

# Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's 2007 List of Invasive Plant Species

**Purpose of the List:** *To focus attention on —*

- ▶ the adverse effects exotic pest plants have on Florida's biodiversity and plant communities,
- ▶ the habitat losses from exotic pest plant infestations,
- ▶ the impacts on endangered species via habitat loss and alteration,
- ▶ the need to prevent habitat losses through pest-plant management,
- ▶ the socio-economic impacts of these plants (e.g., increased wildfires in certain areas),
- ▶ changes in the seriousness of different pest plants over time,
- ▶ the need to provide information that helps managers set priorities for control programs.

## CATEGORY I

Invasive exotics that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives. *This definition does not rely on the economic severity or geographic range of the problem, but on the documented ecological damage caused.*

Scientific Name	Common Name	FLEPPC Cat.	Gov. List	Reg. Dist.
<i>Abrus precatorius</i>	rosary pea	I	N	C, S
<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	earleaf acacia	I		C, S
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	mimosa, silk tree	I		N, C
<i>Albizia lebeck</i>	woman's tongue	I		C, S
<i>Ardisia crenata</i> (=A. <i>renulata</i> misapplied)	coral ardisia	I		N, C, S
<i>Ardisia elliptica</i> (=A. <i>humilis</i> misapplied)	shoebutton ardisia	I	N	C, S
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> (=A. <i>sprengeri</i> ; A. <i>densiflorus</i> misapplied)	asparagus-fern	I		N, C, S
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>	orchid tree	I		C, S
<i>Bischofia javanica</i>	bishopwood	I		C, S
<i>Calophyllum antillanum</i> (=C. <i>calaba</i> and C. <i>inophyllum</i> misapplied)	santa maria (names "mast wood," "Alexandrian laurel" used in cultivation)	I		S
<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>	Australian-pine, beach sheoak	I	P, N	N,C,S
<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	suckering Australian-pine, gray sheoak	I	P, N	C, S
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	camphor tree	I		N,C,S
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	wild taro	I		N,C,S
<i>Colubrina asiatica</i>	lather leaf	I	N	S
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	carrotwood	I	N	C, S
<i>Dioscorea alata</i>	winged yam	I	N	N,C,S
<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	air-potato	I	N	N,C,S
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	water-hyacinth	I	P	N,C,S
<i>Eugenia uniflora</i>	Surinam cherry	I		C, S
<i>Ficus microcarpa</i> (F. <i>nitida</i> and F. <i>retusa</i> var. <i>nitida</i> misapplied)	laurel fig	I		C, S
<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	hydrilla	I	P, U	N,C,S
<i>Hygrophila polysperma</i>	green hygro	I	P, U	N,C,S
<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>	West Indian marsh grass	I		C, S
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> (I. <i>brasiliensis</i> misapplied)	cogon grass	I	N, U	N, C, S
<i>Ipomoea aquatica</i>	waterspinach	I	P, U	C
<i>Jasminum dichotomum</i>	Gold Coast jasmine	I		C, S
<i>Jasminum fluminense</i>	Brazilian jasmine	I		C, S
<i>Lantana camara</i>	lantana, shrub verbena	I		N,C,S
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	glossy privet	I		N, C
<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Chinese privet, hedge privet	I		N,C,S

## FLEPPC List Definitions:

**Exotic** – a species introduced to Florida, purposefully or accidentally, from a natural range outside of Florida.

**Native** – a species whose natural range included Florida at the time of European contact (1500 AD).

**Naturalized exotic** – an exotic that sustains itself outside cultivation (it is still exotic; it has not "become" native).

**Invasive exotic** – an exotic that not only has naturalized, but is expanding on its own in Florida native plant communities.

## Abbreviations:

**Government List (Gov. List):**

P = Prohibited by Florida

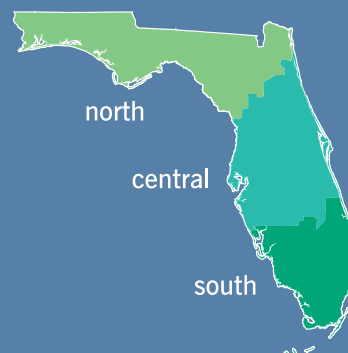
Department of Environmental Protection;

N = Noxious weed listed by Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services;

U = Noxious weed listed by U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Regional Distribution (Reg. Dist.):**

N = north, C = central, S = south, referring to each species' current distribution in general regions of Florida (not its potential range in the state). Please refer to the map below.



## Changes to the 2007 List:

### *Ludwigia peruviana*

added to list as Category I

Peruvian primrose willow (*Ludwigia peruviana*) is a shrub known from at least 48 Florida counties, from the Panhandle to the Keys. It is also known in the United States from North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas. While always known as an aggressive weed in wetlands in Florida, there has been debate about its nativity. After an evaluation of available data, the Committee now agrees that this species was introduced into Florida, probably from South America, by the late 1800s, and has subsequently spread throughout the state and to other states. It can form monospecific stands in both disturbed and undisturbed wetlands, especially river and lake edges, and dramatically change ecosystem structure.

*Tradescantia spathacea* moved from Category I to Category II

Oyster plant (*Tradescantia spathacea*) is an herb known from at least 12 counties in southern Florida, although many populations have not been documented. A native of tropical America, this species was a very common ornamental plant decades ago, and is still grown occasionally for its green and purple foliage. The species spreads readily, both by vegetation offshoots and by seed. In urban areas, plants often appear on rooftops or on rock walls. It does spread into natural areas, but Committee members are unaware of sites where it has invaded natural areas and displaced native species to the extent of other Category I species. It has been moved to Category II.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FLEPPC Cat.	Gov. List	Reg. Dist.
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle	I		N,C,S
<i>Ludwigia peruviana</i>	Peruvian primrosewillow	I		N,C,S
<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	Japanese climbing fern	I	N	N,C,S
<i>Lygodium microphyllum</i>	Old World climbing fern	I	N	C, S
<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>	cat's claw vine	I		N,C, S
<i>Manilkara zapota</i>	sapodilla	I		S
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	melaleuca, paper bark	I	P, N, U	C, S
<i>Mimosa pigra</i>	catclaw mimosa	I	P, N, U	C, S
<i>Nandina domestica</i>	nandina, heavenly bamboo	I		N, C
<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>	sword fern	I		N,C,S
<i>Nephrolepis multiflora</i>	Asian sword fern	I		C, S
<i>Neyraudia reynaudiana</i>	Burma reed, cane grass	I	N	S
<i>Paederia cruddasiana</i>	sewer vine, onion vine	I	N	S
<i>Paederia foetida</i>	skunk vine	I	N	N,C, S
<i>Panicum repens</i>	torpedo grass	I		N,C,S
<i>Pennisetum purpureum</i>	Napier grass	I		N, C, S
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	waterlettuce	I	P	N,C,S
<i>Psidium cattleianum</i> (=P. littorale)	strawberry guava	I		C, S
<i>Psidium guajava</i>	guava	I		C, S
<i>Pueraria montana</i> var. <i>lobata</i> (=P. lobata)	kudzu	I	N	N,C, S
<i>Rhodomyrtus tomentosa</i>	downy rose-myrtle	I	N	C, S
<i>Rhynchelytrum repens</i> (=Melinis repens)	Natal grass	I		N, C, S
<i>Ruellia tweediana</i> (= R. brittoniana , R. coerulea)	Mexican petunia	I		N, C, S
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i> (=Triadica sebifera)	popcorn tree, Chinese tallow tree	I	N	N, C, S
<i>Scaevola taccada</i> (=Scaevola sericea, S. frutescens)	scaevola, half-flower, beach naupaka	I	N	C, S
<i>Schefflera actinophylla</i> (=Brassia actinophylla)	schefflera, Queensland umbrella tree	I		C, S
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Brazilian pepper	I	P, N	N, C, S
<i>Senna pendula</i> var. <i>glabrata</i> (=Cassia coluteoides)	climbing cassia, Christmas cassia, Christmas senna	I		C, S
<i>Solanum tampicense</i> (=S. houstonii)	wetland nightshade, aquatic soda apple	I	N, U	C, S
<i>Solanum viarum</i>	tropical soda apple	I	N, U	N, C, S
<i>Syngonium podophyllum</i>	arrowhead vine	I		N, C, S
<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	jambolan plum, Java plum	I		C, S
<i>Tectaria incisa</i>	incised halberd fern	I		S
<i>Thespesia populnea</i>	seaside mahoe	I		C, S
<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	white-flowered wandering jew	I		N, C
<i>Urochloa mutica</i> (= Brachiaria mutica)	Para grass	I		C, S

## CATEGORY II

Invasive exotics that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species. *These species may become ranked Category I, if ecological damage is demonstrated.*

Scientific Name	Common Name	FLEPPC Cat.	Gov. List	Reg. Dist.
<i>Adenantha pavonina</i>	red sandalwood	II		S
<i>Agave sisalana</i>	sisal hemp	II		C, S
<i>Aleurites fordii</i> (=Vernicia fordii)	tung oil tree	II		N, C
<i>Alstonia macrophylla</i>	devil tree	II		S
<i>Altermanthera philoxeroides</i>	alligator weed	II	P	N, C, S
<i>Antigonon leptopus</i>	coral vine	II		N, C, S
<i>Aristolochia littoralis</i>	calico flower	II		N, C, S

Scientific Name	Common Name	FLEPPC Cat.	Gov. List	Reg. Dist.
<i>Asystasia gangetica</i>	Ganges primrose	II		C, S
<i>Begonia cucullata</i>	wax begonia	II		N, C, S
<i>Blechnum pyramidatum</i>	green shrimp plant, Brown's blechnum	II		N, C, S
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	paper mulberry	II		N, C, S
<i>Callisia fragrans</i>	inch plant, spironema	II		C, S
<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	river sheoak, Australian-pine	II	P	C, S
<i>Cecropia palmata</i>	trumpet tree	II		S
<i>Cestrum diurnum</i>	day jessamine	II		C, S
<i>Chamaedorea seifrizii</i>	bamboo palm	II		S
<i>Clematis terniflora</i>	Japanese clematis	II		N, C
<i>Cryptostegia madagascariensis</i>	rubber vine	II		C, S
<i>Cyperus involucratus</i> ( <i>C. alternifolius</i> misapplied)	umbrella plant	II		C, S
<i>Cyperus prolifer</i>	dwarf papyrus	II		C, S
<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	Indian rosewood, sissoo	II		C, S
<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>	silverthorn, thorny olive	II		N, C
<i>Epipremnum pinnatum</i> cv. Aureum	pothos	II		C, S
<i>Ficus altissima</i>	false banyan, council tree	II		S
<i>Flacourtia indica</i>	governor's plum	II		S
<i>Hemarthria altissima</i>	limpo grass	II		C, S
<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i> (= <i>Talipariti tiliaceum</i> )	mahoe, sea hibiscus	II		C, S
<i>Ipomoea fistulosa</i> (= <i>I. carnea</i> ssp. <i>fistulosa</i> )	shrub morning-glory	II	P	C, S
<i>Jasminum sambac</i>	Arabian jasmine	II		S
<i>Kalanchoe pinnata</i>	life plant	II		C, S
<i>Koelreuteria elegans</i> ssp. <i>formosana</i> (= <i>K. formosana</i> ; <i>K. paniculata</i> misapplied)	flamegold tree	II		C, S
<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	lead tree	II	N	N, C, S
<i>Limnophila sessiliflora</i>	Asian marshweed	II	P, U	N, C, S
<i>Livistona chinensis</i>	Chinese fan palm	II		C, S
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Chinaberry	II		N, C, S
<i>Melinis minutiflora</i>	Molassesgrass	II		C, S
<i>Merremia tuberosa</i>	wood-rose	II		S
<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	orange-jessamine	II		S
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian water-milfoil	II	P	N, C, S
<i>Nymphoides cristata</i>	snowflake	II		C, S
<i>Panicum maximum</i>	Guinea grass	II		N, C, S
<i>Passiflora biflora</i>	two-flowered passion vine	II		S
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	green fountain grass	II		S
<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>	Senegal date palm	II		C, S
<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>	golden bamboo	II		N, C
<i>Pittosporum pentandrum</i>	Philippine pittosporum, Taiwanese cheesewood	II		S
<i>Pteris vittata</i>	Chinese brake fern	II		N, C, S
<i>Ptychosperma elegans</i>	solitaire palm	II		S
<i>Rhoeo spathacea</i> (see <i>Tradescantia spathacea</i> )				
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	castor bean	II		N, C, S
<i>Rotala rotundifolia</i>	roundleaf toothcup, dwarf Rotala,	II		S
<i>Sansevieria hyacinthoides</i>	bowstring hemp	II		C, S
<i>Scleria lacustris</i>	Wright's nutrush	II		C, S
<i>Sesbania punicea</i>	purple sesban, rattlebox	II		N, C, S
<i>Solanum diphyllum</i>	two-leaf nightshade	II		N, C, S
<i>Solanum jamaicense</i>	Jamaica nightshade	II		C
<i>Solanum torvum</i>	susumber, turkey berry	II	N, U	N, C, S

## Changes to the 2007 List:

### *Melinis minutiflora*

added to list as Category II

Molasses grass (*Melinis minutiflora*) is a grass known from at least 6 Florida counties, mostly along the lower eastern coast. It is native to Africa and western Asia and was originally introduced as a forage grass in southern Florida. While it has been known to be established for some time, its populations have been expanding recently into undisturbed natural areas, especially pine rocklands in Miami-Dade County. Once established, it forms locally dense stands and excludes other herbs and graminoids. The strong molasses smell given off by the plants makes it especially easy to identify, particularly when it is stepped on.

### *Rotala rotundifolia*

added to list as Category II

Roundleaf toothcup (*Rotala rotundifolia*) is an aquatic herb known from at least three Florida counties in southern Florida (Broward, Lee, and Palm Beach). It is also introduced in Alabama. It is native to India and Southeast Asia. The species is commonly grown as an aquarium plant and has been introduced after aquarium grown plants were discarded into Florida wetlands. It has become established in canals and along rivers. It reproduces readily through sexual and asexual means and is expected to spread within the state. It is also known as dwarf rotala.

# Use of the FLEPPC List

FLEPPC encourages use of the Invasive Species List for prioritizing and implementing management efforts in natural areas, for educating lay audiences about environmental issues, and for supporting voluntary invasive plant removal programs. When a non-native plant species is to be restricted in some way by law, FLEPPC encourages use of the List as a first step in identifying species worth considering for particular types of restriction. For more information on using the FLEPPC List of Invasive Plant Species, see *Wildland Weeds* Summer 2002 issue (Vol. 5, No. 3), pp. 16-17.

**NOTE:** Not all exotic plants brought into Florida become pest plants in natural areas. The FLEPPC List of Invasive Plant Species represents only about 10% of the 1,300+ exotic species that have been introduced into Florida and subsequently established outside of cultivation. Most escaped exotics usually present only minor problems in highly disturbed areas (such as roadsides). And there are other exotics cultivated in Florida that are “well-behaved” — that is, they don’t escape cultivation at all.



[www.fleppc.org](http://www.fleppc.org)

Scientific Name	Common Name	FLEPPC Cat.	Gov. List	Reg. Dist.
<i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i> (= <i>Wedelia trilobata</i> )	wedelia	II		N, C, S
<i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i> (= <i>S. urticifolia</i> )	nettle-leaf porterweed	II		S
<i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i> (= <i>Arecastrum romanzoffianum</i> )	queen palm	II		C, S
<i>Syzygium jambos</i>	rose-apple	II		C, S
<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	tropical-almond	II		C, S
<i>Terminalia muelleri</i>	Australian-almond	II		C, S
<i>Tradescantia spathacea</i> (= <i>Rhoeo spathacea</i> , <i>Rhoeo discolor</i> )	oyster plant	II		S
<i>Tribulus cistoides</i>	puncture vine, burr-nut	II		N, C, S
<i>Urena lobata</i>	Caesar's weed	II		N, C, S
<i>Vitex trifolia</i>	simple-leaf chaste tree	II		C, S
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Washington fan palm	II		C, S
<i>Wedelia</i> (see <i>Sphagneticola</i> above)				
<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>	Chinese wisteria	II		N, C
<i>Xanthosoma sagittifolium</i>	malanga, elephant ear	II		N, C, S

#### Citation example:

FLEPPC. 2007. List of Florida's Invasive Plant Species. Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council. Internet: <http://www.fleppc.org/07list.htm> or *Wildland Weeds* Vol. 10(4), Fall 2007.

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**FLEPPC Database** – The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Database contains over 6,000 sight records of infestations of FLEPPC Category I and Category II species in Florida public lands and waters. 360 species are recorded. Nearly all of the records are from local, state, and federal parks and preserves; a few records document infestations in regularly disturbed public lands such as highway or utility rights-of-way. Natural area managers and other veteran observers of Florida's natural landscapes submit these records, with many supported further by voucher specimens housed in local or regional herbaria for future reference and verification. New and updated observations can be submitted online at [www.fleppc.org/EDDMapS/](http://www.fleppc.org/EDDMapS/). This database, along with other plant-data resources such as the University of South Florida Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants at [www.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu), the Florida Natural Areas Inventory database at [www.fnai.org](http://www.fnai.org), and The Institute for Regional Conservation Floristic Inventory of South Florida database at [www.regionalconservation.org](http://www.regionalconservation.org), provides important basic supporting information for the FLEPPC List of Invasive Plant Species.

**Images of FLEPPC-listed species** may be found at one or more of the following websites: University of South Florida Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants, [www.plantatlas.usf.edu](http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu); the “Introduced Species” page on the University of Florida Herbarium website, [www.flmnh.ufl.edu/herbarium/cat/digitalimagingprojects.htm](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/herbarium/cat/digitalimagingprojects.htm); at Fairchild Tropical Garden's Virtual Herbarium, [www.virtualherbarium.org/vhportal.html](http://www.virtualherbarium.org/vhportal.html), The Robert K. Godfrey Herbarium at FSU, <http://herbarium.bio.fsu.edu/index.php>; and at the University of Florida's Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>. Please note that greater success and accuracy in searching for plant images is likely if you search by scientific name rather than a common name. Common names often vary in cultivation and across regions. For additional information on plants included in this list, see related links and pages at [www.fleppc.org](http://www.fleppc.org).