

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

## **SC EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL ANNOUNCES SECOND ANNUAL SMALL BLOCK GRANTS FOR CONTROLLING INVASIVE SPECIES**

The Community Grants Program (CGP) is a competitive small block grant program designed to offer financial assistance to individuals or organizations restoring sites degraded by non-native invasive plants in South Carolina.

Each year the Council offers two \$1000 grants to be used for purchasing equipment and materials needed to control invasive plants. Both public and private applicants will be considered, and the funds can be applied to work conducted on public and private lands. The grant is for SC residents or students attending school or conducting research in South Carolina. The grant funds must be used in the year of their receipt.

Priority will be given to applicants that involve species on the SC-EPPC invasive plant list, include monitoring activities, education, and community awareness and involvement.

Recipient(s) of the CGP are required to present a summary of the restoration activities at the annual SC-EPPC conference (held every September) during the year the grant is awarded. The recipients are also encouraged to write a brief summary article for either Wildland Weeds or the South Carolina Landscape and Nurseryman Association Magazine. The intention of this requirement is to increase public awareness of non-native invasive plant threats and the restoration activities to mitigate them in the state of South Carolina.

The Community Grant Program application form can be found on the South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council website (<http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/>).

The South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council will review all grant proposals. Award letters will be sent via email by February 28, 2015.

The mission of the South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council is to support the management of invasive exotic plants in South Carolina's natural areas by providing a forum for the exchange of scientific, educational and technical information. The South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council is a non-profit organization and is not a regulatory agency.

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