Mark Your Calendar

- 35th Natural Areas Conference, “Tuning In to a Changing Climate and Biological Invasion,” in partnership with the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC), Nashville, TN. October 14 - 17, 2008, www.naturalarea.org
- Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and Southern Weed Science Society joint annual meeting, Orlando, FL. February 9-12, 2009. www.wssa.net
- Association of Southeastern Biologists, Birmingham, AL. April 1-4, 2009. www.ash.appstate.edu

Web Sites

The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods website has great resources, including a plant selector. If you are a developer or landscaping professional, get the facts about Florida-friendly landscaping and learn how others are responding to consumer demand for low-impact yards. Homeowners and others can use the Florida-friendly Plant Database to find Florida plants for their landscape and garden, including native plants that require little irrigation or fertilizer, are low maintenance and attract wildlife. Check it out and share it with others. http://www.floridayards.org/

Maps of occupation and tabular coverage estimates are accessible for 33 recognized nonnative plants invading forests of the 13 southern states using the U.S. Forest Service’s Southern Research Station Forest Inventory and Analysis (SRS FIA) data. James H. Miller, Research Invasive Ecologist and Erwin B. Chambliss, Research Associate, USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station, Auburn, Alabama. http://www.invasive.org/fiamaps/

Publications

“Exotic plant species of Cumberland Island, Georgia,” by T. Hunt and K. Langeland (2008). Natural Areas Journal 28(3):299-306. “Of sixty-six exotic plant species identified, twenty-three are recognized as invasive or potentially invasive by either the Georgia or Florida Exotic Pest Plant Councils (GAEPPC, FLEPPC), and 11 species occurred in natural areas of Cumberland Island National Seashore.”

“Nonnative species and bioenergy: are we cultivating the next invader?” by J.N. Barney and J.M. DiTomaso (2008). BioScience 58(1):64-70 (doi: 10.1641/B5801111) “We used a weed risk-assessment protocol, which categorizes the risk of becoming invasive on the basis of biogeography, history, biology, and ecology; to qualify the potential invasiveness of three leading biofuel candidate crops—switchgrass, giant reed, and miscanthus (a sterile hybrid)—under various assumptions.”

“Biofuel Crops and Non-native species: mitigating the risk of invasion,” Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP). “... promoting the cultivation of some popular species for biofuel production will increase two of the major causes of biodiversity loss on the planet: clearing and conversion of yet more natural areas for monocultures, and invasion by non-native species.” http://www.gisp.org


“... provides an overview of the invasion process from transportation patterns and causes of establishment success to ecological impacts, invader management, and post-invasion evolution.” 312 pp. ISBN: 9781405114189.


“Can Weeds Help Solve the Climate Crisis?” by Tom Christopher, New York Times, June 29, 2008. “Not only did the weeds grow much larger in hotter, CO2-enriched plots — a weed called lambs-quarters, or Chenopodium album, grew to an impressive 6 to 8 feet on the farm but to a frightening 10 to 12 feet in the city — but the urban, futuristic weeds also produced more pollen.” An in-depth review of weeds and global warming research.

“Northeast Florida home gardeners guide to invasive plants and their alterNatives,” by the Florida Native Plant Society, Inc. (2008). A full color, four-page brochure utilizing photographs to illustrate both non-native invasive plant species and multiple alternative species to use instead. Information is provided on growth habit, light and water requirements, and wildlife use. Contact the Jxna Chapter for copies at www.jaxnativeplants.org


From the other side

Weeds and Biofuels - Despite all the attention to the biofuels trend in the media lately, the capacity of plants used for biofuel to spawn weed problems is largely going unnoticed. The Invasive Species Council in Australia has been raising awareness about this issue. See a revised edition of their report, “The Weedy Truth about Biofuels” at http://www.invasives.org.au/issues/biofuels.html

Search buffelgrass invasion on YouTube for an excellent video presentation on the topic of buffelgrass (Pennisetum ciliare) in Arizona: http://www.youtube.com Many of the themes apply to all invasive species issues.
Hello Again -

Just wanted to share some really exciting news from Alaska!! We are about to kick off our Invasive Weeds Awareness Week here in Alaska. Our Anchorage Cooperative Weed Management Area is going to have its official ribbon-cutting (logo unveiling) at a Weeds Fair tomorrow night. We got great news last week that Governor Palin is coming to our Weeds Fair to sign HB330 into legislation (creating a position for a statewide weed coordinator)! Hooray! She will do the honors of the “ribbon-cutting” and read the proclamation!!

This is wonderful and hopefully will give our movement some rocket fuel up here in Alaska!! Again, Troy and I are amazed by what can be accomplished by citizens with a little energy and a lot of conviction! This has been a wild ride and we’re having a grand time!!

— Lori and Troy Zaumseil, Citizens Against Noxious Weeds Invading the North, akcanwin@aol.com

Q&A

We are a non-profit stream restoration and water quality organization that needs info to pass out to landowners about the problem of invasives and how serious they are. Some people have heard of them, but may not know what say oriental bittersweet or some other invasive looks like, so pictures would help. Thanks very much!!

— Tony, Restoration Coordinator, Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition, Murphy, North Carolina

Hi Tony,

There are several invasive species guides specific to North Carolina. A few include:

- **Invasive Plant Pocket Guide** – available from NC Cooperative Extension or at www.dfr.state.nc.us
- **Controlling Invasive Plants** – available from the NC Botanical Garden www.ncbg.unc.edu (search the site for “invasive”)
- **Going Native, Urban Landscaping for Wildlife with Native Plants** (web site) www.ncsu.edu/goingnative/
- **NC Department of Transportation** is in the process of publishing a field manual to invasive species as well, it should be available soon.

I hope this helps,
Charles Yelton, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Charles.Yelton@ncmail.net

To: FLEPPC@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU
Subject: “Green” Herbicides

We are trying to find out if there are herbicides out there that would be considered “Green” with less impact on the environment and just as effective as our standard group of herbicides. We would be using them on our conservation lands, passive parks and trails. Thanks!

Park Ranger, Seminole County Florida

Reply:

Dear Park Ranger,

Three of our products come to mind:

- **Garlon 4 Ultra**: Replaced Garlon 4 January 1, 2008. It is still a 4 lb ae/gal triclopyr ester product, but the petroleum-based (primarily kerosene) solvent system in Garlon 4 was replaced with a patented, plant-derived, methylated seed oil system in Garlon 4 Ultra...better for the applicator and better for the environment. Garlon 4 Ultra also contains less volatile organic compounds (VOCs...but the volatility of the triclopyr ester molecule remains the same and can still volatilize under high temperature conditions) and is lower odor than Garlon 4. It has the same “Caution” signalword, labeled sites, application methods, use rates, etc. as Garlon 4 but is definitely a “greener” formulation.

- **Milestone VM**: Launched in 2006, Milestone VM contains a new active ingredient, aminopyralid, a selective (safe on grasses, except St. Augustine) foliar broadleaf herbicide with moderate soil residual activity. It is broad spectrum but especially active on members of the legume, nightshade, and Composite families, with up to 6+ months of soil residual control of susceptible herbaceous broadleaf weeds (the need to apply less often can be a big advantage). It is formulated as a nonvolatile liquid amine. It is also classified as a Reduced Risk Pesticide by EPA. We have seen excellent results on key herbaceous broadleaf weeds and some important invasive species, such as tropical soda apple, rosary pea, skunkvine, Caesar’s weed, mimosa, kudzu, wdelia, and castor bean.

- **Milestone VM Plus**: Launched in 2008, this is a premix of aminopyralid (Milestone VM) and triclopyr amine (Garlon 3A) for broader spectrum broadleaf weed and woody plant control, with safety to grasses (except St. Augustine). Formulated as a nonvolatile liquid amine, it is labeled for foliar and cut stump applications. A big advantage is its “Caution” signalword (versus “Danger” for Garlon 3A). Also, no mixing is required for cut stump treatments.

All three of these products are labeled for use on the usual non-crop/natural area/industrial/rights-of-way terrestrial sites. They are not labeled for aquatic use but can be applied to non-irrigation ditches, seasonally dry wetland areas, transition areas between upland and wetland sites, etc. Please consult product labels (www.vegetationmgmt.com) for additional information and let me know if you have any questions; I think they may offer the “greener” alternative you are looking for.

Thanks,
Scott Ditmarsen, Dow AgroSciences, Tampa, FL