

## 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?

Unfortunately, invasive plants flourish in Florida, where they are free from the natural limitations, diseases, and predators that control them in their native ranges. Most invasive plants were deliberately brought to Florida for landscaping, crops, or forage. More than 85% of the imported plants and flowers enter the U.S. via the Port of Miami.

### To learn more, visit:

**Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council**  
[www.fleppc.org](http://www.fleppc.org)

**Florida Invasive Species Partnership**  
[www.floridainvasives.org](http://www.floridainvasives.org)

**UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants**  
<http://plants.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
- To avoid transferring exotics from one area to another, clean mowers, tires, and boat trailers
- Volunteer to help remove non-native plants from our natural areas
- Support funding to combat invasive plants

## Brought to you by:



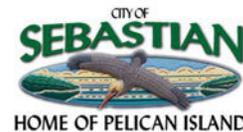
[fssr.org](http://fssr.org)



[pelicanislandaudubon.org](http://pelicanislandaudubon.org)



[fnps.org](http://fnps.org)



[sebastiannrb.com](http://sebastiannrb.com)



# Invasive Plants of East Central Florida



## You Should Know

4,000+ plants live in Florida  
1,300+ of these plants are non-native  
225+ are invasive pest plants



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

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services prohibits certain plants. Prohibited plants have damaged Florida's waterways, agriculture, and natural areas. New plants are added to the prohibited plant list periodically. For more information, visit [www.FreshFromFlorida.com](http://www.FreshFromFlorida.com)

Here are common examples...

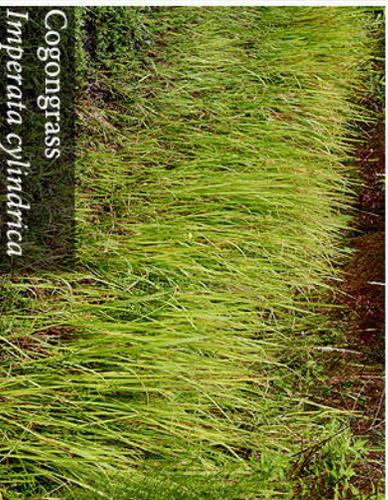


Air potato  
*Dioscorea bulbifera*

Some invasive plants brought to Florida for landscaping have escaped cultivation and are still sold. Don't purchase these cheap, aggressive, fast-growing invaders. Invest in beautiful native or non-invasive exotic plants that create a healthy habitat for our native wildlife and pollinators and attractive, low maintenance yards for humans.



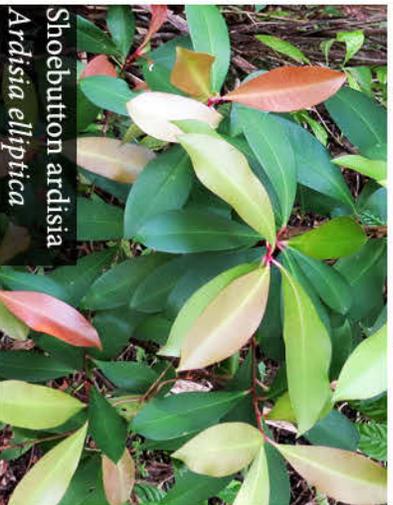
Rosary pea  
*Abrus precatorius*



Cogongrass  
*Imperata cylindrica*



Mexican petunia  
*Ruellia simplex*



Shoebuttan ardisia  
*Ardisia elliptica*



Old world climbing fern  
*Lygodium microphyllum*



Wedelia  
*Sphagneticola trilobata*



Australian pine  
*Casuarina sp.*



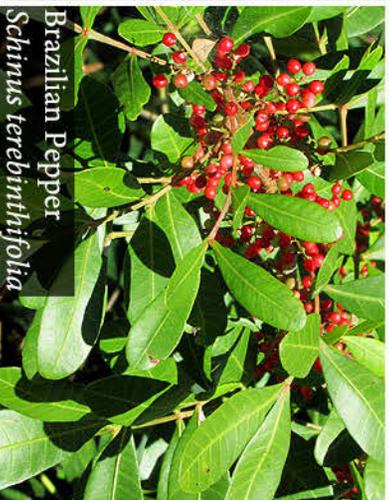
Melaleuca  
*Melaleuca quinquenervia*



Caesarweed  
*Trena lobata*



Carrotwood  
*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*



Brazilian Pepper  
*Schinus terebinthifolia*



Twolleaf nightshade  
*Solanum diphyllum*