

FNGA urges Florida's Nursery & Landscape Industry to Phase Out 34 Invasive Plants

ORLANDO — The Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association (FNGA) is urging Florida's nursery and landscape industry professionals to phase out production, sale and use of 34 plants thought to be invasive. This is in addition to the voluntary ban on 11 other plants announced by FNGA in 1999.

FNGA and the Tampa Bay Wholesale Growers (TBWG), in cooperation with the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC), is asking Florida nursery growers, landscape professionals and garden center retailers to voluntarily stop propagating, selling, and using these species after joint talks overseen by the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services resulted in agreement the plants are becoming invasive in Florida's natural areas.

Over the years, such plants were introduced by the government for forage, erosion control, and other agricultural uses, as well as by nursery growers for their horticultural value and through accidental introduction. Widely known invasive plants are Brazilian pepper, Australian pine, carrotwood, Chinese tallow, hydrilla and melaleuca.

"FNGA is aware how destructive invasive plants are to Florida's special environment. We have chosen to be leaders in protecting these valuable resources," says FNGA President Joe Cialone, Tropical Ornamentals, Lake Worth. "We are joining with land managers and researchers to stop the spread of these plants which displace and destroy native plant communities. We will exercise leadership in this battle."

In response to the significant management challenges and expense of controlling numerous invasive species in natural habitats, public land managers in several states and

regions established Exotic Pest Plant Councils. The first was founded in Florida in 1984. FLEPPC's member-

ship numbers more than 300 public and private land managers, university faculty, citizens, and businesses. FNGA represents more than 2,200 of Florida's leading nursery growers, landscape professionals, garden center retailers and allied suppliers. TBWG represents 86 Hillsborough County-based grower members.

FLEPPC Chair

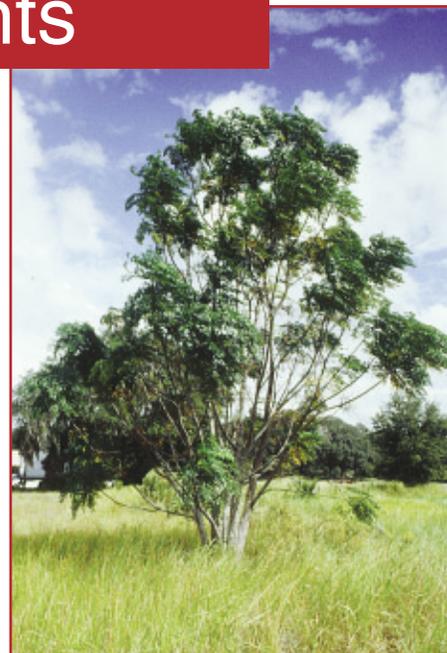
Ken Langeland said, "Our organization is pleased to continue working with Florida's nursery & landscape industry in identifying invasive species having ecological effects that should no longer be commercially available. We appreciate this proactive working relationship to address the invasive species problem in Florida's natural areas."

The FNGA/FLEPPC/TBWG task force meetings focused on the identification of plant species which have become established in natural areas and, generally, are not economically significant to the statewide nursery & landscape industry. Also reviewed were the mode of spread and reproduction of the plant; specific varieties of plant species believed to be invasive (where differences among varieties exist); and, potential alternatives as substitute plants.

As a result of these in-depth discussions, FNGA's Board of Directors voted unanimously in March 2001 to urge that these 34 species, along with the 11 already identified species, no longer be propagated, sold or used in Florida.

"This decisive action underscores the role and commitment of Florida's nursery and landscape industry in ensuring the continued natural beauty of Florida's environment," says Ben Bolusky, FNGA Executive Vice President.

The Florida Nurserymen & Growers Association represents Florida's environmental horticulture industry, with a \$5.4 billion value-added impact on Florida's economy. For more information, contact FNGA at 1533 Park Center Drive, Orlando, Fla. 32835 or call 407/295-7994; e-mail info@fnga.org; www.fnga.org.



Cupaniopsis anacardioides

Those 34 species agreed upon by the group are:

<i>Adenanthera pavonina</i>	red sandalwood
<i>Agave sisalana</i>	sisal hemp
<i>Aleurites fordii</i>	tung oil tree
<i>Alstonia macrophylla</i>	devil-tree
<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	alligator weed (Prohibited by DEP)
<i>Anredera leptostachya</i>	Madeira vine
<i>Aristolochia littoralis</i>	calico flower
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	paper mulberry
<i>Callisia fragrans</i>	inch plant
<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	Australian pine (Prohibited by DEP)
<i>Cereus undatus</i>	night-blooming cereus
<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	Indian rosewood
<i>Enterolobium contortisliquum</i>	ear-pod tree
<i>Flacourtia indica</i>	governor's plum
<i>Flueggea virosa</i>	Chinese waterberry
<i>Hiptage benghalensis</i>	hiptage
<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	lead tree
<i>Melinis minutiflora</i>	molasses grass
<i>Merremia tuberosa</i>	wood-rose
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian watermilfoil (Prohibited by DEP)
<i>Ochrosia parviflora</i>	kopsia
<i>Oeceoclades maculata</i>	lawn orchid
<i>Passiflora foetida</i>	stinking passion vine

<i>Pteris vittata</i>
<i>Rhynchelytrum repens</i>
<i>Ricinus communis</i>
<i>Sesbania punicea</i>
<i>Solanum diphyllum</i>
<i>Solanum jamaicense</i>
<i>Syzygium jambos</i>
<i>Terminalia catappa</i>
<i>Tribulus cistoides</i>
<i>Triphasia trifoliata</i>
<i>Urena lobata</i>

Chinese brake fern
Natal grass
castor bean
purple sesban
2-leaf nightshade
Jamaica nightshade
rose-apple
tropical almond
burrnut
limeberry
Caesar's weed

The 11 plants originally agreed upon by the group as invasive are:

<i>Albizia lebeck</i>	woman's tongue
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>	orchid tree
<i>Bischofia javanica</i>	bischofia
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	carrotwood (Prohibited by DACS)
<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>	cat's claw vine
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Chinaberry
<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>	sword fern
<i>Psidium guajava</i>	guava
<i>Rhoeo spathacea</i>	oyster plant - large variety
<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Java plum; jambolan
<i>Thespesia populnea</i>	seaside mahoe

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