

Woodland Invasive Species Methodology

After selecting the woodland that you will survey for the invasive species, the following procedures should be followed.

Gather the needed materials:

- Meter stick
- Data sheet
- Topographic map (if applicable)
- Pencil
- Plant identification cards

If you are surveying a property that is not your own, you should contact the landowner to inform them of when you are planning to conduct the survey. You may need to remind them about the project. If necessary, obtain directions and information on the location of property boundaries.

Once on Site

- Choose the location where you will start your survey (preferably one of the corners of the site).
- On the data sheet, record the date, woodland location, woodland type and the names of volunteers conducting the survey.
- Your starting point will be your first sampling point. At this point, record the presence or absence of each of the 4 invasive species within a 2-meter radius of the sampling point. This can be done simply by carrying a meterstick and holding it out from the tip of your outstretched hand and turning around, this should equal a circle with a radius of about 2-meters. If at least one individual of the species is present within that circle then check present on the data sheet for that box.
- Walk about 30 steps, which should be approximately 30 meters, in as straight a line as possible. During the training workshop, each person will be shown how to calculate the number of his or her individual steps that are necessary to equal 30 meters.
- When you reach 30 meters, this will be your next sampling point. Follow the same procedure of recording the presence or absence of each invasive species within a 2-meter radius of the each sampling point.
- Continue locating new sampling points on the same line every 30 meters and recording the presence or absence of each invasive species. Whenever you reach a point which the next thirty meter walk will place you past the border of the woodland you are surveying, make a right or left turn and walk parallel to the border for 60 meters, still conducting surveys every thirty meters along the border. Then turn right or left again, which should lead you into the forest in the opposite direction that you came from (see diagram).
- Continue the process until the woodland area has been walked and surveyed. You should survey a minimum of 70 sampling points, which corresponds to approximately 40 acres.

After you have completed collecting the data, the number of survey stops, and the sum total of presence and absence for each species needs to be entered into the web site, which can be found at: http://www.ag.iastate.edu/departments/forestry/Invasive_Species/Invasives.html

Diagram

Example of Transect Methodology in Woodland

