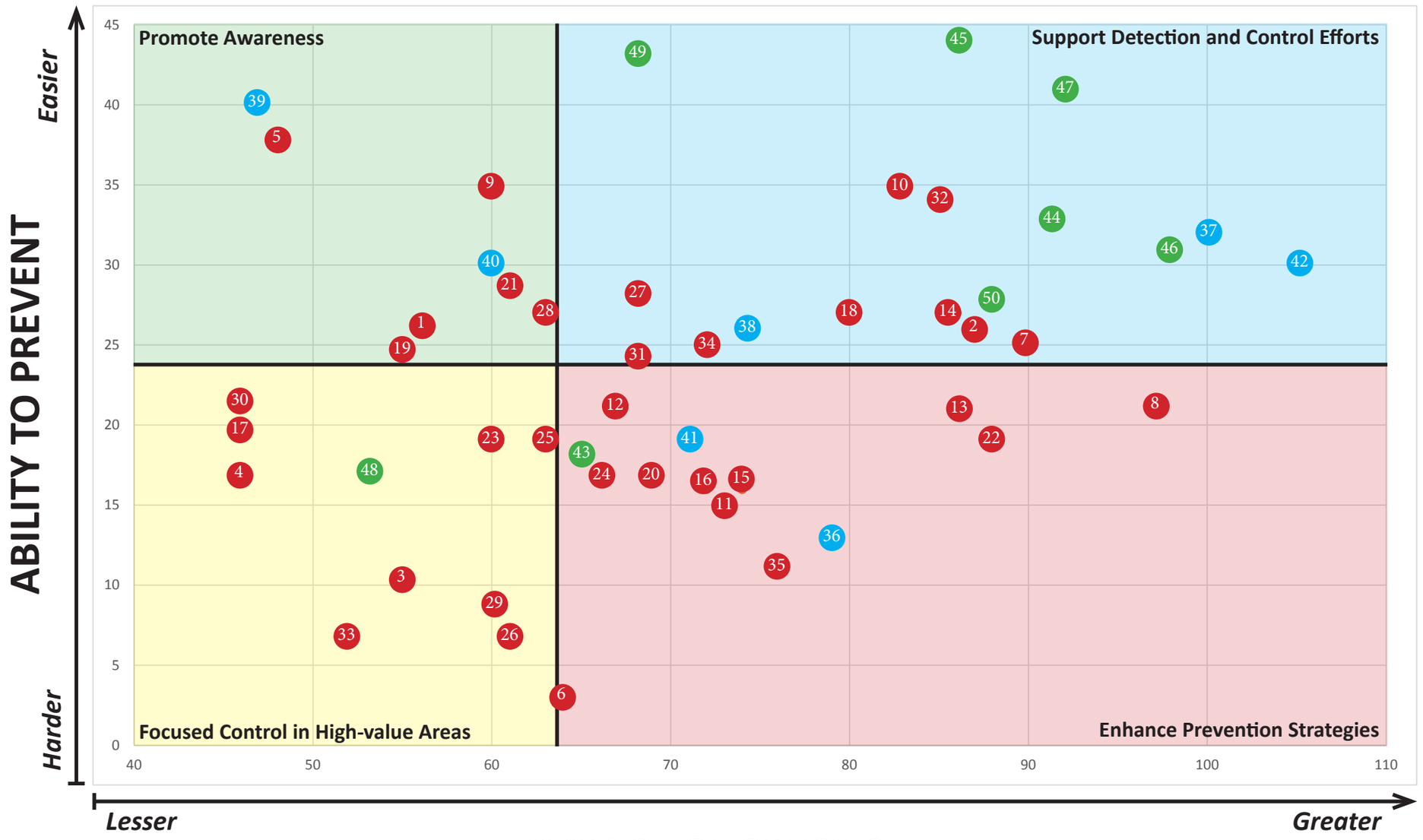
INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES



Here

1. Apple maggot
2. Brazilian elodea
3. Brown marmorated stink bug
4. Butterfly bush
5. Common crupina
6. European chafer
7. Feral swine
8. Flowering rush
9. Garlic mustard
10. Hydrilla
11. Infectious amphibian diseases
12. Invasive frogs and crayfish
13. Invasive knapweeds
14. Invasive knotweeds
15. Invasive milfoils
16. Invasive tunicates
17. Invasive zooplankton
18. Leafy spurge
19. Mediterranean white snail
20. New Zealand mud snail
21. Northern pike
22. Nutria
23. Parrotfeather
24. Phragmites
25. Poison hemlock
26. Puncturevine
27. Purple loosestife
28. Rush skeletonweed
29. Scarlet lily beetle
30. Scotch broom
31. Scotch thistle
32. Spartina
33. Spotted wing drosophila
34. Tamarisk
35. White nose syndrome/Pd

Near

36. Caulerpa
37. Gypsy moths
38. Invasive crabs
39. Japanese beetle
40. Northern snakehead
41. Overbite clam
42. Zebra and quagga mussels

Far

43. Asian carp
44. Emerald ash borer
45. Infectious fish diseases
46. Invasive longhorned beetles
47. Kudzu
48. Onion leaf miner
49. Sirex woodwasp
50. Starry stonewort

Learn more about invasive species by visiting invasivespecies.wa.gov and wise.wa.gov

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Invasive Species Management Priorities

Invasive species constitute one of the gravest threats to Washington's plants, animals, and businesses dependent on the rich biodiversity here.

Two critical parts to managing invasions are:

1. Identifying the species that threaten resources
2. Prioritizing species for management action

To better manage invasions, the Washington Invasive Species Council developed an assessment process to provide a transparent, repeatable, and credible basis for the council and partner agencies to prioritize management actions for invasive species.

All taxonomic groups are represented in the council's assessment process, not just plants or marine species as seen in other assessments. Based on best-professional judgment and science, this is a management tool to categorize invasive species of greatest threat to Washington and to guide council action.

The Scores

The assessment provides two scores for each species:

- An **impact score** that relates to a species' environmental, economic, and human health threat
- A **prevention score** that relates to an agency's ability to take preventative or early action for that species

For example, the higher the impact score, the greater the threat is to Washington's environment, economy, human health, or a combination of them. The higher the prevention score, the greater the opportunity for an agency to prevent establishment of the species or the greater the ability to respond quickly to new infestations.

Both of these scores are plotted on a management grid to inform the council on actions to take and to track the effectiveness of those actions. The actual scores are less important than the relative difference among species and the change in score over time.

The scores also will serve as a baseline against which to measure how effective the actions of the council and other agencies are in reducing a species' impact and improving the ability of agencies to prevent new species from establishing, and to conduct a rapid response. The movement of a species on the graph will be important to enable the council to be adaptive in implementing its actions.

Creating the List

A workgroup, each with expertise in a different taxonomic group came together and identified species that pose the greatest threat to Washington's environment, economy, and human health. This is a dynamic list, which will be revisited and re-evaluated as new species are detected and new impact and prevention information becomes available.

Lower impact **Higher prevention ability** **Management actions:** Promote awareness and encourage citizen action.	**Higher impact** **Higher prevention ability** **Management actions:** Support detection and control efforts and prepare response plans.
Lower impact **Lower prevention ability** **Management action:** Focus control on species in high-value areas.	**High impact** **Lower prevention ability** **Management actions:** Prepare response plans, identify regulatory gaps, and enhance prevention strategies through policy, education, and funding.

How the List will be Used

The grid will guide council action, such as looking at the current ability to prevent new infestations, making policy recommendations, and identifying where more management or education is needed.

It is intended also to:

- Provide a uniform methodology for categorizing invasive species.
- Provide a clear explanation of the process used to evaluate and categorize species.
- Provide flexibility so the criteria can be adapted to the needs of different regions or organizations.
- Identify where more information may be needed.
- Educate about the impacts of invasive species and the ability to prevent them.

Meanwhile, the graph is not intended to:

- Represent a scientifically-based risk assessment (this is an assessment based on best professional judgment).
- Produce a list that itself has regulatory force, though regulatory agencies may use the information to modify existing lists.
- Provide lists for any region because the invasiveness of species will differ from one region to another depending on geography, climate, ecosystems present, and other factors.

How to Read the Grid

The grid is divided into four sections based on high and low impact scores and high and low prevention scores. Management actions presented in the quadrants then pertain to the group of species falling there.