

Letter to the Editor:

FLEPPC was recently contacted by the Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society (CFPACS) concerning our listing of three palm species, *Livistonia chinensis*, Chinese fan palm, *Phoenix reclinata*, Senegal date palm, and *Ptychosperma elegans*, solitary palm as Category II on the FLEPPC 1999 List of Invasive Species. CFPACS was “surprised, amazed is more like it,” that these species, (especially *Livistonia chinensis*, which are “SO slow-growing ——” and in the case of *Phoenix reclinata*, dioecious) are listed along with invasive species such as *Wedelia trilobata*. Part of the concerns of CFPACS, as has been the concern of others, is the implication that plants listed on the FLEPPC List of Invasive Species will be prohibited or regulated in some way.

The purpose of the FLEPPC List of Invasive Species is to inform others of those species that we consider to be invasive. Our definition of Category II is clear, “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.” Just as species in Category I are not equally invasive, so it is with those listed as Category II. While the palms and cycads as a group are slow growing and slow to reach sexual maturity and therefore

not as invasive as some other species, all three palm species listed as Category II meet the criteria: *Phoenix reclinata* (plants are not always fertile when observed so at least *Phoenix*-type plants) has been observed in natural areas since the 70’s from at least Palm Beach County south and recently in Hernando County. *Ptychosperma elegans* naturalizes regularly and has been observed for over a decade in Gumbo Limbo Nature Center (Palm Beach County) and in natural areas of Dade and Monroe Counties. *Livistonia chinensis* is naturalized and found frequently in hammocks of south Florida and has escaped in Manatee and Putnam Counties. While certain species listed as Category I or II are regulated at federal, state, county, or city levels, and perhaps others should be, listing does not itself imply that a species should or will be regulated.

CFPACS asks that we consult with “academic botanists specializing in these plants” before listing palms and cycads as invasive. We appreciate the interest of CFPACS in our efforts to identify invasive plant species and will, as in the past, seek the consensus of experts within FLEPPC and outside our own organization on the listing of species as invasive. We as members of FLEPPC must continue dialogue with horticultural interests concerning the intent of our List of Invasive Species and the reasons for listing species.

—Ken Langland

Non-native Species

at Medieval Castles as Cultural Heritage

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Introduction

The present study focused on non-native plant species occurring at medieval castles. In Central Europe castles are among the oldest buildings. On top of hills and rocks they were built during the 11th - 13th century in the Middle Ages. Since that time they are centers of spread of non-native plants. Waste, transportation of goods, visitors and castle gardens were the first sources of diaspores of non-native plants which colonized the surroundings of the castles assisted by the accumulation of nutrients from mortar, waste and livestock. With the end of the Middle Ages, the castles lost their function, most of them were destroyed or became dilapidated, only some were used as residential buildings. In the 19th century a new interest in the castles began and some of them were reconstructed. Today they are ruins or used as museum, restaurant, hotel or residential building. But in general castles were much less changed during the centuries than towns or settlements. Castles were intensively used over a period of up to 400 years and than often unused over a period of the same extension. Therefore they