



## Middle School Envirothon Scenario

Current Topic: Invasive Species

One day, while walking through the woods in a nearby park, you notice a small plant with a white flower. As you keep walking, you notice more of this plant, and when you stop to look around, you cannot help but notice this plant growing everywhere, covering the forest floor. You pick a flower to look at it up close, and you notice IT STINKS.

You do not see any other plants growing in the forest understory. Obviously the deer have been eating everything BUT this plant. Also, the trees growing near it do not seem to be doing well. You keep walking, and when you arrive home, you see another cluster of this same plant coming up in your neighbor's garden.



## Scenario Questions

School and Team Number: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is this plant? (3pts) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Is this plant native to Pennsylvania? Please circle. (3pts)                      YES                      NO
3. How might this plant have spread to these areas? (5pts)
4. Which of the following is INCORRECT? Please circle. (5pts)  
Invasive species:
  - A. Can be native or non-native.
  - B. Form monocultures, reducing biodiversity.
  - C. Should be planted in home gardens only.
  - D. Make ecosystems less healthy.
5. Invasive species can be plants, mammals, fish, insects, other invertebrates, birds, reptiles, mollusks, microbes, or even diseases. Please circle. (2pts)                      TRUE                      FALSE
6. Provide three reasons invasive species are able to grow and spread so successfully: (2pts each)

7. What would have made this forest better able to prevent this plant from taking over? (5pts)

8. Describe two negative impacts this invasive species could have on the forest environment. (2pts each)

9. Describe two ways this invasive species could negatively impact humans/society. (2pts each)

10. Describe two financial impacts this invasive species could have. (2pts each)

11. Place the following steps for managing invasive species in chronological order: (3pts)

\_\_Respond/Control

\_\_Detect

\_\_Prevent

\_\_Manage/Adapt

12. List two techniques for managing this infestation. (3pts each)

\*Bonus Question for Tie-Breaker

Name a non-native invasive species for the following categories: (1 pt each)

Mammal:

Reptile:

Bird:

Forb/Herbaceous Plant:

Tree:

Algae:

Shrub:

Vine:

Grass:

Fish:

Insect:

Pathogen/Disease:

Crustacean:

Mollusk: