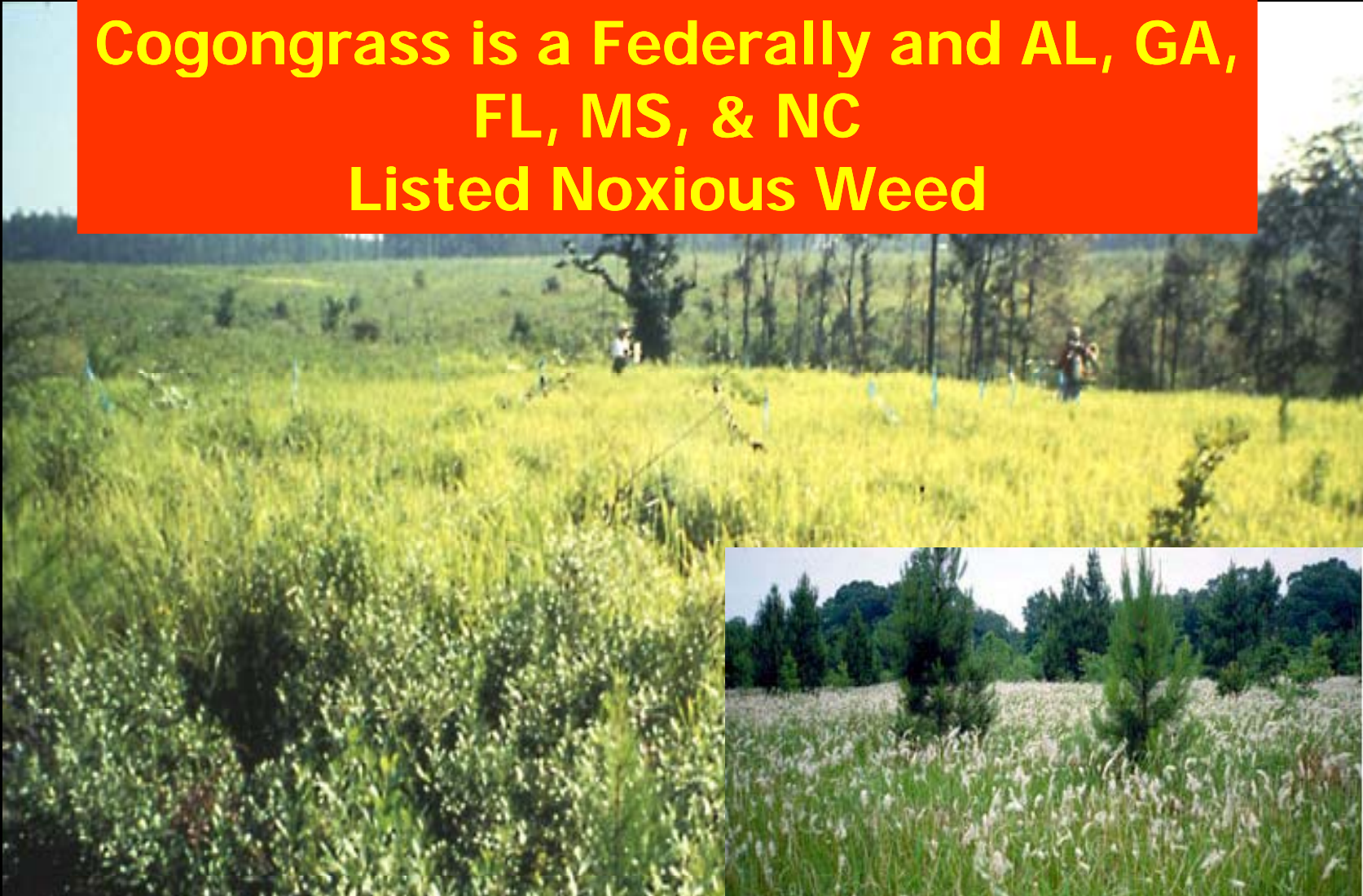
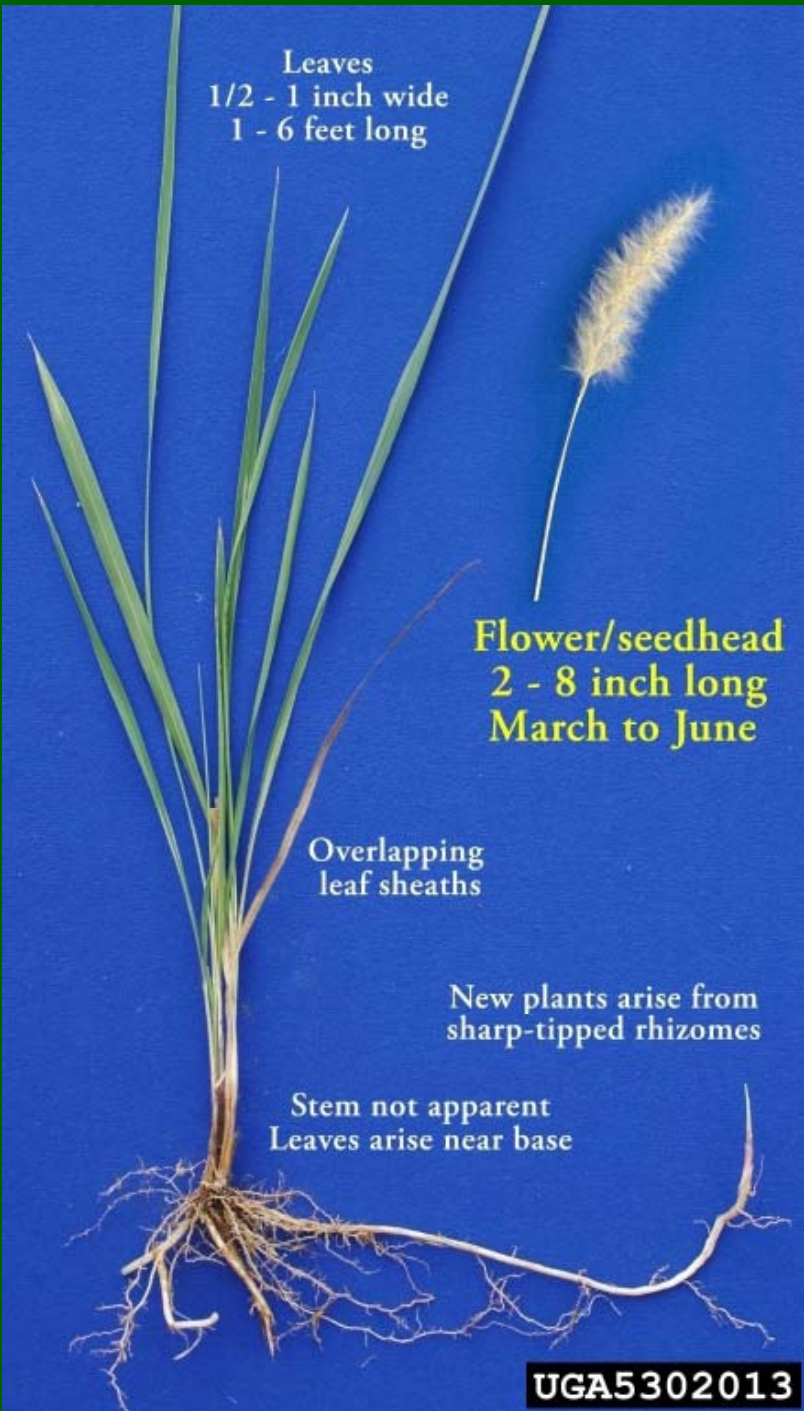


**Cogongrass is a Federally and AL, GA,  
FL, MS, & NC  
Listed Noxious Weed**



**“World’s Worst” Plant Invader of Natural Lands**



Leaves  
1/2 - 1 inch wide  
1 - 6 feet long

Flower/seedhead  
2 - 8 inch long  
March to June

Overlapping  
leaf sheaths

New plants arise from  
sharp-tipped rhizomes

Stem not apparent  
Leaves arise near base

UGA5302013



# April – May Flowering and Seeding



# Alabama Cogongrass Winter - A time for aerial surveys



# Alabama Cogongrass Fall-A time for aerial surveys



# It All Goes Up and Away

Headfire in Cured  
Cogongrass



Backfire in Cured  
Cogongrass



# Cogongrass After Burn

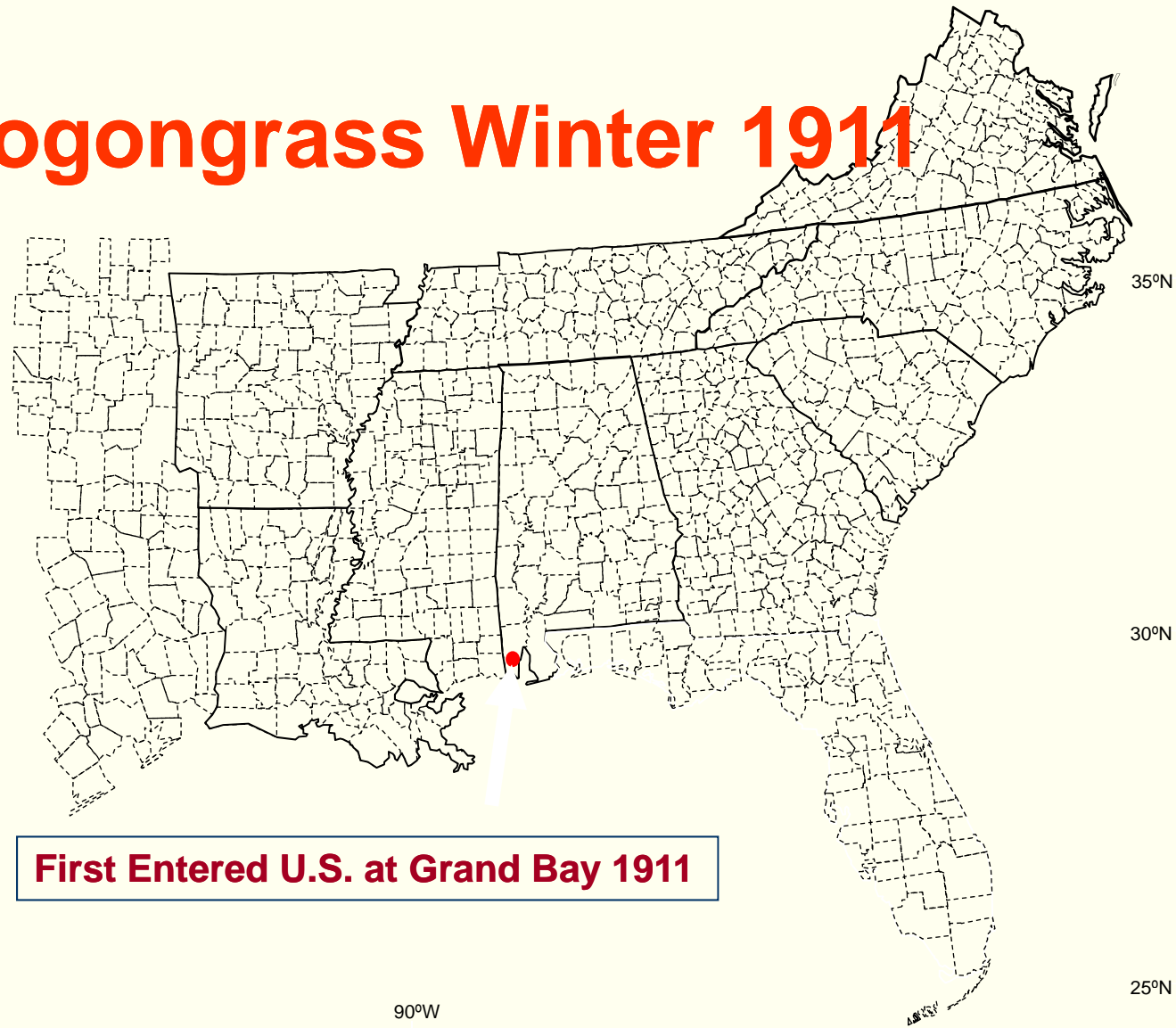




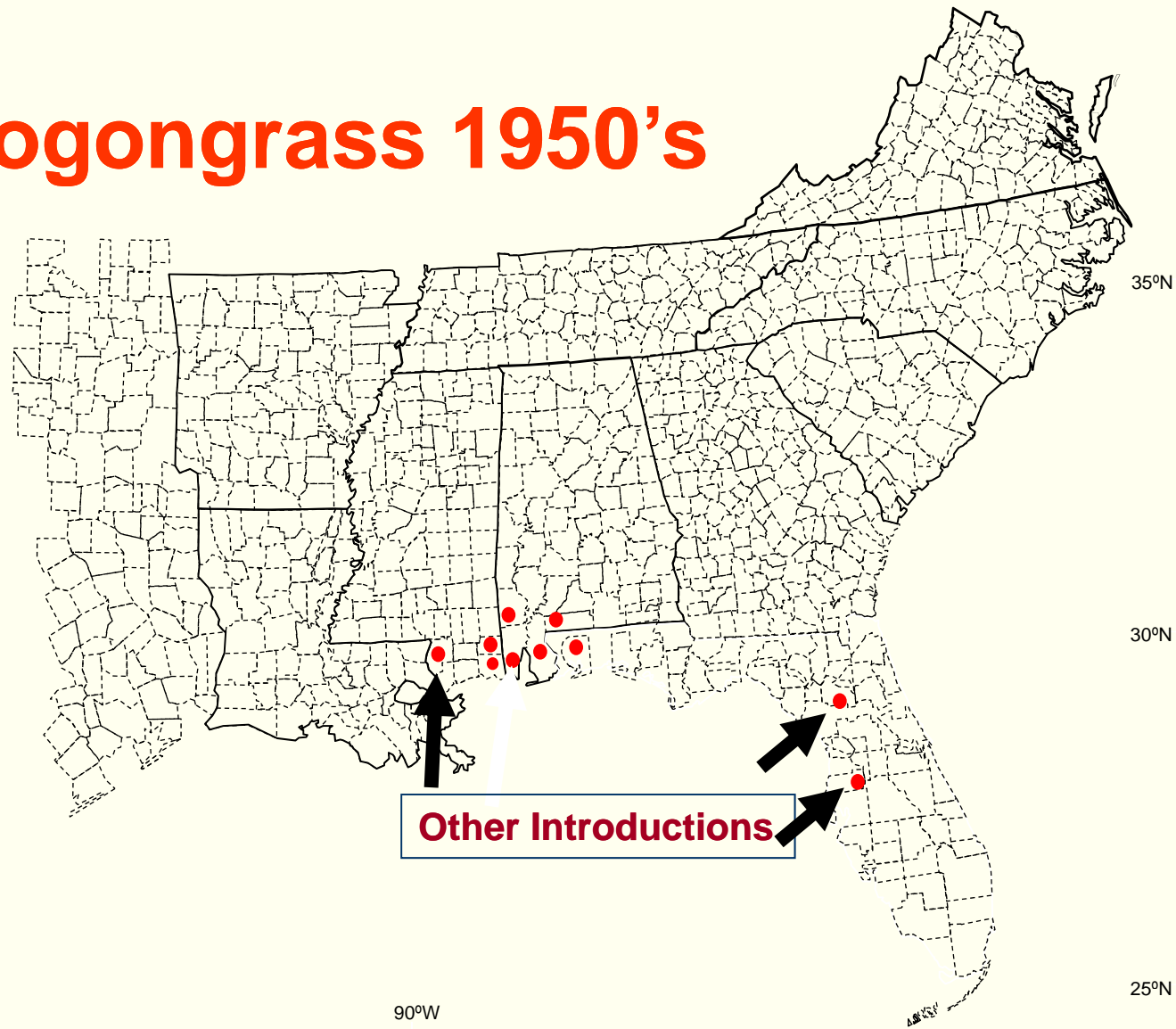


**It does not just alter the Web-of-Life  
Replaces it with a Lime-Green Biological Desert**

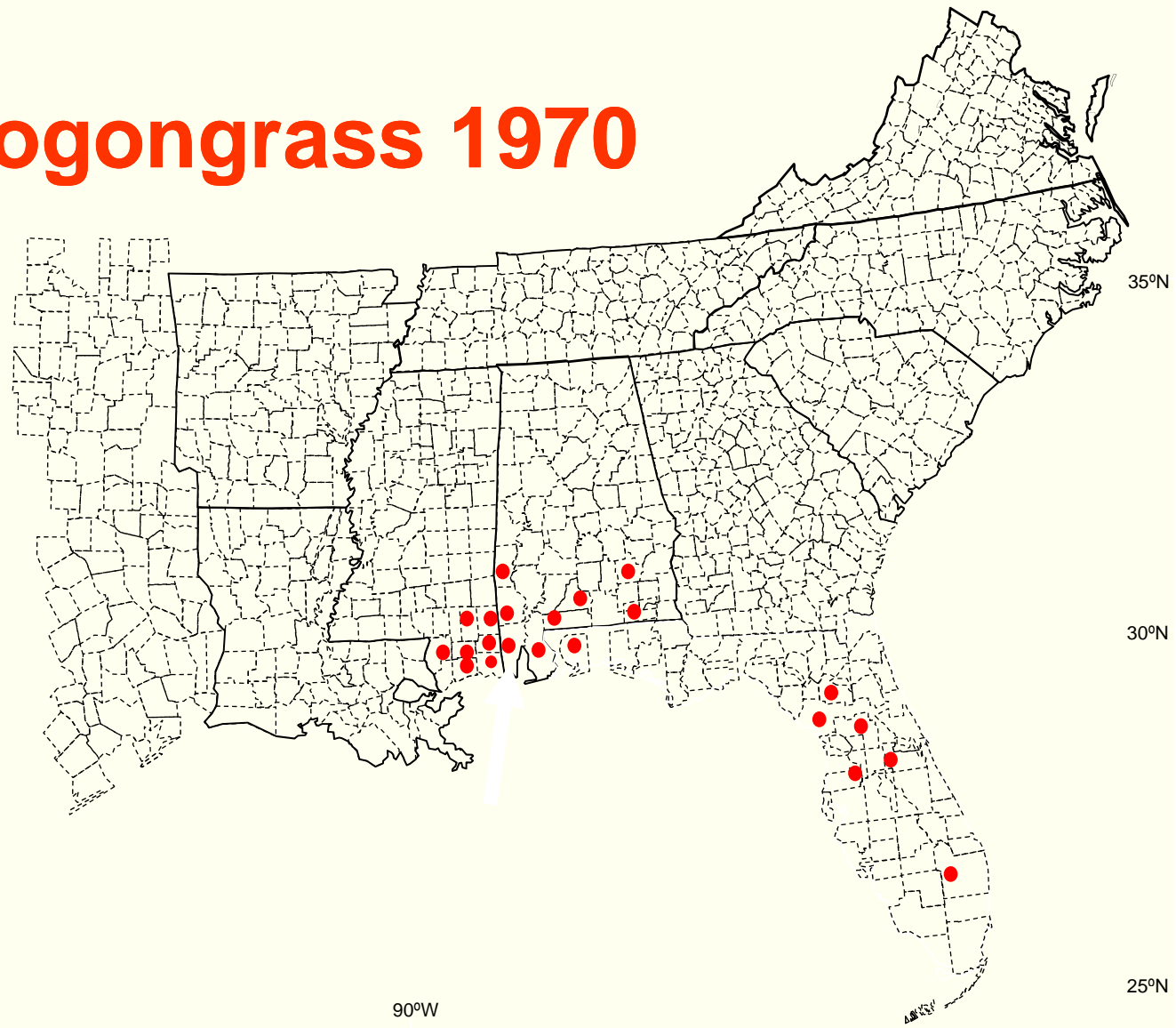
# Cogongrass Winter 1911



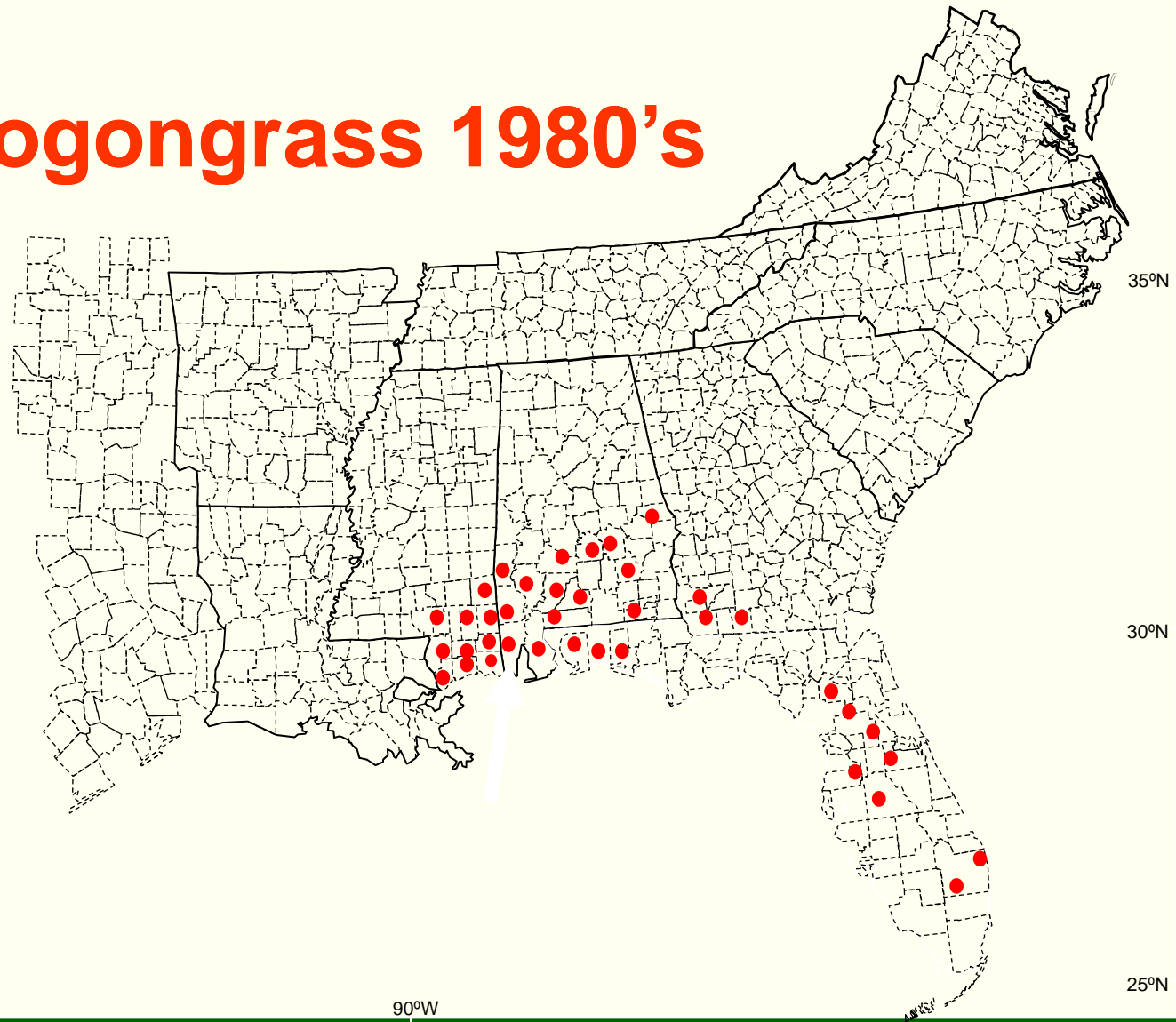
# Cogongrass 1950's



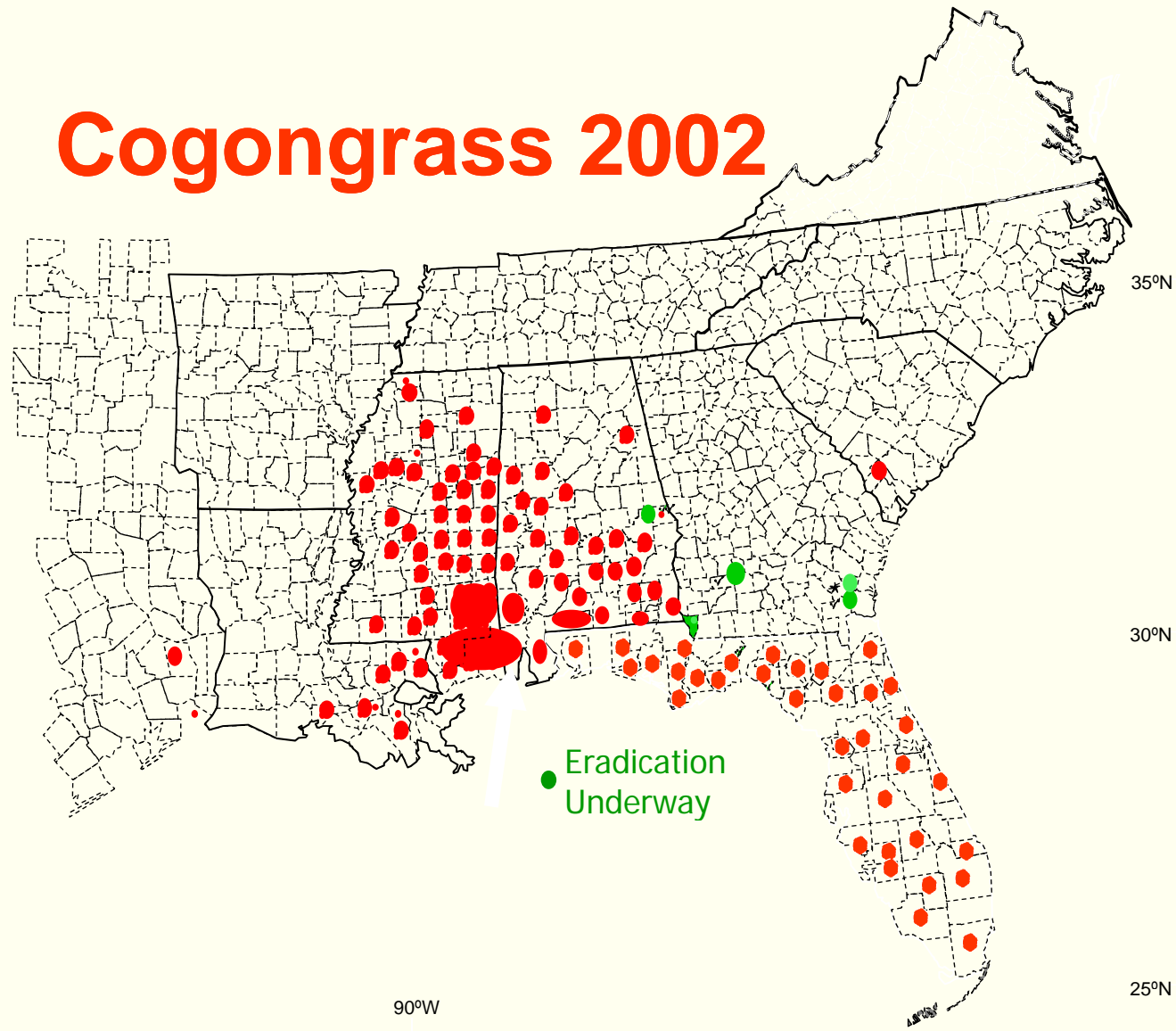
# Cogongrass 1970



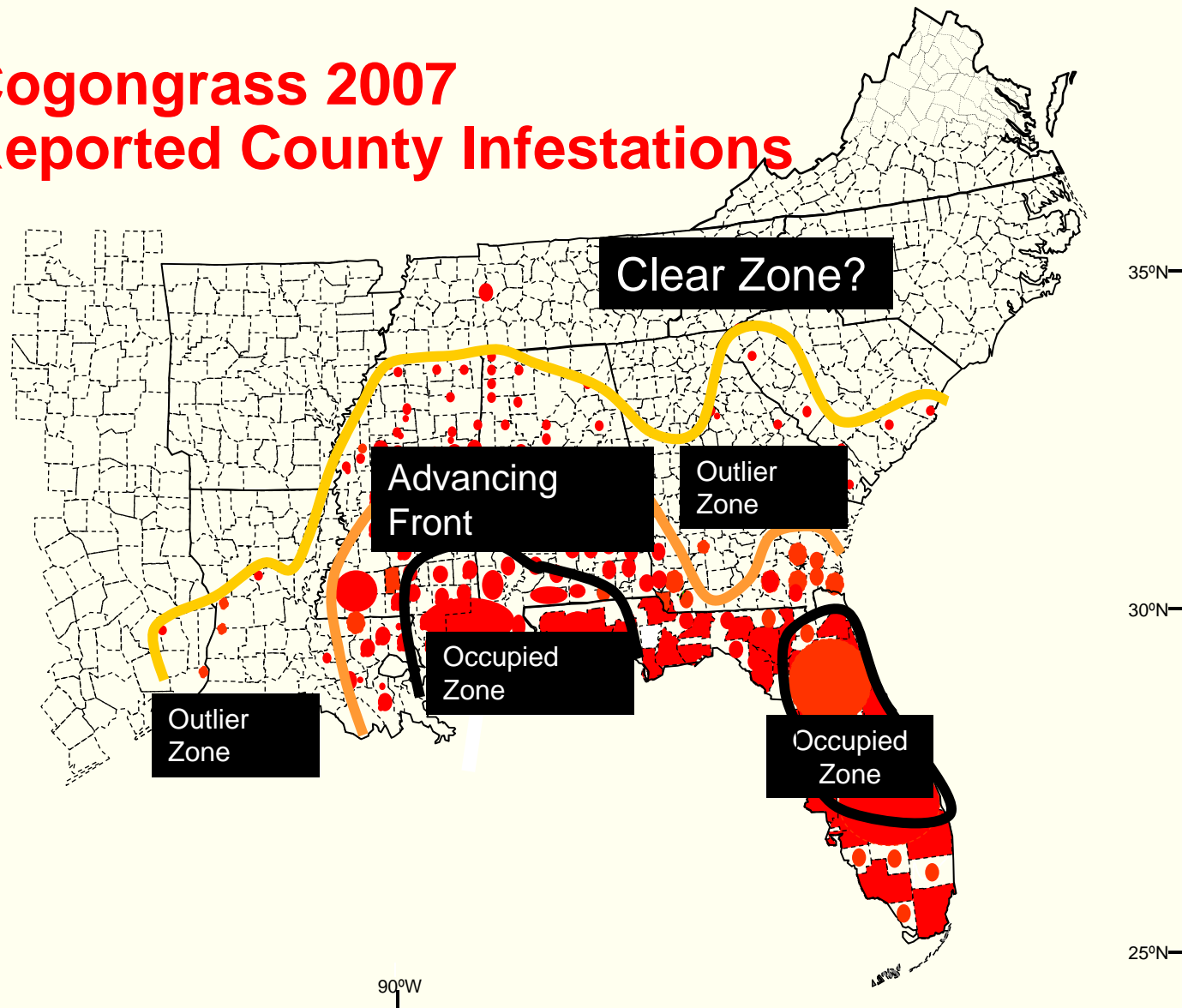
# Cogongrass 1980's



# Cogongrass 2002



# Cogongrass 2007 Reported County Infestations

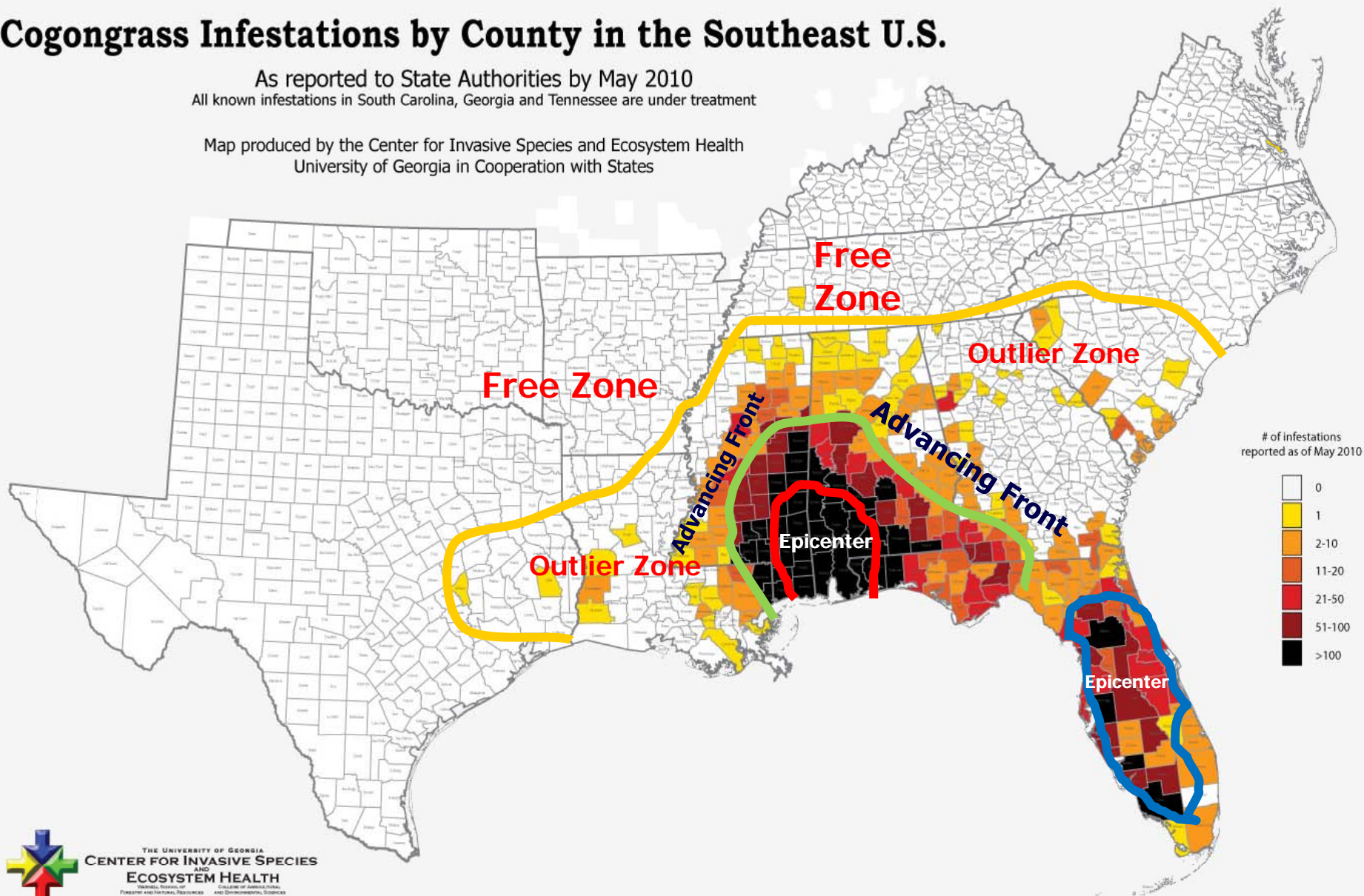


# Cogongrass Infestations by County in the Southeast U.S.

As reported to State Authorities by May 2010

All known infestations in South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee are under treatment

Map produced by the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health  
University of Georgia in Cooperation with States





# Cogongrass

*Imperata cylindrica*

[Identification](#)

[Control](#)

[Distribution](#)

[Proceedings](#)

[Publications](#)

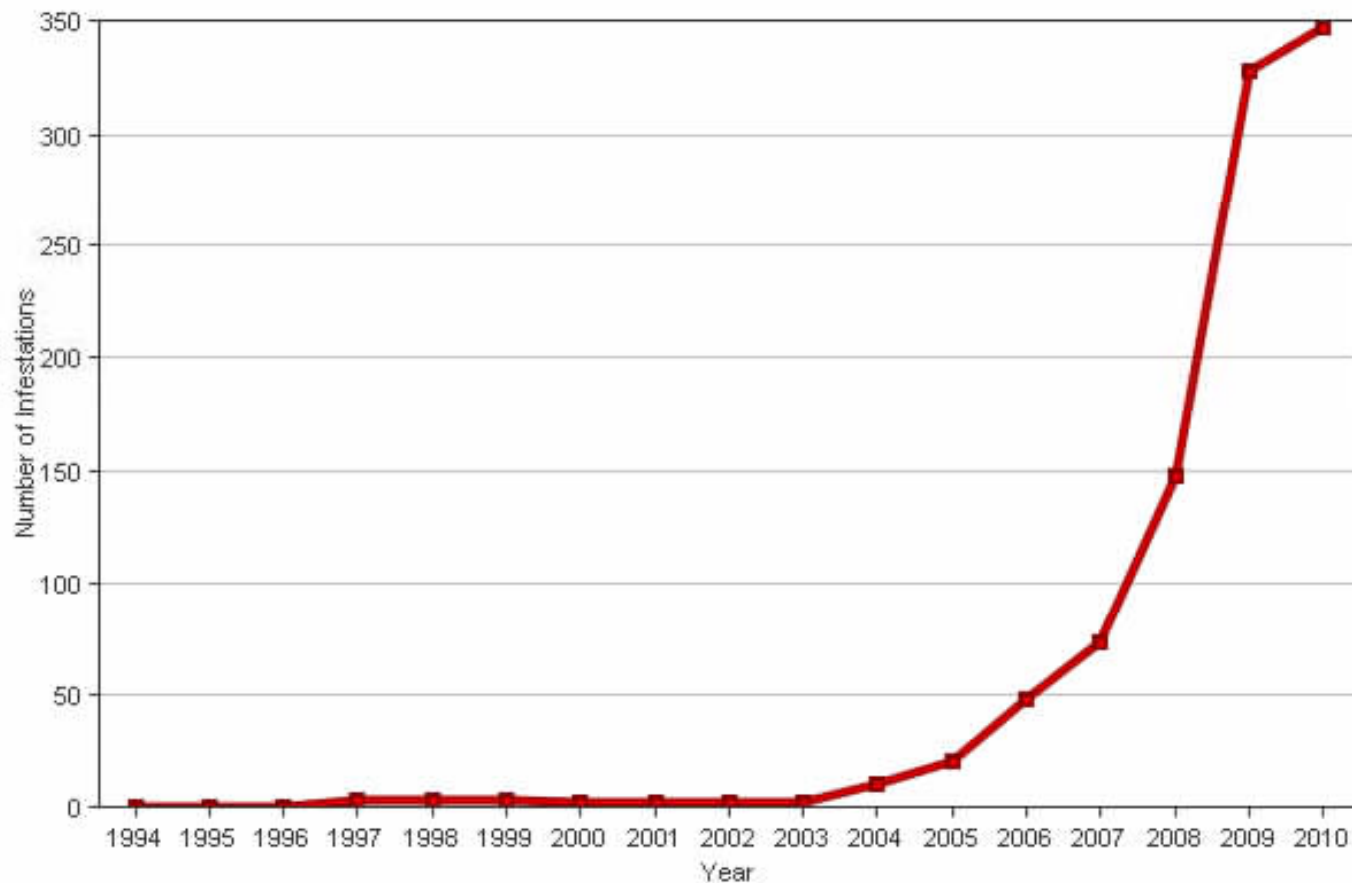
[Images](#)

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[Report](#)

[Links](#)

## Cogongrass Detection in Georgia

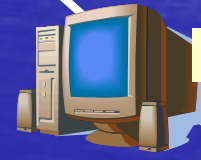
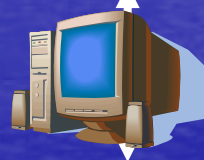


# Adaptive Collaborative Restoration

Multiple Partners  
and Stakeholders  
at Multiple Scales



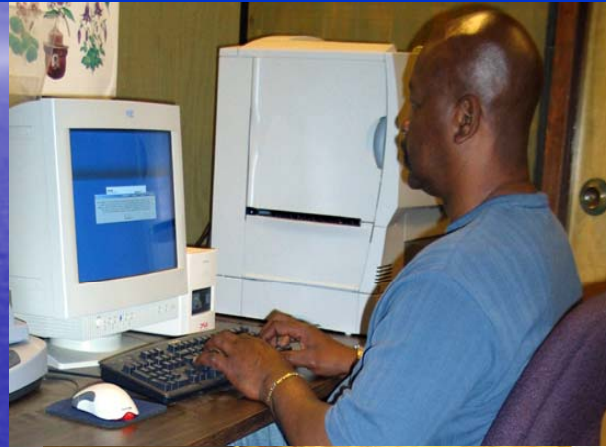
Knowledge  
Systems and  
Computer  
Linkages



Invasive.org



# Evolving New Social Skills of Individuals Collaborating across old boundaries



# Cogongrass

## *Imperata cylindrica*

Identification

Control

Distribution

Proceedings

Publications

Images

Videos

Report

Links



### Cogongrass Infested States

Click on State to find State Resources



#### Georgia County Road Crew Training Resources



Information and resources for Georgia Extension agents to conduct a short informational training program for their county road crews. [More](#)

#### The Cultivar 'Red Baron'?



The 'Red Baron' cultivar of *Imperata cylindrica* has

#### Alabama Cogongrass Aerial Photographs



In open fields and forests cogongrass initially forms circular infestations that appear light green in summer and light brown in winter as can be viewed in these oblique aerial photographs. In later stages of invasion, circular infestations can merge and linear infestations can form along highways, fences, and around water bodies. [More](#)

# Field Guide to the Identification of Cogongrass

With comparisons to other commonly found grass species in the Southeast

3,200 copies  
\$2,500  
\$0.78 each



USDA Forest Service  
University of Georgia - Bugwood Network

5,000 copies

\$600



ANR-1321

ALABAMA A&M AND AUBURN UNIVERSITIES

## Stop Cogongrass Hitchhikers

Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) continues its rapid spread across Alabama and the Southeast, reducing forest productivity, destroying wildlife habitat, and affecting rights-of-way. This aggressive weed is spreading quickly by hitchhiking around the state, attached to skidders, road graders, mowers, food plot equipment, and other forest and road maintenance equipment.

Help slow the spread of cogongrass by following these three steps:

- Step 1: Learn to identify cogongrass.
- Step 2: Avoid cogongrass.
- Step 3: Clean vehicles, equipment, and clothing after operating in infested areas.

### Step 1: Learn to identify cogongrass.

- **Leaves** – ½ to 1 inch wide, 1 to 6 feet tall; edge of leaves is rough like sandpaper; often yellowish-green with whitish midrib that is generally off-center, especially near the base of the leaves; leaves brown after a freeze
- **Flowers** – 2 to 8 inches in length, silvery white; seeds also silvery white, light and fluffy, will blow off like dandelion seeds; blooms in spring or early summer or after a disturbance
- **Plant base** – no apparent stem so leaves appear to arise directly from the ground; plants are more spread out than clumped



- **Rhizome/roots** – dense mat of light-colored rhizomes (underground stems) that are covered in flaky scales, strongly segmented and with sharp points
- **Whole plant** – plants grow in dense, often circular, patches

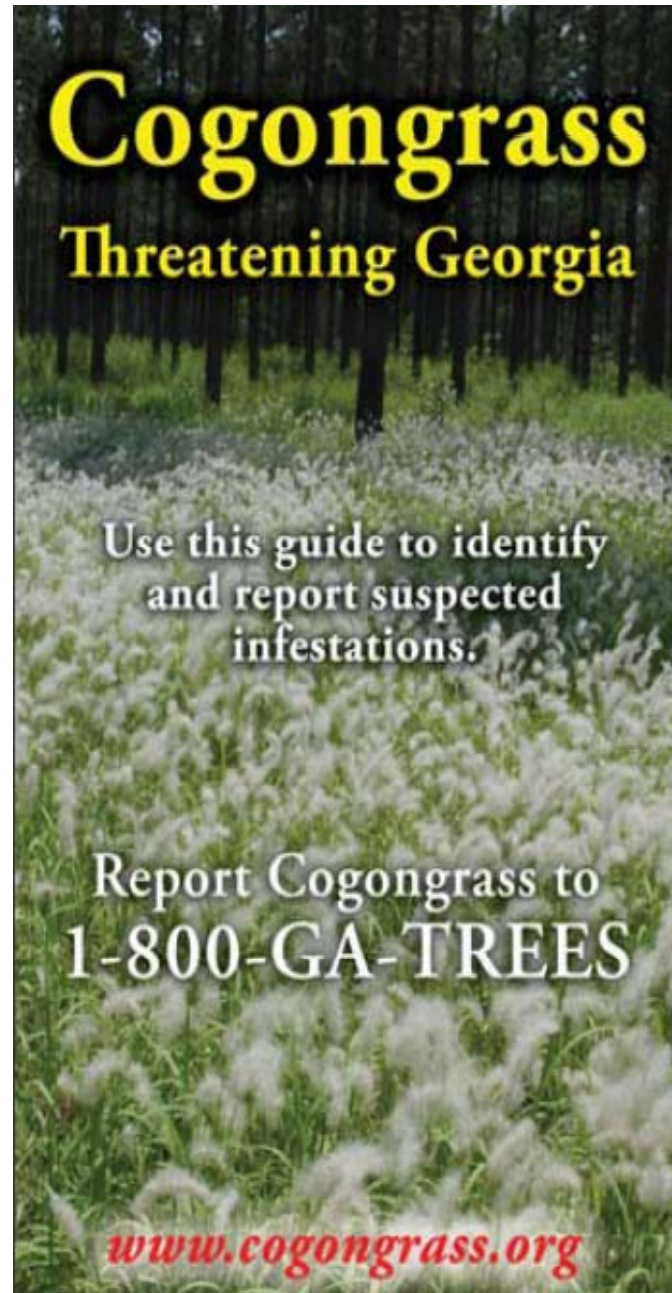
### Step 2: Avoid cogongrass.

- Cogongrass is spread by both windblown seeds (a single plant can produce 3,000 seeds) and underground branching rhizomes. Each rhizome, or fragment of rhizome, can start a new plant. Seeds or pieces of rhizomes moved to new areas in soil, hay, or sod, or on equipment can easily sprout and start new infestations.



www.aces.edu

**5,000 copies  
\$700 to  
\$750**



# **Cogongrass**

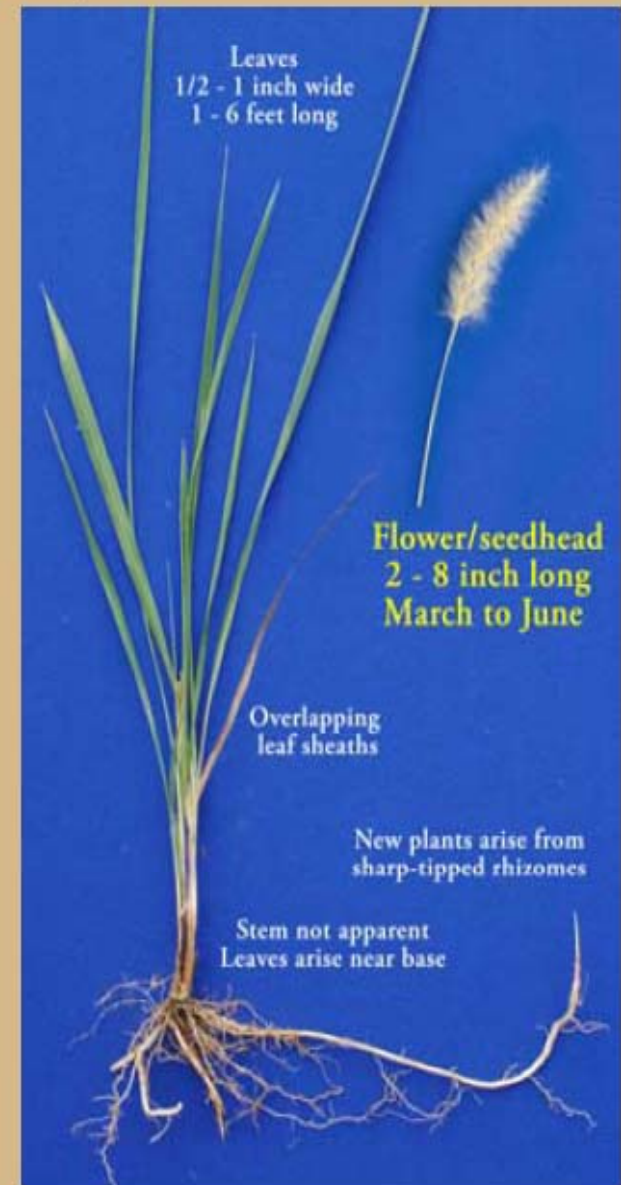
## **Threatening Georgia**

Use this guide to identify  
and report suspected  
infestations.

Report Cogongrass to  
**1-800-GA-TREES**

[www.cogongrass.org](http://www.cogongrass.org)

### Key Identification Features:



**2,800 copies**  
**\$ 4984**

**Through ACES 3500**  
**copies**  
**1,400 to \$2,400**



The University  
of Georgia

Bugwood Network

BW-2006-03

December 2006

## Invasive Plant Responses to Silvicultural Practices in the South

C. W. Evans, D. J. Moorhead, C. T. Barger and  
G. K. Douce



# COGONGRASS

*Imperata cylindrica*

ONE OF THE WORLD'S WORST WEEDS INVADES GEORGIA'S FORESTS

[www.cogongrass.org](http://www.cogongrass.org)

## Identification



## Spread

Cogongrass was originally introduced to the U.S. in 1916, primarily for use as a forage crop for livestock. It was later introduced to Florida in 1928 as a forage crop for livestock. It is now a major pest in many areas of the state, particularly in the southern and central regions. It is a highly competitive species that can outcompete native plants and animals. It is also a major pest of agriculture, particularly in the southern and central regions. It is a highly competitive species that can outcompete native plants and animals. It is also a major pest of agriculture, particularly in the southern and central regions.



Cogongrass invades:

- open fields
- pastures
- forests
- woodlands
- barren areas



## Control

What to do to help prevent cogongrass from breaking your back:

- Use mulch to suppress weeds and prevent seed dispersal.
- Use herbicides to control cogongrass in pastures and fields.
- Use mechanical control to remove cogongrass from forests and woodlands.
- Use biological control to manage cogongrass populations.
- Use fire to control cogongrass in forests and woodlands.

What to do if you think cogongrass is on your land:

- Identify the cogongrass and report it to the Georgia Forestry Commission.
- Use herbicides to control cogongrass in pastures and fields.
- Use mechanical control to remove cogongrass from forests and woodlands.
- Use biological control to manage cogongrass populations.
- Use fire to control cogongrass in forests and woodlands.



Prepared by Clark Owen, David Woodruff, Clark Bargman and Kirk Owen, The University of Georgia - Savannah, February 2008 for the Georgia Forestry Commission in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, USDA APIS PPG, Georgia Dept. of Agriculture, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources and the Georgia Exotic Plant Plant Council. All images from www.cogongrass.org.

# GEORGIA'S COGONGRASS TASK FORCE INITIATIVE

[www.cogongrass.org](http://www.cogongrass.org)

## Problem

With only 23 known infestations, cogongrass, *Imperata cylindrica*, is an emerging invasive species in Georgia. To facilitate cooperation in all areas of management, both of cogongrass and other invasive species, state and federal agencies, university personnel and GFWC members have combined to form the Georgia Invasive Species Task Force.

The task force has adopted a three-fold approach to managing cogongrass in Georgia:

- 1) management of known infestations,
- 2) discovery of any existing but unknown infestations, and
- 3) searching for new infestations.

Cogongrass spread in Georgia

Year 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Number of infestations

## Action

Workshops, educational materials and press releases are all being used to inform and educate the public on this new threat. To prepare for the inevitable increase in new infestations, the Georgia Invasive Species Task Force is developing protocols for handling new finds, building a best-practice seedbank program, and training agency and university personnel on identification, management and control of cogongrass.

- Many pine stands were infested by cogongrass in 2008.
- Mowing is the primary method of controlling cogongrass.
- Infestations are commonly seen along roadsides and forest edges.
- Herbicides from construction sites used in construction.
- Spread is common during roadside maintenance.
- Herbicides are often stored at equipment sites to allow identification and control opportunities with being lost throughout the state.
- USDA APIS and GFWC personnel are leading active investigations.

Prepared by David Woodruff, Seth Owen, Clark Bargman and Clark Owen, Savannah, February 2008. In cooperation with the Georgia Forestry Commission, USDA Forest Service, USDA APIS PPG, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Exotic Plant Plant Council. All images from www.cogongrass.org.





Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner - James R. Karels, Director

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## Beware of Cogon Grass

Cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) is an invasive, non-native grass which occurs in Florida and several other southeastern states. A pest in 73 countries, and considered to be one of the "Top 10 Worst Weeds in the World", cogon grass affects pine productivity and survival, wildlife habitat, recreation, native plants, fire behavior, site management costs and more.

[Cogon grass Treatment Pilot Cost-Share Program](#): Sign up period ended September 1, 2009.

[Cogongrass- Why Should I Care?](#) (pdf)

[Cogongrass: One Scary Weed](#) (pdf, article first appeared in Florida Forests Magazine)

[Invasive Grass Gobbles Up Acreage In Florida](#) (cogon grass article- DACS)

[Invasive Species Identification and Control Guides](#)

## Identifying Cogon Grass

### How to Recognize Cogon Grass



# Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica* (L.) Beauv.)

**Plant:** Dense, circular patches

- Up to 6 ft. tall (avg. 3–4 ft.)
- No apparent stem
- Overlapping sheath looks rounded

**Flower:** Late March–Mid June

- White, fluffy, cylindrical
- Length 2–8 in.



To report an infestation or for more information, please contact your local South Carolina Forestry Commission Office or Clemson Extension Office.

## I-10 Corridor Billboard in Florida

**Cogongrass – bad stuff!**



**Get Help – call your County Forester**  
[www.fl-dof.com](http://www.fl-dof.com)



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES  
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner



## Cogongrass – Why Should I Care?

Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) is recognized as one of the world's worst weeds. This non-native grass is widely distributed in Florida and the Southeastern U.S. It is a **serious threat** to public and private forests, agricultural lands, and natural areas.

### Highly Aggressive

Cogongrass is **aggressive and invasive**. It spreads by means of airborne seeds and very efficient underground rhizomes. It takes advantage of sites disturbed in agricultural, silvicultural, logging and construction activities. It is a master at "relocating" via contaminated logging, forestry, and road construction/maintenance equipment. Once established, cogongrass is **extremely difficult to control**. Eradication may require 3-5 years of diligent and costly herbicide treatments.

### If You Have Cogongrass

- It will spread and your situation will worsen
- It will decrease native plant biodiversity and wildlife habitat quality
- It will increase your fire hazard and associated damages
- It will impact your neighbors' property
- It will make pine regeneration nearly impossible
- It will decrease your land management options
- The longer you delay treatment, the more expensive treatment will be
- It will lower the value of your real estate
- It is not palatable as a livestock forage



Cogongrass fire

Cogongrass is recognized as a state and federal noxious weed, and is regulated. It is illegal to sell hay or sod from cogongrass-infested fields. Human movement of the grass in any fashion is illegal. Additional information and photos at [http://www.fl-dof.com/forest\\_management/fl\\_invasives/cogon.html](http://www.fl-dof.com/forest_management/fl_invasives/cogon.html). For treatment see [http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/parks/cogon\\_grass.html](http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/parks/cogon_grass.html). For assistance visit <http://floridainvasives.org> or contact your local County Forester or Extension Agent.



Rhizomes



Leaf blade



Seed head



Roadside infestation

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES  
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner

DIVISION OF FORESTRY  
James R. Karels, Director

DACS-P-01596 Rev. 03/09



FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE SERIES

## TIMELY INFORMATION

Agriculture & Natural Resources

### COGONGRASS: FLOWERING AND SPRING CONTROL OPTIONS

#### What is the issue?

Cogongrass, one of the most significant invasive weeds in Alabama, will soon be flowering. This is important for two reasons. First, cogongrass is most noticeable when in bloom due to the fluffy white flowers and seed heads. With as many as 200 flower heads per square meter in a dense infestation, it can put on quite a display and is easy to spot - especially along roads, forest edges and in pastures. Second, to prevent seed production and dispersal, cogongrass should be treated after green-up but before flowering is completed.

#### What does cogongrass look like in the spring just before and during green-up?

Undisturbed patches have dense, dead swards of brown to tan colored leaves, with some still upright and others fallen over. The leaf width (up to 1 inch) and length (typically from 2-4 feet) combined with the stemless appearance and distinctive tan color make it stand out among other dormant grasses. Upon green-up, newly emerging green leaves will be mixed in with the dead leaves. The offset whitish midvein characteristic of mature leaves may not be as readily apparent in the young leaves, but the leaf margins are finely serrated. Additionally, dense patches of new growth are often lime green in color. If you are unsure, dig up the roots to check for the presence of the stiff, sharp-pointed rhizomes. An excellent identification guide with many pictures created by the Bugwood Network and USDA Forest Service is available online at: <http://www.cogongrass.org/cogongrassid.pdf>. The pdf file is 1.85 megabytes.

#### What do the flowers look like and how long do they last?

Cogongrass flower heads are cylindrical in shape, from two to eight inches long and 0.5 to 1 inch wide. The flower head is made up of several hundred tiny florets, each with the potential to produce a seed. When first opened, the flower is light-purple or tan in color but within a week or two becomes bright white and fluffy. This is because, similar to dandelion seeds, cogongrass seeds are equipped with silky white hairs that aid in wind dispersal. When mature, the seeds are easily blown from the stalk. From start to finish, the period of flowering to seed production generally lasts from 4-6 weeks. Bloom time varies in the state with southern populations blooming as early as February or March and northern populations blooming as late as June. Plants will occasionally bloom at other times of the year as well, after mowing, fire, herbicide applications, or other disturbances.

#### Can you tell me more about viable seed production?

Seed production is variable and dependent on cross pollination with other clones. In south Alabama where cogongrass is well established, seed production was found to be relatively high at some sites (up to 37% of florets produced seed) but low at others (zero to 1-2% of the florets produced seed). Further north, where infestations are more scattered, seed viability was consistently low (zero or <1-2%). Because cogongrass seed germination tends to be very high

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