

Invasive Species Tiers

Standardized species lists for each PRISM

		Difficulty of Eradication / Cost of Control Abundance (In PRISM plus Buffer)			
		None in PRISM	Low (Eradication/ Full containment may be feasible)	Medium (Strategic management to contain infestations and slow spread in PRISM)	High (Established/widespread in PRISM; only strategic localized management)
Impact (current and future)	Very High or High	TIER 1 <i>Early Detection/Prevention</i> Highest level of early detection survey efforts. Should conduct delineation surveys and assign to appropriate Tier if detected. a) Inside buffer, but not in PRISM b) Outside PRISM and Buffer, but close (eastern North America) c) Far outside PRISM and buffer (not in east NA), but introduction pathway exists	TIER 2 <i>Eradication</i> Highest level of early detection response efforts. High impact species with low enough abundance and suitable treatment method available to make eradication feasible within the PRISM. Need delineation surveys to determine extent.	TIER 3 <i>Containment</i> Target strategic management to slow the spread, as likely too widespread for eradication, but many surrounding regions could be at risk if left unattended. For plants, use the IPMDAT. Possible eradication candidate only if adequate resources and effective control methods available.	TIER 4 <i>Local Control</i> Eradication from PRISM not feasible; focus on localized management over time to contain, exclude, or suppress to protect high-priority resources like rare species or recreation assets. Be strategic when deciding if / where to control.
	Medium	<i>Evaluate (Medium Impact)</i> Further evaluate impacts and PRISM resources to see if the species should be assigned to one of the other lists. If this species could feasibly become high impact with climatic or other environmental changes, consider moving to the appropriate High Impact row based on abundance. If too little is known, consider moving to "Monitor".			
	Unknown	X	TIER 5 <i>Monitor</i> Species that need more research, mapping, and monitoring to understand their invasiveness. This includes naturalized species and cultivated-only species that are known to be invasive in other regions but are not yet invasive here. Invasiveness may change with environmental or genetic changes. Should monitor populations on a regular basis to see if they are starting to become invasive and assign to appropriate Tier if invasive infestations detected.		

Buffer: An area chosen by the PRISM that surrounds the PRISM and takes in certain counties, states and provinces. Most PRISMs are using about 100 miles as the buffer.

Impact: Use the PRISM-specific invasiveness rankings if available, or use NYS ranks (see nys.info for existing ranks). For species that are not ranked yet, or PRISM-specific adjustments of state ranks are deemed necessary, use expert opinion and document justification. Low-impact species not included since cannot justify spending resources to control these.

Abundance: This is left as a qualitative metric, since assigning standardized values to categories is not feasible due to the diversity of species dispersal strategies and data gaps.

This ranking system takes into account populations that have escaped into natural areas, but not intentionally (and legally) distributed individuals. For example, a landscape planting would not be counted.