.):***
 - ***Find certified or guaranteed sources when possible [Indiana Certified Weed Free Program](#)***
 - ***Use trusted sources whenever possible***
 - ***Ask for guarantees or make-good provisions in sourcing contracts***
 - ***Look to create on site sources if possible***
 - ***Monitor stock piles regularly***



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Invasive Species BMPs – The Top Ten List (continued)

- 6. Keep tools, equipment, vehicles and clothing clean:**
 - *Require contractors to bring clean vehicles and equipment to your site*
 - *Designate contained areas for cleaning and disposal*
 - *Educate and encourage users to inspect and clean clothing, equipment, pets, etc. before and after entry*

- 7. Have a long-term plan for managing Invasives:**
 - *“An ounce of prevention...”*
 - *Prioritize locations and species – taking into account severity of infestation, degree of invasiveness, feasibility of control, “value” of habitat at risk, etc.*
 - *“Optimize” treatment timing and technique*
 - *Evaluate, measure, and document success*

- 8. Monitor disturbed locations and high risk areas:**
 - *Monitor regularly and frequently*
 - *Especially important following natural disasters and major development or maintenance projects*

- 9. Require contractors to follow BMPs:**
 - *Incorporate BMP requirements into RFPs and contracts*
 - *Inspect and document infestations before and after contractor activity*
 - *Ask for guarantees or make-good provisions*

- 10. Educate recreational users (and neighbors) on Invasive Species BMPs:**
 - *Provide basic education when possible:*
 - *What are invasive species?*
 - *Why are they bad?*
 - *How to identify key species*
 - *Offer a mechanism for reporting invasives*
 - *Provide cleaning stations at key entry and exit points*
 - *Regulate entry of infested material when possible (campfire wood, hay, bait, etc.)*

And one to grow on:

Actively look for funding opportunities, partnerships, and volunteers to assist in preventing and reducing invasive species!