

Beach Vitex



Control Efforts

City of Gulf Shores Current Efforts to Control Beach Vitex

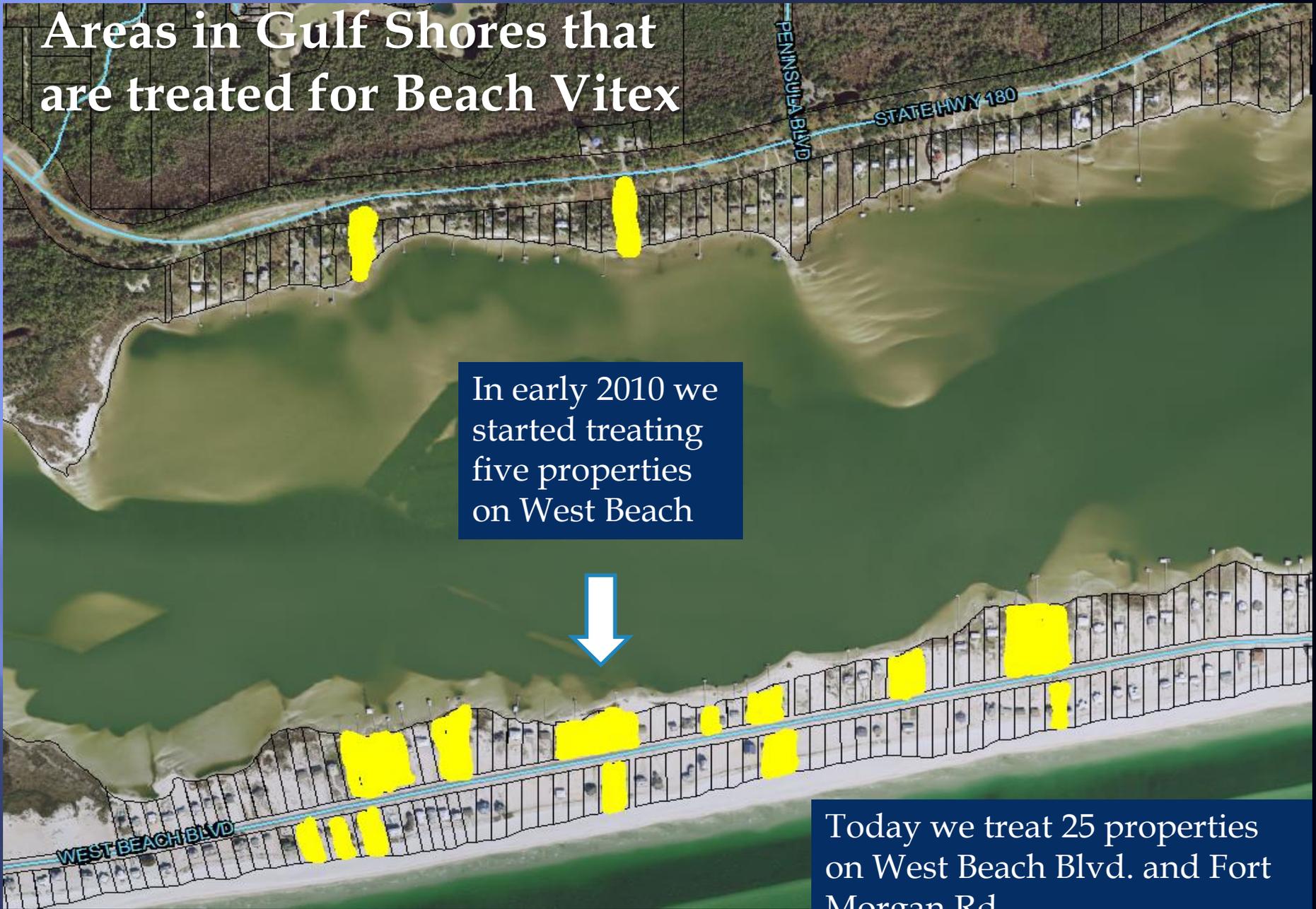
➤ *We should also know when and where it came from*

➤ *We should also know what we can do in the future to control Beach Vitex*

Beach Vitex *Vitex rotundifolia*



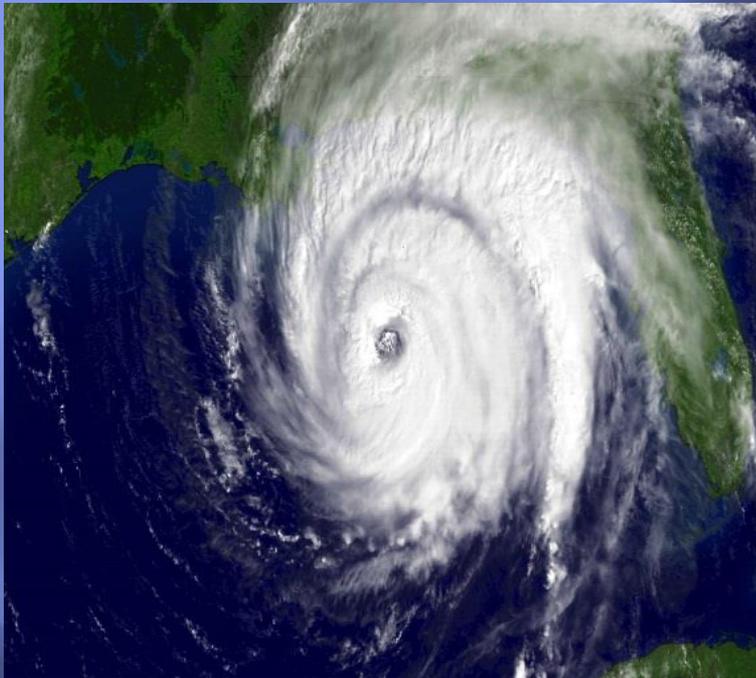
Areas in Gulf Shores that are treated for Beach Vitex



In early 2010 we started treating five properties on West Beach

Today we treat 25 properties on West Beach Blvd. and Fort Morgan Rd.

Beach Vitex : Welcome to Gulf Shores



Hurricane Ivan

- Sometime shortly after Sept. 16, 2004 Beach Vitex arrived in Gulf Shores.
- A local businessman began to give his friends and neighbors a plant that would be great for dune erosion.

Why is Beach Vitex a Threat

- **Spreads Aggressively**
- **Dense Mats of Vines Interfere with Native Birds and Sea Turtle Nesting**
- **Overtakes Native Dune Plant Species**

Herbicides That Work & How We Apply Them

Trade Name of Herbicide

Three Way

Triple Threat

Sahara

MEC Amine-D

Main Active

Ingredient in all
Herbicides Used

2, 4 - D



Applying herbicide only once can have little effect. The picture to the left is Beach Vitex sprayed only once. To kill green foliage, spray applications may have to be applied two or three times to see results. The City's spray program consists of a three week rotation of inspecting and spraying any new growth.

How Beach Vitex Reacts to Herbicide



The area where this foliage came from was thought to be clear after spraying.

You can see on this foliage where it is brown where herbicide spraying has killed the foliage to below ground.

New growth has emerged to show that the even though through to be dead, it was not.



Second Spraying

This particular vine has been treated for six months with herbicide from this point



From this point forward the vine is partially alive.



Here we have a new runner starting a completely new vine and new foliage that has come to the surface.



This is not the end of the vine. It continues on for around twenty more feet.



Beach Vitex Experiment

These cuttings were taken from an area that had been sprayed two times previously. They were planted in this pot and left alone the growth you can see returned within one month.



How Beach Vitex Spreads

- Beach Vitex produces a large amount of seeds.
- Most properties the City treats are on the water either on the Gulf side or the Lagoon side.
- Beach Vitex is very aggressive and can spread from one property to another under ground without being noticed.
- We have not observed any birds or animals feeding on Beach Vitex.



How Large an Area can Beach Vitex Cover

- So far the largest area we have found is around 10,000 sq. ft.
- Compared to the other states with Beach Vitex, we are very fortunate not to have a more widespread area.



Digging to Remove Beach Vitex



- Digging can be a way to remove a large area of Beach Vitex, but as you can see any piece of root left behind will start new growth.
- Removal of large areas of foliage can make it easier to spray.
- BUT digging can spread Beach Vitex even more if not done properly

Future Measures for Controlling Beach Vitex

- Continuing to inspect and spray all locations with Beach Vitex City wide.
- Continuing to inspect city right-of-ways for any sign of Beach Vitex.
- Encourage property owners with Beach Vitex to let us eradicate the plant.
- Educate the public so they can spot Beach Vitex on their property and report it.

*A signed right
of entry
agreement is
the only way
the City can go
onto private
property to do
any type of
work*



SMALL TOWN, BIG BEACH

Right of Entry Agreement

I/We _____, the owner(s) of the property

Commonly identified as _____
(Street Address)

In the City of Gulf Shores, Alabama, does/do hereby grant and confer the right of access and entry to said property to the City of Gulf Shores, its officials, employees, agents, contractors, and subcontractors for the purpose of spraying areas where Beach Vitex growth is evident.

The undersigned hereby releases and agrees to indemnify and hold the City of Gulf Shores, its officials, employees, agents, contractors, and subcontractors, harmless from any and all liability for property damages or personal injury occurring directly or indirectly as a result of any entry on said property for the purpose stated above.

Date: _____

Witness

Owner

Owner

Telephone Number

Address

Education

Beach Vitex page on the City Web Site

Provide information on Beach Vitex at all City sponsored Programs and Events

Arbor Day

Earth Day

One of the best ways to educate the public is through the youth within the city

Gulf Shores High School

Gulf Shores Middle School

Gulf Shores Ele. School

Gulf Shores High School Hort. Career Academy
Gulf Shores Middle School Hort. Pre-Career Academy
Both Sponsored by the City of Gulf Shores Horticulture Division

Who Can I Contact

City of Gulf Shores



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Gulf Shores Next Invasive Species Cogongrass

08/05/2013

