

Most plants introduced from other places do not cause problems. Some nonnative plants are important agricultural products such as citrus, mangoes, and avocados. Invasive plants are nonnative plants that escape cultivation to clog our waterways, disrupt agriculture, or invade our parks and preserves.

Invasive plants:

- Clog our waterways
- Threaten agriculture
- Disrupt the ecology of lands purchased for preservation by Florida taxpayers
- Crowd out native plants, as well as beneficial insects, birds, and other animals that depend upon them
- Imperil endangered and threatened plants

Why care? Invasive plants are costly!

\$30 million: Florida taxpayers spend to control invasive plants in waterways & natural areas

\$100 million: Florida agriculture spends on fields & pastures per year

\$558 million: Estimated agricultural production losses due to invasive plants

Priceless: Loss of biodiversity & habitat for wildlife

Why Florida?

Invasive plants flourish in Florida where they are free from the natural conditions, diseases, pathogens, and insects that govern their populations in their natural ranges. Most invasive plants were intentionally brought to Florida for landscaping, as an agricultural crop or for forage.

To learn more, visit:

Florida Invasive Species Partnership

www.floridainvasives.org

UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>

UF/IFAS Assessment of Nonnative Plants in Florida's Natural Areas

<https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu>

What Can You Do ?

- Learn to identify invasive plants & share your knowledge
- Remove invasive plants from your landscape & replace them with native plants
- Dispose of reproductive parts of invasive plants (berries, spores, bulbils, roots) in the trash
- Never dump yard waste or your aquarium in natural areas or water bodies
- Clean mowers, tires, boats, and boat trailers to avoid spreading invasive plants
- Volunteer to help remove invasive plants from our natural areas
- Support funding to combat invasive plants

Brought to you by:



Invasive Plants of East Central Florida

You Should Know!

Plant Species in Florida

- 4,000+**
- 1,300+ non-native**
- 225+ invasive pest plants**

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services prohibits some plants that damage Florida's waterways, agriculture, and natural areas. Many of these plants escaped from cultivation. New plants are added to the Florida Noxious Weed List periodically.

Here are some commonly seen invasive plants ...



Rosary pea
Abrus precatorius



Shoebuttan ardisia
Ardisia elliptica



Australian pine
Casuarina sp.



Carrotwood
Cupaniopsis anacardioides



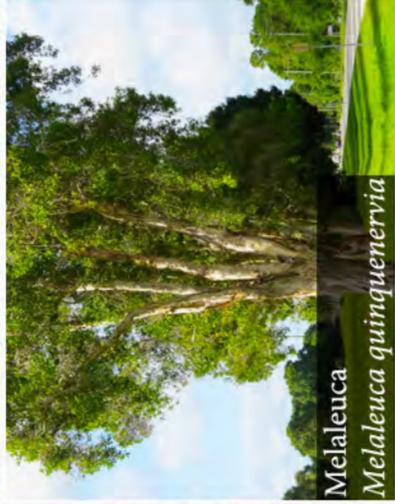
Air potato
Dioscorea bulbifera



Cogongrass
Imperata cylindrica



Old world climbing fern
Lygodium microphyllum



Melaleuca
Melaleuca quinquenervia



Brazilian Pepper
Schinus terebinthifolia

More than 65% of Florida's invasive plants were imported as ornamental plants, and many of them still are for sale. Choose plants for your landscape that do not escape from cultivation and that create a healthy habitat for people, wildlife, and pollinators.

Remove these invasive plants from your landscape whenever possible ...



Mexican petunia
Ruellia simplex



Wedelia
Sphagneticola trilobata



Caesarweed
Urena lobata



Twoleaf nightshade
Solanum diphyllum