

Using Volunteers To Find Cogongrass In South Carolina

Southeastern Exotic Pest Plant Council Annual Meeting

Georgetown, SC

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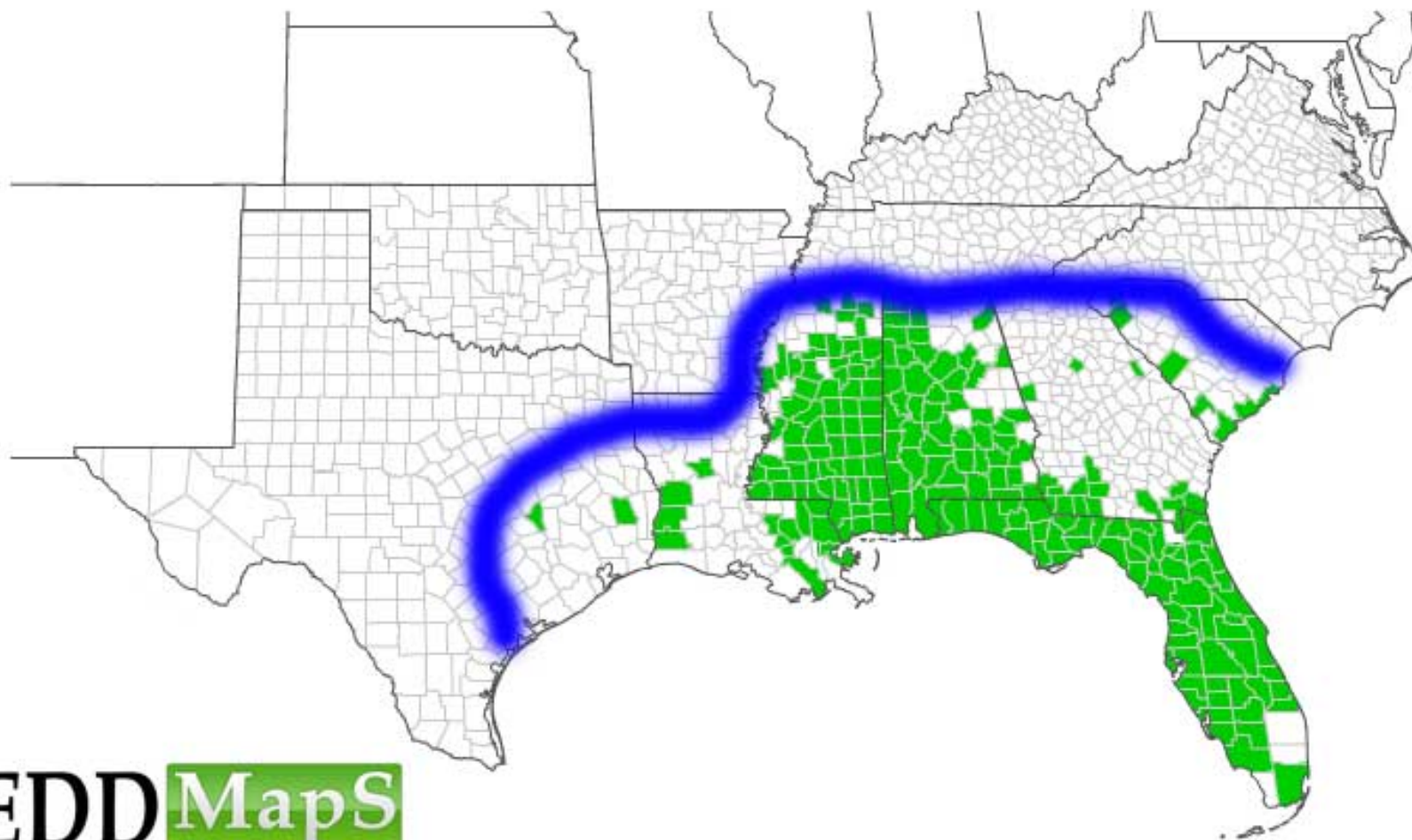
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UGA1624012



EDD MapS
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System

Using Volunteers to Find Cogongrass in South Carolina

Our Plans

Place as many eyes on the ground in the areas of greatest risk when we have the best time to find the plant and work to eradicate the plant from all known locations in the survey area.

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Using Volunteers to Find Cogongrass in South Carolina

- Eyes
 - State and Federal Groups
 - Conservation Groups
 - Public Corporations

Using Volunteers to Find Cogongrass in South Carolina

- Eyes
 - Conservation Groups
 - “Master” Program Graduates
 - Gardener, Naturalist, Tree Farmer, Wildlifer
 - Landowners
 - Public Corporations
 - General Public

Cogongrass Survey

PROBLEM AREAS AND HIGH RISK PLACES

- Highway and railway rights-of-ways leading from GA.
- Power line rights-of-ways.
- Stores (Box, Feed & Seed, Pet) and Garden Centers.
- Farms, especially no-till areas, cattle and horse farms.
- Recent logging operations.
- Equipment storage areas and wood yards.
- Recreation areas – parks, campgrounds, boat landings.
- Deer processing facilities.
- Hunt clubs, woods roads, food plots, wildlife mgt. areas.

Cogongrass Survey-2008

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Cogongrass Survey-2009

PROBLEM AREAS AND HIGH RISK PLACES

- Major truck highways and truck service facilities
- Areas within ten miles of reported cogongrass areas
- Power Line and Railroad ROW's
- Stores (Box, Feed & Seed, Pet) and Garden Centers.
- Farms, especially no-till areas, cattle and horse farms.
- Recent logging operations.
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Cogongrass Survey

- **2008 Dates**

- May 15,16,17,18, 2008
- Selected to be during flowering
- Includes weekday and weekend dates to appeal to as wide an audience as possible

- **2009 Dates**

- May 7,8,9, 2009

People were able to survey on other days also.



UGA1237049



Using Volunteers to Find Cogongrass in South Carolina

Pre Survey Activities

- Survey Plans
 - Determine survey areas
 - State Level
 - County Level
 - Develop Incident Command Structure
 - Identify survey support materials

Cogongrass Survey

The Survey Area

2008 - 26 Counties closest to Georgia

2009 – All 46 Counties

Cogongrass Survey

Incident Command Structure

- State Coordinators (at least 2)
- Area Site Coordinators (4)
- Area Assignment Coordinators (4)
- County Assignment Coordinators (52)
- Surveyors (400+)
- Area Identifiers (16-40)

Using Volunteers to Find Cogongrass in South Carolina

Pre Survey Activities

- Website Development
- Publicity
- Promotional materials
- Recruiting

Cogongrass Survey

- We need

The image features the word 'YOU' written twice in a stylized, 3D font. The first 'YOU' is larger and filled with a yellow cross-hatch pattern, with a grey drop shadow. The second 'YOU' is smaller, positioned above and to the left of the first, and is filled with a purple-to-pink gradient, also with a grey drop shadow.

We need you helping us to recruit
people to work on the survey

Using Volunteers to Find Cogongrass in South Carolina

Pre Survey Activities

- Name tags/Contact Information
- Survey techniques
- Registering as a surveyor
- Training
 - Satellite training
 - Local area training
 - Web based learning





Cogongrass Survey

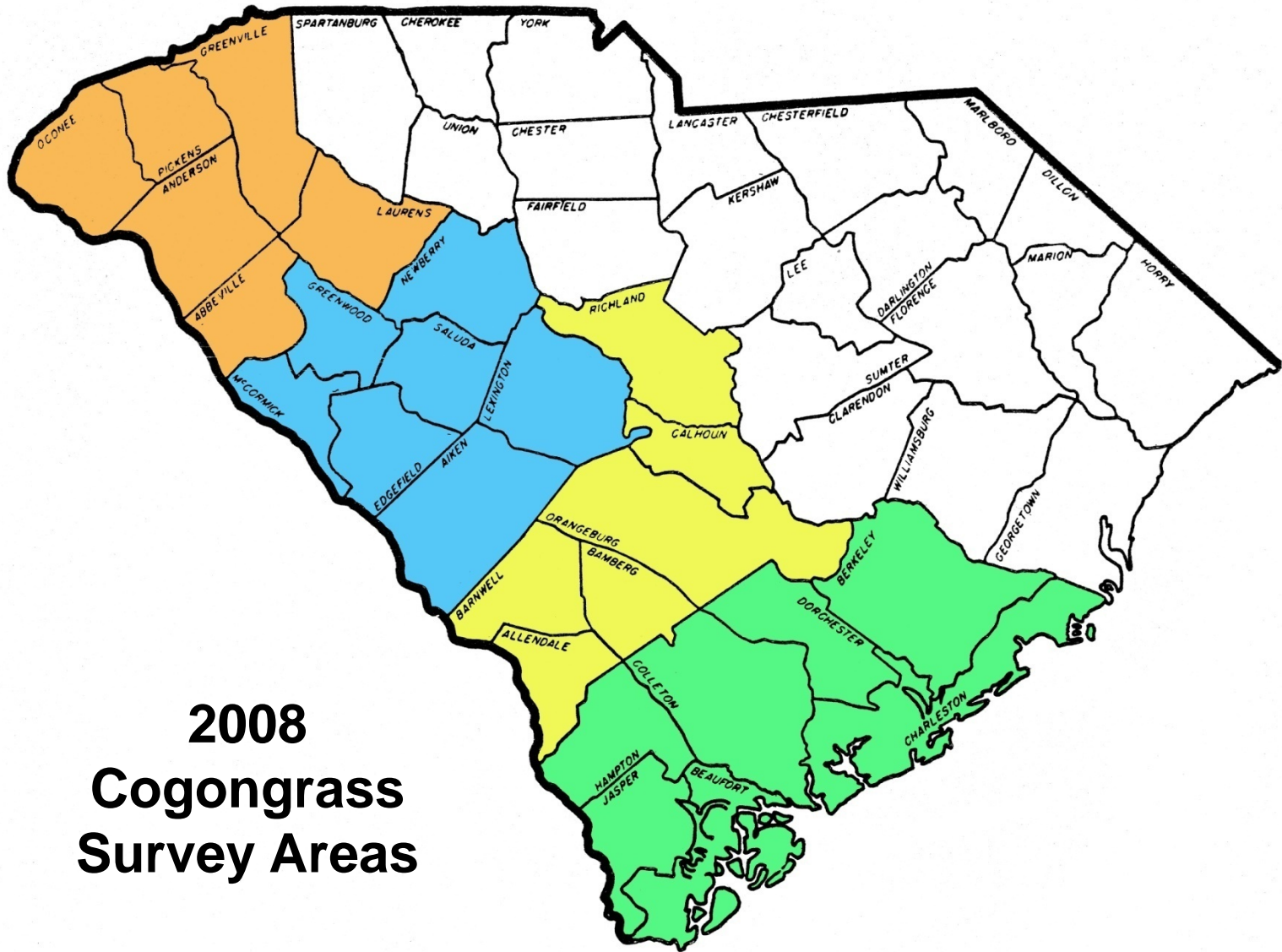
Survey Participants

- State Coordinators (at least 2)
- Area Site Coordinators (4)
- Area Assignment Coordinators (4)
- County Assignment Coordinators (52)
- Surveyors (400+)
- Area Identifiers (16-40)

Cogongrass Survey

Survey Participants	Actual
• State Coordinators (at least 2)	4
• Area Site Coordinators (4)	4
• Area Assignment Coordinators (4)	4
• County Assignment Coordinators (52)	52
• Surveyors (400+)	200
• Area Identifiers (16-40)	30

**2008
Cogongrass
Survey Areas**



Cogongrass Survey

We Surveyed For:

- Cogongrass
- Giant Sylvania
- Tropical Soda Apple

Cogongrass Survey

Incident Command Structure-2009

- State Coordinators (at least 2)
- Area Coordinators (5+5)
- County Coordinators (46)
- Surveyors (100+)
- Area Identifiers (10)

Cogongrass Survey

STATE COORDINATORS

- Planning and Coordination
- Recruit Participants
- Educational Materials
- Survey Materials
- Logistics and Support
- Publicity
- Communication with area coordinators

Cogongrass Survey

AREA COORDINATORS

- Arrange for facilities.
- Coordinate resources.
- Work with county coordinators in selecting survey areas.
- Handle communications.

Cogongrass Survey

AREA COORDINATORS

- Assign surveyors to work areas and provide directions to the work area.
- Handle communications from surveyors.
- Coordinate identifiers.
- Provide general area report.

Cogongrass Survey

COUNTY COORDINATORS

- Work as a county team.
- Arrange for a county work area.
- Arrange for education programs.
- Identify survey areas.
- Provide a map of each survey area.

Cogongrass Survey

COUNTY COORDINATORS

- Form surveyors into two person teams.
- Assign each team a survey area.
- Provide surveyors with map of their area and survey materials
- Compile survey reports.

Cogongrass Survey

SURVEYORS

- Work in teams of two.
- County Coordinators form teams.
- Take an assigned area and follow survey procedures.

Cogongrass Survey

SURVEYORS

- Report suspected materials to the area coordinator by cell phone. Report includes species, GPS coordinates when possible, general description of area.
- Mark location with colored flagging, making certain location can be seen from the road.
- Plant materials are not sampled.

Cogongrass Survey

SURVEYORS

- Surveyors will be appropriately attired with proper sturdy shoes or boots and clothing for rustic outdoor activities.
- A cell phone is desirable.
- A GPS unit is desirable.

Cogongrass Survey

AREA IDENTIFIERS

- Able to identify Cogongrass, Giant Sylvania, and Tropical Soda Apple.
- Receive assignments from Area Coordinator.
- Confirm identification.
- Establish exact location. Make certain it is well marked.
- Remove markers if not plant of interest.

Cogongrass Survey

AREA IDENTIFIERS

- Collect sample of plant.
- Report results to Area Coordinator.
- Receive additional locations to check.

J. T. Cogon signs up for the survey

1. JT fills out the web form to participate in the survey,
2. Weekly, an Excel work sheet of signees is sent to Area Coordinators.
3. Area Coordinator contacts JT, thanks him for his interest and informs him of training opportunities.
4. Prior to the survey JT is assigned a county work area.
5. County coordinator provides details to JT for their county.
6. JT attends a training session.
7. JT reports to his work area on the days he agreed to work.
8. JT is paired with a another surveyor.

J. T. Cogon signs up for the survey

9. County coordinator provides team with work area and map.
10. During the survey, team finds a cogongrass suspect, determines the location, and marks the area.
11. JT calls the Area Coordinator and reports the location.
12. Area Coordinator passes on information to an Identifier Team and requests they visit the site.
13. Identifier Team determines the suspect is cogongrass.
14. Identifier Team notifies Area Coordinator.
15. JT and team finish their area and turn in completed survey forms to County Coordinator showing all areas surveyed and results for each area.
16. County Coordinator collects mileage reimbursement form and sends them to SCEPPC.

J. T. Cogon signs up for the survey

17. County Coordinator collects survey forms from each team and compiles county report and sends it to the Area Coordinator.
18. Area Coordinator compiles all county reports and sends them to State Coordinator.
19. State Coordinator arranges for all identified areas to be visited by DPI crews and when necessary treat the site.
20. DPI compiles all reports into a data base.
21. JT receives a mileage reimbursement check from SCEPPC.
22. JT receives a thank you note from State Coordinator Team and a request to continue to be on the lookout and to report any suspects via the cogongrass web site.
23. JT receives a report on the results of the survey.

Cogongrass Survey Results 2008

Survey Area	Hours	Miles
Region # 1:	352.8	4,447
Region # 2:	236.8	4,985
Region # 3:	206.0	1,511
Region # 4:	243.9	2,325
Other	21.0	319
Total Reported	1060.5	13,587

40% Reporting

Cogongrass Survey Results 2008

Ten new cogongrass locations

Williamsburg County	1
Greenville County	1
Pickens County	3
Hampton County	5







Cogongrass Survey Results 2008

What Have We Learned

Cogongrass is difficult to identify for almost everyone.

Volunteers are an effective work force when properly prepared.

Survey activities must be during the flower stage of growth.

Cogongrass Survey Results 2008

What Have We Learned

News articles need to engage the public.

Planning needs a long timeline.

Everyone who volunteers must be engaged.

All agency volunteers need to keep their supervisors apprised of their activity.

Cogongrass Survey Results 2008

What Have We Learned

Landowners were an under utilized group.

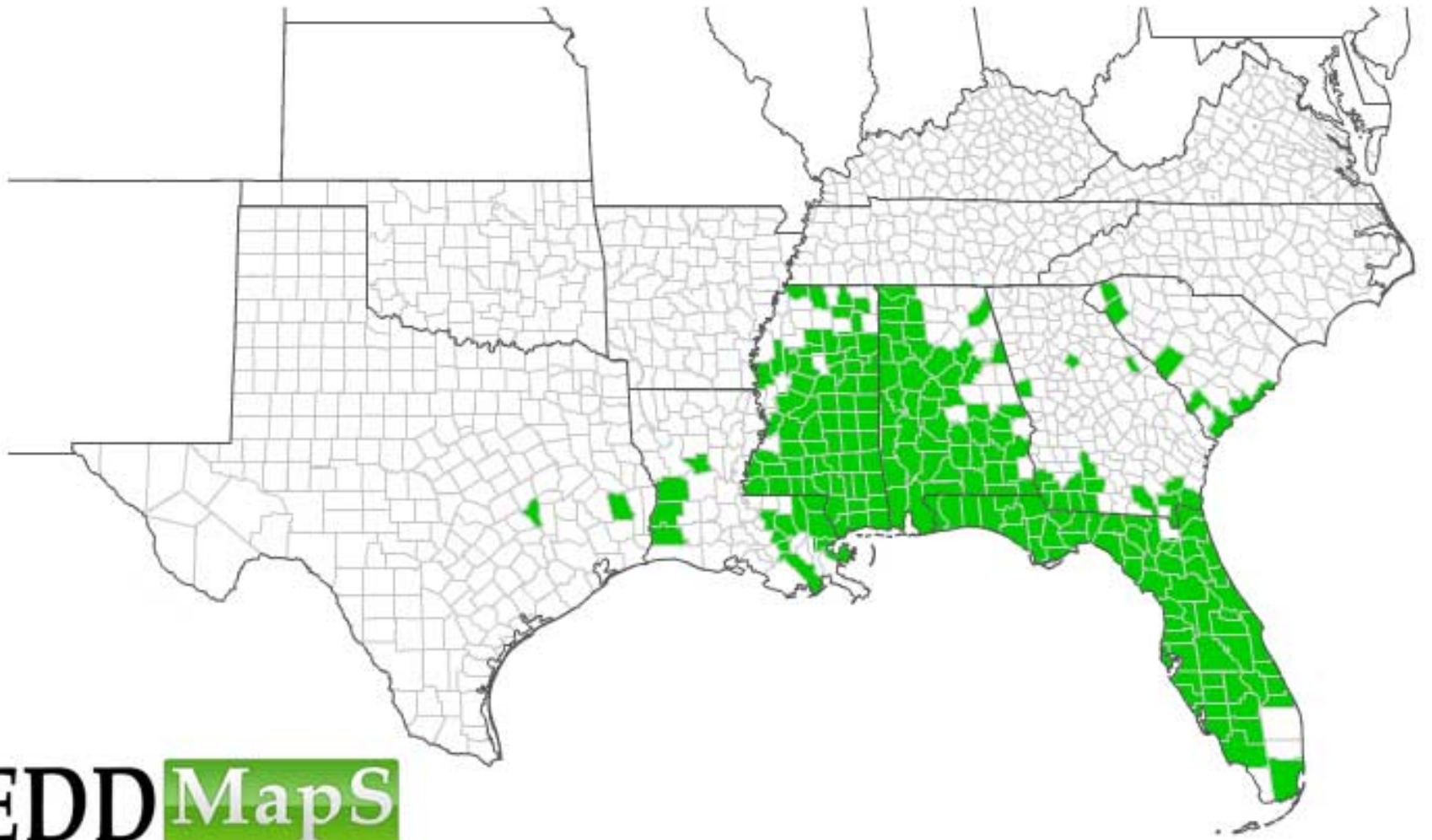
Cogongrass Survey Results 2008

Concerns

- **Hunters**
- **Getting all players on the same page**
- **Engaging owners in treatment**
- **Increase use of the web site**
- **Truck and Equipment Movement**

Cogongrass Survey 2009

<http://www.clemson.edu/for/cogongrass>



EDD **MapS**
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System

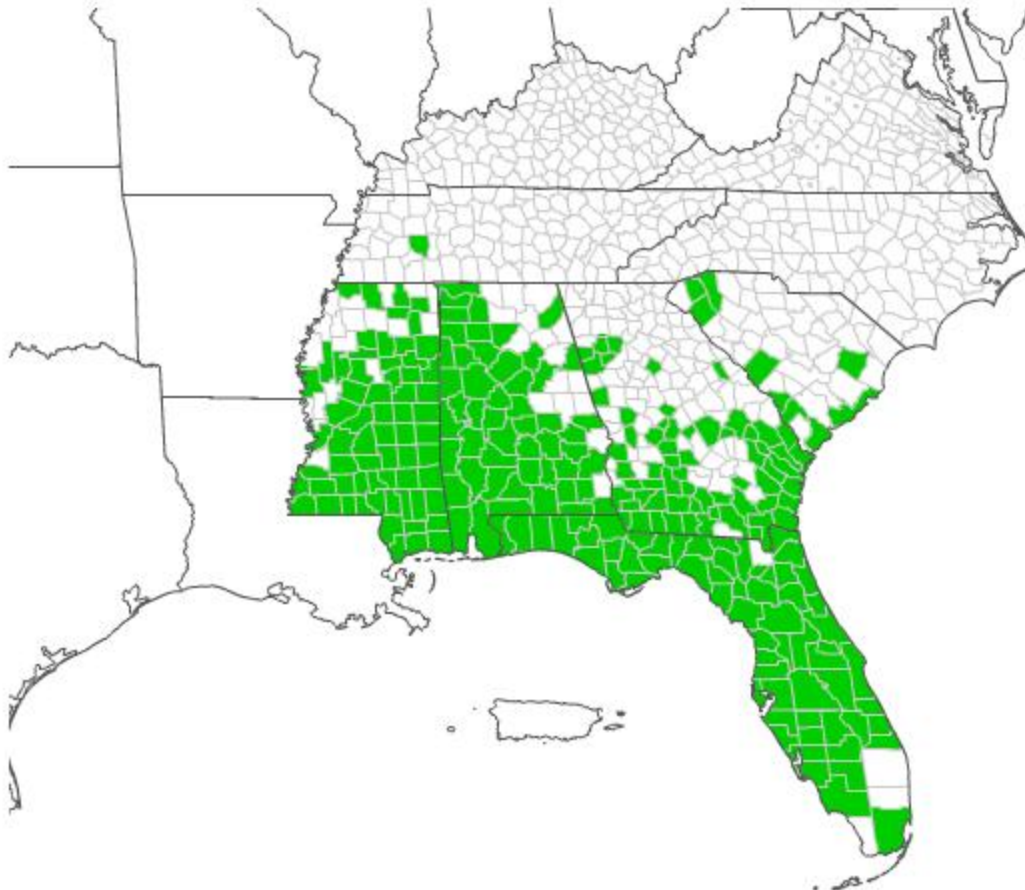
cogongrass

Imperata cylindrica (L.) Beauv.

USDA PLANTS Database Symbol: IMCY
Invasive.org Images & Information

Distribution Maps: State / County / Points on Google Maps

County Distribution by State:



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