Ohio Invasive Plant Assessment Protocol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Botanical Name:</th>
<th>Ligustrum vulgare</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Name:</td>
<td>Common privet, European privet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Name:</td>
<td>Oleaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment conducted by:</td>
<td>OIPC Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step I Outcome:</td>
<td>Invasive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step II Score:</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step II Outcome:</td>
<td>Pending Further Review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Step I: Outcome

**1. Is this plant known to occur in the state and listed as "noxious" on any federal or Ohio Department of Agriculture plant list?**
- Yes. Place on invasive plant list, no further investigation needed. **STOP**
- No. Continue on to question 2.

**2. Has this plant demonstrated widespread dispersion and establishment (i.e. high numbers of individuals forming dense stands) in natural areas across two or more regions in Ohio?**
- Yes. Place on invasive plant list, no further investigation needed. **STOP**
- No. Continue on to question 3.

**3. Does this plant form self-replicating populations outside of cultivation in Ohio and is it documented to alter the composition, structure, or normal processes or functions of a natural ecosystem?**
- Yes
- No
- Unknown

**4. Is the plant listed as invasive in an adjoining state or a nearby state east of the Mississippi within the USDA Plant Hardiness zones 5-6?**
- Yes
- No
- Unknown

Directions: Place an “X” in the Score column next to the selected answer to each of the four questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the answer was yes for both questions 3 and 4, the plant is placed on the invasive plant list and no further research is needed. Stop here. If the answer is no for both questions 3 and 4, the plant is not considered invasive and no further investigation is warranted. Otherwise, proceed to Step II.

### Step II: Invasion Status

Directions: Place the appropriate numerical score (or "U") in the Score column next to the selected answer to each of these 18 questions.

1. **Current Invasion in Ohio**
   - plant is not found in natural areas (0 pts.)
   - plant is found in natural areas but only because it persist from previous planting in that location (e.g. old home sites) (0 pts.)
   - plant is only expanding from sites of previous planting (1 pt.)
   - plant occurs in natural areas away from site of planting (3 pts.)
   - Information unknown (U)
   
   **2. State Distribution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,2,19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1,2=>Species is naturalized in all 5 regions of OH, but detailed information regarding how individuals arrived in the area is lacking. 19=>species is found within natural areas but also near old home sites, forest edges, and waste areas.
- plant is not naturalized in any region of Ohio (0 pts.)
- plant is naturalized in only one region in Ohio (1 pt.)
- plant is naturalized in two regions in Ohio (2 pts.)
- plant is naturalized in three regions in Ohio (3 pts.)
- plant is naturalized in four regions in Ohio (4 pts.)
- plant is naturalized in five regions in Ohio (5 pts.)
- Information unknown (U)

3. Regional/US Distribution
- plant is not considered to be a problem in any other state (0 pts.)
- plant has been reported as a widespread problem in another non-neighboring state within the USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 5-6 (1 pt.)
- plant has been reported to be a widespread problem in 1-2 adjoining states (3 pts.)
- plant has been reported to be a widespread problem in 3 or more adjoining states (5 pts.)
- plant has been reported to be a widespread problem in similar habitat outside the US (1 pt.)
- Information unknown (U)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step II: Biological Characters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Vegetative Reproduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- no vegetative reproduction (0 pts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- reproduces readily within the original site (1 pt.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- has runners or spreading rhizomes that root easily (3 pts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- fragments easily and fragments can be easily dispersed (4 pts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- has runners or spreading rhizomes that root easily AND fragments easily and fragments can be easily dispersed (5 pts.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Information unknown (U)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 5. Sexual Reproduction         |
| - no sexual reproduction (0 pts.) |
| - infrequent sexual reproduction (1 pt.) |
| - frequent sexual reproduction, but high variation among years in seed production (3 pts.) |
| - frequent sexual reproduction (one or more events per year) (5 pts.) |
| - Information unknown (U)       |

| 6. Number of Viable Seeds or Propagules per Plant |
| - few (0-10) (1 pt.) |
| - moderate (11-1,000) (3 pts.) |
| - prolific (>1,000) (5 pts.) |
| - Information unknown (U)       |

| 7. Flowering Period             |
| - one month or less per year (0 pts.) |

- Information unknown (U)
8. Dispersal Ability
- low potential for long-distance seed/propagule dispersal (>1km) (0 pts.)
- medium potential for long-distance seed/propagule dispersal (3 pts.)
- high potential for long-distance seed/propagule dispersal (5 pts.)
- Information unknown (U)

9. Generation Time
- long juvenile period (>5 or more years for trees, 3 or more years for other growth forms) (0 pts.)
- short juvenile period (<5 years for trees, <3 years for other forms) (3 pts.)
- Information unknown (U)

10. Establishment
- unable to invade natural areas (0 pts.)
- can only colonize certain habitat stages (e.g. early successional habitats) (1 pt.)
- aggressively colonizes and establishes in edge habitats (3 pts.)
- aggressively colonizes and establishes in intact and healthy natural areas (6 pts.)
- Information unknown (U)

11. Impact on Ecosystem Processes
- no known effect on ecosystem-level processes (0 pts.)
- moderate effects on ecosystem-level processes (e.g., changes in nutrient cycling) (3 pts.)
- causes long-term, substantial alterations in the ecosystem (e.g., changing fire regime of an area, changing hydrology of wetlands) (6 pts.)

12. Impact on Rare Organisms
- no known negative impact on Ohio State-listed or federal-listed plants or animals (0 pts.)
- negatively impacts listed species, such as through displacement or interbreeding (3 pts.)

13. Impact on Native Animals

Step II: Ecological Importance

- Information unknown (U)
- no known negative impact on animals (0 pts.)
- documented direct or indirect negative effects on animal taxa (3 pts.)

14. Impact on Native Plants
- no known negative effects on native plants (0 pts.)
- negatively impacts some native plants (increasing their mortality and/or recruitment of certain taxa) (3 pts.)
- impacts native plants to such an extent that community structure is greatly altered (6 pts.)

15. Hybridization
- no known instances of hybridization with other plant species (0 pts.)
- can hybridize with native Ohio plants or commercially-available species, but seeds are inviable (1 pt.)
- can hybridize with native Ohio plants or commercially-available species, producing viable seed (3 pts.)

16. Population Density
- occurs only as small, sporadic populations or individuals (1 pt.)
- typically forms small, monospecific patches (3 pts.)
- is a dominant plant in area where population occurs (absolute cover 15-50%) (4 pts.)
- forms an extensive, monospecific stand (absolute cover >50%) (5 pts.)

17. Role in Succession in Natural Areas
- successional information is unknown (0 pts.)
- is an early successional species that temporarily invades a disturbed site but does not persist as the site matures (0 pts.)
- readily invades disturbed sites and persists, but does not interfere with succession (1 pt.)
- readily invades disturbed sites, persists and interferes with succession of native plants (4 pts.)

18. Number of Habitats Invaded

**Forestlands:** Floodplain forest, hemlock-hardwood forest, mixed mesophytic forest, beech-maple forest, oak-maple forest, oak-hickory forest.

**Grasslands:** Alvar*, beach-dune community*, bur oak savanna*, slough-grass-bluejoint prairie*, sand barren*, big bluestem prairie, little bluestem prairie

**Wetlands:** Bog*, fen*, twigrush-wiregrass wet prairie*, marsh, buttonbush swamp, mixed shrub swamp, hemlock-hardwood swamp*, maple-ash-oak

* Considered a rare plant community in Ohio by ODW’s Biodiversity Database Program.

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- not found in any natural habitats in Ohio (0 pts.)
- only found in 1 broad category (1 pt.)
- found in 2 broad categories or 2 rare habitat types (3 pts.)
- found in 3 broad categories or 3 rare habitat types (4 pts.)
- found in 4 or more rare habitat types (5 pts.)

Total Score:
Number of Unknowns:
Outcome: Pending Further Review
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Assessment Decision</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 or more</td>
<td>Insufficient Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-34</td>
<td>Not Known to be Invasive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>Pending Further Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>45-80</td>
<td>Invasive</td>
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</table>