

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's 2015 List of Invasive Plant Species

Purpose of the List: To focus attention on —

- ▶ the adverse effects of exotic pest plants on Florida's biodiversity and native plant communities,
- ▶ the habitat losses in natural areas from exotic pest plant infestations,
- ▶ the impacts on endangered species via habitat loss and alteration,
- ▶ the need for pest plant management,
- ▶ the socio-economic impacts of these plants (e.g., increased wildfires or flooding in certain areas),
- ▶ changes in the severity of different pest plant infestations over time,
- ▶ providing information to help managers set priorities for research and control programs.

CATEGORY I

Invasive exotics that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives. This definition does not rely on the economic severity or geographic range of the problem, but on the documented ecological damage caused.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FLEPPC Category	Gov. List	Regional Distribution
<i>Abrus precatorius</i>	rosary pea	I	N	C, S
<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	earleaf acacia	I		C, S
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	mimosa, silk tree	I		N, C
<i>Albizia lebbbeck</i>	woman's tongue	I		C, S
<i>Ardisia crenata</i> (A. <i>crenulata</i> misapplied)	coral ardisia	I	N	N, C, S
<i>Ardisia elliptica</i> (A. <i>humilis</i> misapplied)	shoebutton ardisia	I	N	C, S
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> (A. <i>sprengeri</i> ; A. <i>densiflorus</i> misapplied)	asparagus-fern	I		N, C, S
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>	orchid tree	I		C, S
<i>Bischofia javanica</i>	bishopwood	I		C, S
<i>Calophyllum antillanum</i> (C. <i>calaba</i> misapplied)	Santa Maria, mast wood, Antilles calophyllum	I		S
<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>	Australian-pine, beach sheoak	I	P, N	N, C, S
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	suckering Australian-pine, gray sheoak	I	P, N	C, S
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	camphor tree	I		N, C, S
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	wild taro	I		N, C, S
<i>Colubrina asiatica</i>	lather leaf	I	N	S
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	carrotwood	I	N	C, S
<i>Deparia petersenii</i>	Japanese false spleenwort	I		N, C
<i>Dioscorea alata</i>	winged yam	I	N	N, C, S
<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	air-potato	I	N	N, C, S
<i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i> (= <i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>)	cat's claw vine	I		N, C, S
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	water-hyacinth	I	P	N, C, S
<i>Eugenia uniflora</i>	Surinam cherry	I		C, S
<i>Ficus microcarpa</i> (F. <i>nitida</i> and F. <i>retusa</i> var. <i>nitida</i> misapplied) ¹	laurel fig	I		C, S
<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	hydrilla	I	P, U	N, C, S
<i>Hygrophila polysperma</i>	green hygro	I	P, U	N, C, S
<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>	West Indian marsh grass	I		N, C, S
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> (I. <i>brasiliensis</i> misapplied)	cogon grass	I	N, U	N, C, S
<i>Ipomoea aquatica</i>	water-spinach	I	P, U	C
<i>Jasminum dichotomum</i>	Gold Coast jasmine	I		C, S
<i>Jasminum fluminense</i>	Brazilian jasmine	I		C, S
<i>Lantana camara</i> (= L. <i>strigocamara</i>)	lantana, shrub verberna	I		N, C, S
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	glossy privet	I		N, C
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Chinese privet, hedge privet	I	N ²	N, C, S
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle	I		N, C, S
<i>Ludwigia hexapetala</i>	Uruguay waterprimrose	I		N, C
<i>Ludwigia peruviana</i>	Peruvian primrosewillow	I		N, C, S
<i>Lumnitzera racemosa</i>	kriipa; white-flowered mangrove; black mangrove	I		S
<i>Luziola subintegra</i>	Tropical American water grass	I		S
<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	Japanese climbing fern	I	N	N, C, S

¹Does not include *Ficus microcarpa* subsp. *fuyuensis*, which is sold as "Green Island Ficus"

²Chinese privet is a FDACS Noxious Weed except for the cultivar "Variegatum"

FLEPPC List Definitions:

Exotic – a species introduced to Florida, purposefully or accidentally, from a natural range outside of Florida.

Native – a species whose natural range includes Florida.

Naturalized exotic – an exotic that sustains itself outside cultivation (it is still exotic; it has not "become" native).

Invasive exotic – an exotic that not only has naturalized, but is expanding on its own in Florida native plant communities.

Abbreviations:

Government List (Gov. List):

P = Prohibited aquatic plant by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

N = Noxious weed listed by Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

U = Noxious weed listed by U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Regional Distribution:

N = north, **C** = central, **S** = south, referring to each species' current distribution in general regions of Florida (not its potential range in the state). Please refer to the map below.



Changes to the 2015 List:

New Category I Listings:

Sporobolus jacquemontii (West Indian dropseed)

This weedy grass, a native of the West Indies and tropical America, was introduced into Florida in the early 1900s. In the 1980s-1990s, it was becoming noticeable, especially in pastures where it crowds out forage grasses. It is not palatable for cattle and is very difficult to control. In recent years, this weed has been advancing into natural areas such as palmetto prairies and open flatwoods. West Indian dropseed is a close relative of, and very similar in appearance to, smut grass, *Sporobolus indicus*, leading to confusion with identification. The seedheads of both grasses can be affected by a smut fungus that leaves the seeds black and unfertile. Both grasses have spike-like seedheads. West Indian dropseed is taller, usually about 3-4 feet tall, with spreading seedhead branches. Smut grass is usually 1-2 feet tall with a tight cylindrical spike. Both species are very weedy, but West Indian dropseed is the one that has started invading native habitats.

David Hall

Vitex rotundifolia (Beach vitex)

Beach vitex is a deciduous shrub that can grow to 1.5 m (5'). The nodal rooting system can extend 10m (34') with stems that can extend over 6m (20') from the main taproot. Young stems are green with fleshy tips that become larger in diameter, brown, and woody with age. Vitex has simple aromatic leaves that are sometimes palmately trifoliate. Leaves are 2-6.5 cm long and 1-4.5 cm wide. The flower is purple in color and appears in late spring to early summer. Vitex can be found on dunes, vacant lots, and along public right-of-ways.

Rick O'Connor, Florida Sea Grant/ University of Florida

New Category II Listings:

Crassocephalum crepidioides (redflower ragleaf)

Crassocephalum crepidioides is a member of the Aster family native to tropical Africa. This erect herb has a soft stem with lobed leaves and red flowers, with high seed production of more than 4000 per plant. Seeds are dispersed by the wind. First found

Scientific Name	Common Name	FLEPPC Category	Gov. List	Regional Distribution
<i>Lygodium microphyllum</i>	Old World climbing fern	I	N, U	C, S
<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i> (see <i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i>)				
<i>Manilkara zapota</i>	sapodilla	I		S
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	melaleuca, paper bark	I	P, N, U	C, S
<i>Melinis repens</i> (= <i>Rhynchelytrum repens</i>)	Natal grass	I		N, C, S
<i>Mimosa pigra</i>	catclaw mimosa	I	P, N, U	C, S
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	nandina, heavenly bamboo	I		N, C
<i>Nephrolepis brownii</i> (= <i>N. multiflora</i>)	Asian sword fern	I		C, S
<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>	sword fern	I		N, C, S
<i>Neyraudia reynaudiana</i>	Burma reed, cane grass	I	N	S
<i>Nymphoides cristata</i>	crested floating heart	I	N	C, S
<i>Paederia cruddasiana</i>	sewer vine, onion vine	I	N	S
<i>Paederia foetida</i>	skunk vine	I	N	N, C, S
<i>Panicum repens</i>	torpedo grass	I		N, C, S
<i>Pennisetum purpureum</i>	Napier grass, elephant grass	I		N, C, S
<i>Phymatosorus scolopendria</i>	serpent fern, wart fern	I		S
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	water-lettuce	I	P	N, C, S
<i>Psidium cattleianum</i> (= <i>P. littorale</i>)	strawberry guava	I		C, S
<i>Psidium guajava</i>	guava	I		C, S
<i>Pueraria montana</i> var. <i>lobata</i> (= <i>P. lobata</i>)	kudzu	I	N	N, C, S
<i>Rhodomyrtus tomentosa</i>	downy rose-myrtle	I	N	C, S
<i>Rhynchelytrum repens</i> (See <i>Melinis repens</i>)				
<i>Ruellia simplex</i> ¹	Mexican petunia	I		N, C, S
<i>Salvinia minima</i>	water spangles	I		N, C, S
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i> (= <i>Triadica sebifera</i>)	popcorn tree, Chinese tallow tree	I	N	N, C, S
<i>Scaevola taccada</i> (= <i>Scaevola sericea</i> , <i>S. frutescens</i>)	<i>scaevola</i> , half-flower, beach naupaka	I	N	C, S
<i>Schefflera actinophylla</i> (= <i>Brassaia actinophylla</i>)	schefflera, Queensland umbrella tree	I		C, S
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Brazilian-pepper	I	P, N	N, C, S
<i>Scleria lacustris</i>	Wright's nutrush	I		C, S
<i>Senna pendula</i> var. <i>glabrata</i> (= <i>Cassia coluteoides</i>)	climbing cassia, Christmas cassia, Christmas senna	I		C, S
<i>Solanum tampicense</i> (= <i>S. houstonii</i>)	wetland nightshade, aquatic soda apple	I	N, U	C, S
<i>Solanum viarum</i>	tropical soda apple	I	N, U	N, C, S
<i>Sporobolus jacquemontii</i> * (= <i>S. indicus</i> var. <i>pyramidalis</i>)	West Indian dropseed	I		C, S
<i>Syngonium podophyllum</i>	arrowhead vine	I		N, C, S
<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	jambolan-plum, Java-plum	I		C, S
<i>Tectaria incisa</i>	incised halberd fern	I		S
<i>Thespesia populnea</i>	seaside mahoe	I		C, S
<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	small-leaf spiderwort	I		N, C
<i>Urena lobata</i>	Caesar's weed	I		N, C, S
<i>Urochloa mutica</i> (= <i>Brachiaria mutica</i>)	Para grass	I		C, S
<i>Vitex rotundifolia</i> *	beach vitex	I		N

CATEGORY II

Invasive exotics that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species. *These species may become ranked Category I if ecological damage is demonstrated.*

Scientific Name	Common Name	FLEPPC Category	Gov. List	Regional Distribution
<i>Adenantha pavonina</i>	red sandalwood	II		S
<i>Agave sisalana</i>	sisal hemp	II		C, S
<i>Aleurites fordii</i> (= <i>Vernicia fordii</i>)	tung oil tree	II		N, C
<i>Alstonia macrophylla</i>	devil tree	II		S
<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	alligator weed	II	P	N, C, S
<i>Antigonon leptopus</i>	coral vine	II		N, C, S
<i>Ardisia japonica</i>	Japanese ardisia	II		N
<i>Aristolochia littoralis</i>	calico flower	II		N, C, S

¹Many names are applied to this species in Florida because of a complicated taxonomic and nomenclatural history. Plants cultivated in Florida, all representing the same invasive species, have in the past been referred to as *Ruellia brittoniana*, *R. tweediana*, *R. caerulea*, and *R. simplex*.
*Added to the FLEPPC List of Invasive Plant Species in 2015

Scientific Name	Common Name	FLEPPC Category	Gov. List	Regional Distribution
<i>Asystasia gangetica</i>	Ganges primrose	II		C, S
<i>Begonia cucullata</i>	wax begonia	II		N, C, S
<i>Blechnum pyramidatum</i> (see <i>Ruellia blechnum</i>)				
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	paper mulberry	II		N, C, S
<i>Bruguiera gymnorrhiza</i>	large-leaved mangrove	II		S
<i>Callisia fragrans</i>	inch plant, spironema	II		C, S
<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	river sheoak, Australian-pine	II	P	C, S
<i>Cecropia palmata</i>	trumpet tree	II		S
<i>Cestrum diurnum</i>	day jessamine	II		C, S
<i>Chamaedorea seifrizii</i>	bamboo palm	II		S
<i>Clematis terniflora</i>	Japanese clematis	II		N, C
<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	coconut palm	II		S
<i>Crassocephalum crepidioides</i> *	redflower ragleaf, Okinawa spinach	II		C, S
<i>Cryptostegia madagascariensis</i>	rubber vine	II		C, S
<i>Cyperus involucratus</i> (<i>C. alternifolius</i> misapplied)	umbrella plant	II		C, S
<i>Cyperus prolifer</i>	dwarf papyrus	II		C, S
<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i>	Durban crowfoot grass	II		N, C, S
<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	Indian rosewood, sissoo	II		C, S
<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>	silverthorn, thorny olive	II		N, C
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	silverberry, autumn olive	II		N
<i>Epipremnum pinnatum</i> cv. Aureum	pothos	II		C, S
<i>Eulophia graminea</i>	Chinese crown orchid	II		S
<i>Ficus altissima</i>	false banyan, council tree	II		S
<i>Flacourtia indica</i>	governor's plum	II		S
<i>Hemarthria altissima</i>	limpo grass	II		C, S
<i>Heteropterys brachiata</i> *	red wing	II		S
<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i> (See <i>Talipariti tiliaceum</i>)				
<i>Hyparrhenia rufa</i>	jaragua	II		N, C, S
<i>Ipomoea carnea</i> ssp. <i>fistulosa</i> (= <i>I. fistulosa</i>)	shrub morning-glory	II	P	C, S
<i>Kalanchoe pinnata</i> (= <i>Bryophyllum pinnatum</i>)	life plant	II		C, S
<i>Koelreuteria elegans</i> ssp. <i>formosana</i> (= <i>K. formosana</i> ; <i>K. paniculata</i> misapplied)	flamegold tree	II		C, S
<i>Landoltia punctata</i> (= <i>Spirodela punctata</i>)	spotted duckweed	II		N, C, S
<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	lead tree	II	N	N, C, S
<i>Limnophila sessiliflora</i>	Asian marshweed	II	P, U	N, C, S
<i>Livistona chinensis</i>	Chinese fan palm	II		C, S
<i>Macroptilium lathyroides</i>	phasey bean	II		N, C, S
<i>Melaleuca viminalis</i> (= <i>Callistemon viminalis</i>)	bottlebrush, weeping bottlebrush	II		C, S
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Chinaberry	II		N, C, S
<i>Melinis minutiflora</i>	molasses grass	II		C, S
<i>Merremia tuberosa</i>	wood-rose	II		C, S
<i>Mitania micrantha</i>	mile-a-minute vine	II	N, U	S
<i>Momordica charantia</i>	balsam apple, balsam pear	II		N, C, S
<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	orange-jessamine	II		S
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian water-milfoil	II	P	N, C, S
<i>Panicum maximum</i> (= <i>Urochloa maxima</i> , <i>Megathyrsus maximus</i>)	Guinea grass	II		N, C, S
<i>Passiflora biflora</i>	two-flowered passion vine	II		S
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	green fountain grass	II		S
<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>	Senegal date palm	II		C, S
<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>	golden bamboo	II		N, C
<i>Pittosporum pentandrum</i>	Philippine pittosporum, Taiwanese cheesewood	II		S
<i>Praxelis clematidea</i> *	praxelis	II		C
<i>Pteris vittata</i>	Chinese brake fern	II		N, C, S
<i>Ptychosperma elegans</i>	solitaire palm	II		S
<i>Rhoeo spathacea</i> (see <i>Tradescantia spathacea</i>)				

*Added to the FLEPPC List of Invasive Plant Species in 2015

FLEPPC 2015 List of Invasive Plant Species

in the US in 1997 in Miami-Dade County, redflower ragleaf was documented in the panhandle in Escambia County in 2012.

Patricia L. Howell

Heteropterys brachiata
(red wing)

Heteropterys brachiata or "redwing" is a liana (woody vine) in the Malpighiaceae family. It is native to Mexico, Central America and South America. Redwing seedlings dominate the understory of hardwood hammocks, and older plants twine up into the canopy where their flowers and fruits are present, but out of reach, in winter months. The fruits of redwing are deep red, wind-dispersed samaras; hence the name "redwing."

Jennifer Possley, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Praxelis clematidea
(Praxelis)

Praxelis clematidea is an Aster with lavender colored flowers from South America. Its short life cycle and propensity to be moved by vehicles contribute to its recent invasion in Central Florida. Look for young, light green plants with irregularly toothed leaves that soon flower, and then develop tough stems and bases. Flowers are a series of florets produced in heads, each producing a single, bristle-topped seed that is seated on a conical receptacle. This key character is easy to see because the phyllaries fall to reveal the receptacle when the head is in fruit.

Colette Jacono

Spermacoce verticillata
(scrubby false buttonweed)

A common weed of disturbed sites for over 80 years, *Spermacoce verticillata* is advancing into natural areas, especially in southern Florida. A member of the coffee family, Rubiaceae, plants are best known for their nearly woody, multiple branched structure, opposite, stalkless leaves often clustered in a whorl; and axillary, cylindrical heads of densely packed flowers. Distinguish this species from our natives by its tubular white flowers that are no longer than 1mm and fruits that are less than 1.5mm long.

Colette Jacono

Use of the FLEPPC List

The FLEPPC List of Invasive Plant Species is not a regulatory list. Only those plants listed as Federal Noxious Weeds, Florida Noxious Weeds, Florida Prohibited Aquatic Plants, or in local ordinances are regulated by law. FLEPPC encourages use of the Invasive Species List for prioritizing and implementing management efforts in natural areas, for educating lay audiences about environmental issues, and for supporting voluntary invasive plant removal programs. For more information on using the FLEPPC List of Invasive Plant Species, see *Proper Uses of FLEPPC Invasive Plant Lists* at www.fleppc.org/list/list.htm

NOTE: Not all exotic plants brought into Florida become pest plants in natural areas. The FLEPPC List of Invasive Plant Species represents only about 11% of more than 1,400 exotic species that have been introduced into Florida and have subsequently established outside of cultivation. Most escaped exotics usually present only minor problems in highly disturbed areas (such as road-sides). And there are other exotics cultivated in Florida that are "well-behaved" — that is, they don't escape cultivation at all.



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Scientific Name	Common Name	FLEPPC Category	Gov. List	Regional Distribution
<i>Richardia grandiflora</i>	large flower Mexican clover	II		N, C, S
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	castor bean	II		N, C, S
<i>Rotala rotundifolia</i>	roundleaf toothcup, dwarf Rotala, redweed	II		S
<i>Ruellia blechum</i> (= <i>Blechum brownei</i>)	green shrimp plant, Browne's blechum	II		N, C, S
<i>Sansevieria hyacinthoides</i>	bowstring hemp	II		C, S
<i>Sesbania punicea</i>	purple sesban, rattlebox	II		N, C, S
<i>Solanum diphyllum</i>	two-leaf nightshade	II		N, C, S
<i>Solanum torvum</i>	susumber, turkey berry	II	N, U	N, C, S
<i>Spermacoce verticillata</i> *	shrubby false buttonweed	II		C, S
<i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i> (= <i>Wedelia trilobata</i>)	wedelia	II		N, C, S
<i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i> (= <i>S. urticifolia</i>)	nettle-leaf porterweed	II		S
<i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i> (= <i>Arecastrum romanzoffianum</i>)	queen palm	II		C, S
<i>Syzygium jambos</i>	Malabar plum, rose-apple	II		N, C, S
<i>Talipariti tiliaceum</i> (= <i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i>)	mahoe, sea hibiscus	II		C, S
<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	tropical-almond	II		C, S
<i>Terminalia muelleri</i>	Australian-almond	II		C, S
<i>Tradescantia spathacea</i> (= <i>Rhoeo spathacea</i> , <i>Rhoeo discolor</i>)	oyster plant	II		S
<i>Tribulus cistoides</i>	puncture vine, burr-nut	II		N, C, S
<i>Vitex trifolia</i>	simple-leaf chaste tree	II		C, S
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Washington fan palm	II		C, S
<i>Wedelia</i> (see <i>Sphagneticola</i> above)				
<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	Chinese wisteria	II		N, C
<i>Xanthosoma sagittifolium</i>	malanga, elephant ear	II		N, C, S

Citation example:

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The Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) holds records of reported sighting of invasive species in Florida. Most records are from local, state, and federal parks and preserves; a few records document infestations in regularly disturbed public lands such as highways or utility rights-of-way. Natural area managers, veteran observers of Florida's natural landscapes, and others submit these records, with many supported further by voucher specimens housed in local or regional herbaria for future reference and verification. New and updated observations can be submitted online at EDDMapS [www.eddmaps.org/florida/]. All reports are verified by an expert. This database, along with other plant data resources such as the University of South Florida's Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants [www.plantatlas.usf.edu], the Florida Natural Areas Inventory database [www.fnai.org/], and The Institute for Regional Conservation Floristic Inventory of South Florida database [www.regionalconservation.org/], provides important basic supporting information for the FLEPPC List of Invasive Plant Species. Greater success and accuracy in searching for plant information is likely if you search by scientific name rather than common name. Common names often vary in cultivation and across regions.

*Added to the FLEPPC List of Invasive Plant Species in 2015