A cast net or a sieve?

GULF SOUTH INVASIVES
NURSERIES AND ARBORETA

First line of defense or last trench of denial?

- We are the first to notice invasive potential of “new” plants as we are the first to trial under ideal conditions for reproduction.
- Our nursery is 82 years old and perimeter portions are a textbook for the cultural invasive vs. the rogue invasive.
Colocasia esculenta

- Colocasia esculenta var. aquatilis
- Availability survey. Minimum of seven nurseries in FL sell various C. esculenta cultivars.
- The genus is a mess. Some are clumpers, similar to caladiums, others move within watersheds via shallow root sections washing downstream.
Cortaderia selloana

- Minimum of eleven nurseries in FL
- Germination level in culture very high and most are produced by seed.
- Possibly needs full sun and little competition to germinate? Perhaps disruption mimicking fire?
- California escape mimics FL and Northern Gulf Coast.
Callicarpa species

- Callicarpa mexicana
- Callicarpa japonica and other Asian species.
  + More ornamental attributes than the native.
  + Have seen spontaneous seedlings in nursery setting but few in the garden.
  + Does it really matter?
Callicarpa dichotoma 'Issai'
Callicarpa japonica ‘Heavy Berry’
Mahonia (Berberis) species

- Fruitful cultivars zone 6-7
- Surprisingly few spontaneous seedlings in zone 8-9.
- Nearly a Berberis so may behave the same.
Mahonia (Berberis) eurybracteata ‘Soft Caress’
Mahonia (Berberis) gracilipes
Nandina domestica

- 12 sources in the Southeast for the straight species, including one source selling 20# bags of seed!
- Some cultivars have a paucity of seed but still too many.
- Breeding for sterility which would reduce them to foliage interest. These are now grown via tissue culture.
Nandina domestica ‘Lemon Lime’
Cinnamomum camphororum

- Favorable food source of many birds.
- Densely evergreen canopy.
- Not hardy north of coastal plain.
- No instance found of commercial production.
- Other ornamental species being trialed in NC.
Cinnamomum camphora
Ligustrum species

- All tainted by just 2-3 species.
- Ligustrum japonicum. No more invasive than Camellia sasanqua or Lagerstroemia hybrids.
- Still two sources in South for L. sinense (both in FL.)
- No indication of L. lucidum under culture.
Vitex rotundifolia

- One online source.
- A menace in Coastal areas but no known natural germination inland?
- Has been used occasionally as a trained “vine.”
Vitex agnus-castus var. latifolia

- Often listed as invasive, it is not.
- Cultivars, ‘Colonial Blue’ and ‘Shoal Creek’ are effectively sterile.
Vitex agnus-castus var. latifolia
**SOME SCARY POSSIBILITIES**

- Magnolia-evergreen Asian species.
  - Dozens being introduced to Southeast.
- Globba schomburgkii
- Aleurites fordii
- Phoebe species (Lauraceae along with Litsea)
Globba winitii "Dancing Ladies" Ginger
Globba schomburgkii
Aleurites fordii “Tung oil tree”
Phoebe formosana

Seedlings - up to 22 per square meter.
THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY