

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

SC EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL ANNOUNCES SMALL BLOCK GRANTS FOR CONTROLLING INVASIVE SPECIES

The South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council (SCEPPC) announces the launch of its Community Grants Program, which provides small block grants to assist SC residents with controlling non-native invasive plants. The purpose of this grant is to provide funding assistance to individuals or organizations that are looking to restore sites degraded by non-native invasive plants. These grants are open to the public and can be applied to restoration work on public and private lands.

The Community Grant Program (CGP) includes funding for the purchase of equipment, supplies, and herbicides. Each year, two projects will be funded up to \$500. SC-EPPC will also consider a single large-scale project (up to \$1000). Grant funds are to be used within one year of receipt.

Recipient(s) of the CGP will be 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. In addition to the presentation, The SCEPPC requires the grant recipient to write a brief summary article of their project for either "Wildland Weeds" or the South Carolina Landscape and Nurseryman Association magazine, "Nurseryman." The SCEPPC also encourages recipients to send their article to local news media for coverage. The intention of this requirement is to increase public awareness of non-native invasive plant threats and the restoration activities citizens are conducting to control 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. Applications must be received by February 15th, 2014. Award letters will be sent via email by February 28, 2014.

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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