

What is An Invasive Plant?

Of the more than 4,000 plant species found in Florida, over 1,300 are **non-native** or **exotic**, which is defined as a species of plant that usually comes from another region, country, continent, or ocean. When these plants negatively impact human health, the economy or the environment, they are considered to be **invasive**.

Prohibited Plants in Florida

Some invasive plants are so problematic, an individual propagating, transporting or selling them may be subject to fines from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The four most common prohibited plants you may find in your landscape are shown below.



U.S. Forest Service

Japanese Climbing Fern
Lygodium japonicum



Aim Marnes, University of Florida 10/09

Air Potato
Dioscorea bulbifera



GDM Research Reserve

Brazilian Pepper
Schinus terebinthifolius
(pictured on cover)



pictureplants.com

**Popcorn Tree,
Chinese Tallow**
Sapium sebiferum

Brochure assistance provided by the University of Florida/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants.
Visit plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/722.

So, What's The Problem?

In their native ranges, plants generally do not become a nuisance. With modern transportation, many exotic plants have caught a free ride to Florida. Once they arrive, they are free from natural enemies that existed in their home range (insects, diseases, etc.) and can outgrow and replace Florida's native plants, which diminishes our state's natural beauty. Furthermore, animals that use native plants are often unable to adapt to a non-native plant invasion so they may leave the area or die out.

Why Should We Care?

Millions of dollars are spent each year to control invasive plants in Florida. If not kept in check, invasive plants can reduce Florida's biodiversity, reduce wildlife habitat, impact endangered species, and more.

Keeping Things Under Control

After much research, we know that some invasive plant species will never be eradicated in Florida; they simply reproduce too quickly. For those species the strategy is to keep infestations at the lowest feasible levels. This helps lessen overall environmental damage including the reduction of herbicides needed for control.

Take Action Now

Preventing the introduction and spread of non-native plants in Florida is the most effective and least expensive means of protecting natural habitats.

- Learn to identify invasive plants. Get the full list at www.fleppc.org.
- Inspect your yard, woods, and garden, for invasive plants; throw them in the trash (don't compost them).
- Replace invasive plants with native plants. Ask your nursery or garden center for native and/or non-invasive plants and do not purchase invasive plants.
- Never transport Florida's plants to other areas or give invasive species to neighbors or friends.



Native Plant Consulting
Native Gardens Nursery

www.gtmnerr.org
www.floridainvasives.org/FirstCoast
www.nativeplantconsulting.com

Invasive Plants You Should Know



Northeast Florida

This brochure is just the beginning.
You can find more information at
www.gtmnerr.org/invasiveplants.php.

Non-native, Invasive Plants



Mimosa Tree
Albizia julibrissin



Asparagus Fern
Asparagus aethiopicus



Wild Taro
Colocasia esculenta



Sword (Boston) Fern
Nephrolepis cordifolia

Non-native, Invasive Plants



Heavenly Bamboo, Nandina
Nandina domestica



Coral Ardisia
Ardisia crenata



Japanese Honeysuckle
Loncera japonica



Mexican Petunia
Ruellia simplex

Non-native, Invasive Plants



Lantana
Lantana camara



Golden Rain Tree
Koelreuteria elegans



Wedelia
Sphagneticola trilobata



Silverthorn
Elaeagnus pungens