

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's 2009 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 lebbek</i>	woman's tongue	I		C, S
<i>Ardisia crenata</i> (<i>A. crenulata</i> misapplied)	coral ardisia	I		N, C, S
<i>Ardisia elliptica</i> (<i>A. humilis</i> misapplied)	shoebuttan ardisia	I	N	C, S
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> (<i>A. sprengeri</i> ; <i>A. 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> (<i>C. calaba</i> and <i>C. 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> (<i>F. nitida</i> and <i>F. retusa</i> var. <i>nitida</i> misapplied) ¹	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>	water-spinach	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> (= <i>L. strigocamara</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
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle	I		N, C, S
<i>Ludwigia peruviana</i>	Peruvian primrosewillow	I		N, C, S
<i>Luziola subintegra</i>	Tropical American water grass	I		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

¹Does not include *Ficus microcarpa* subsp. *fuyuensis*, which is sold as "Green Island Ficus"

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 includes Florida.

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.

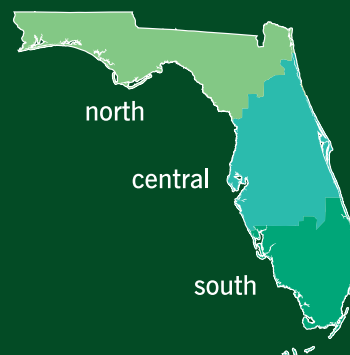
Abbreviations:

Government List (Gov. List):
P = Prohibited aquatic plant by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;

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 2009 List:

Luziola subintegra, added to list as Category I

Luziola subintegra (rice grass) was first discovered in Lake Okeechobee by Mike Bodle in 2007. This aquatic grass is spreading in the lake. It grows in water 2-3 m deep, spreads vegetatively and by seed, and aggressively outcompetes other native and exotic species. To date, 2,000 acres have been treated.

Nymphoides cristata, moved from Category II to Category I

Snowflake (*Nymphoides cristata*) is an Asian aquatic that became problematic in southwest Florida in the 1990s. It is now an abundant weed in canals and ponds in southwest Florida, and has spread throughout the peninsula where it has been documented in seven counties, from Collier to St. Johns. It has colonized the Big Cypress National Preserve where it is invading several strand swamps along Tamiami Trail, presumably introduced by fisherman using cast nets infested from waters outside of the preserve.

Salvinia minima, added to list as Category I

Water spangles (*Salvinia minima*), first found in Florida in 1928, remained a cryptic species during a period when opinions differed on its status as native or introduced in Florida. In 2001, a study of early herbarium voucher data revealed the introduction points and systematic spread of this free-floating fern into and throughout Florida. *S. minima* outcompetes more nutritive native duckweeds by overtopping their thinner fronds, which float flat upon the water surface.

Scleria lacustris, moved from Category II to Category I

Wright's nutrush (*Scleria lacustris*) is an annual tropical sedge that was first collected in Florida in 1988. In Florida, its distribution extends to more than 20 distinct natural areas in eight counties within four major drainage regions of the central and southern peninsula. Its unique growth habit obscures open water and drastically alters the naturally sparse and upright structure of preexisting native vegetation. Such domination may even displace native prey for the endangered Florida snail kite, a sight feeder inhabiting many locations where invasive colonization occurs.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FLEPPC Cat.	Gov. List	Reg. Dist.
<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>Melinis repens</i> (= <i>Rhynchelytrum repens</i>)	Natal grass	I		N, 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 brownii</i> (= <i>N. multiflora</i>)	Asian sword fern	I		C, S
<i>Neyraudia reynaudiana</i>	Burma reed, cane grass	I	N	S
<i>Nymphoides cristata</i>	snowflake	I		C, 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>	water-lettuce	I	P	N, C, S
<i>Psidium cattleianum</i> (= <i>P. littorale</i>)	strawberry guava	I		C, S
<i>Psidium guajava</i>	guava	I		C, S
<i>Pueraria montana</i> var. <i>lobata</i> (= <i>P. lobata</i>)	kudzu	I	N	N, C, S
<i>Rhodomyrtus tomentosa</i>	downy rose-myrtle	I	N	C, S
<i>Rhynchelytrum repens</i> (See <i>Melinis repens</i>)				
<i>Ruellia brittoniana</i> ² (<i>R. tweediana</i> misapplied)	Mexican petunia	I		N, C, S
<i>Salvinia minima</i>	water spangles	I		N, C, S
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i> (= <i>Triadica sebifera</i>)	popcorn tree, Chinese tallow tree	I	N	N, C, S
<i>Scaevola taccada</i> (= <i>Scaevola sericea</i> , <i>S. frutescens</i>)	scaevola, half-flower, beach naupaka	I	N	C, S
<i>Schefflera actinophylla</i> (= <i>Brassia actinophylla</i>)	schefflera, Queensland umbrella tree	I		C, S
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Brazilian pepper	I	P, N	N, C, S
<i>Scleria lacustris</i>	Wright's nutrush	I		C, S
<i>Senna pendula</i> var. <i>glabrata</i> (= <i>Cassia coluteoides</i>)	climbing cassia, Christmas cassia, Christmas senna	I		C, S
<i>Solanum tampicense</i> (= <i>S. houstonii</i>)	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>	small-leaf spiderwort	I		N, C
<i>Urochloa mutica</i> (= <i>Brachiaria mutica</i>)	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>Adenanthera pavonina</i>	red sandalwood	II		S
<i>Agave sisalana</i>	sisal hemp	II		C, S
<i>Aleurites fordii</i> (= <i>Vernicia fordii</i>)	tung oil tree	II		N, C
<i>Alstonia macrophylla</i>	devil tree	II		S
<i>Alternanthera 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
<i>Asystasia gangetica</i>	Ganges primrose	II		C, S

²The Plant List Committee is uncertain as to the correct name for this species. Plants cultivated in Florida, all representing the same invasive species, have in the past been referred to as *Ruellia brittoniana*, *R. tweediana*, *R. caerulea*, and *R. simplex*.

Scientific Name	Common Name	FLEPPC Cat.	Gov. List	Reg. Dist.
<i>Begonia cucullata</i>	wax begonia	II		N, C, S
<i>Blechum pyramidatum</i>	green shrimp plant, Browne's blechum	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>Callistemon viminalis</i>	bottlebrush, weeping bottlebrush	II		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>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i>	Durban crowfootgrass	II		N, C, S
<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	Indian rosewood, sissoo	II		C, S
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	silverberry, autumn olive	II		N
<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> (See <i>Talipariti tiliaceum</i>)				
<i>Hyparrhenia rufa</i>	jaragua	II		N, C, S
<i>Ipomoea carnea</i> ssp. <i>fistulosa</i> (= <i>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>Koeleruteria 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>Landoltia punctata</i> (= <i>Spirodela punctata</i>)	Spotted duckweed	II		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>Panicum maximum</i> (= <i>Urochloa maxima</i> , <i>Megathyrsus maximus</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>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

Callistemon viminalis, added to list as Category II

Bottlebrush (*Callistemon viminalis*), a popular landscape tree, is now invading undisturbed short hydroperiod wetland communities in Miami-Dade, Collier, and Martin Counties, including those in Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park.

Dactyloctenium aegyptium, added to list as Category II

Durban crowfootgrass (*Dactyloctenium aegyptium*) is an annual grass that is a widely distributed weed throughout the southeastern US. In Florida, this species has been documented in 54 counties. While it is primarily a weed of disturbed areas, it also invades beach dune communities in southern Florida, including those located within Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks. Dense growth of this species interferes with ground nesting birds in Dry Tortugas and competes with state and federally listed plant species on the mainland.

Elaeagnus umbellata, added to list as Category II

Autumn-olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) is an aggressive shrub capable of replacing entire native ecosystems, which it has done in numerous locations in other states. There are three known native locations in the eastern Florida panhandle; two are local escapes from cultivation. The third is a mixture of mature upland sand hill and pine communities where a wildlife planting has escaped. The entire 2,081 acre site is infested. The infestation ranges from 100% (12.5 acres), to 50% (49.9 acres), to 25% (38.3 acres), to 10% or less (1,683.4 acres).

Hyparrhenia rufa, added to list as Category II

Jaragua (*Hyparrhenia rufa*) is an annual grass that is known from 14 Florida counties. In Miami-Dade County it has been found in intact habitat in at least 12 pine rockland fragments, outcompeting native plant species.

Landoltia punctata, added to list as Category II

Spotted duckweed (*Landoltia punctata*) is a small floating aquatic plant that is native to Australia and Southeast Asia. Since it was first found in Missouri in the 1930s, it has spread to 22 states and been documented in 36 Florida counties. It invades a wide range of undisturbed aquatic habitats and outcompetes native species.

Syzygium jambos, formerly Category II, removed from List

The Committee has not been able to locate data showing this species behaves as a Category II invasive.

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, or <http://www.fleppc.org/list/list.htm>

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 nearly 1,400 exotic species that have been introduced into Florida and have 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.

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>Talipariti tiliaceum</i> (= <i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i>)	mahoe, sea hibiscus	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. 2009. List of Invasive Plant Species. Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council. Internet: <http://www.fleppc.org/list/list.htm> or *Wildland Weeds* Vol. 12(4): 13-16. Fall 2009.

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FLEPPC Database – The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Database contains over 75,000 sight records of infestations of FLEPPC Category I and Category II species in Florida public lands and waters. 211 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 highways 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.eddmaps.org/florida/. 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, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory database at www.fnai.org, and The Institute for Regional Conservation Floristic Inventory of South Florida database at www.regionalconservation.org, provides important basic supporting information for the FLEPPC List of Invasive Plant Species.

Images and/or distributional data 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; the University of Florida Herbarium collection catalog, <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/herbarium/cat/>, and image gallery, <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/herbarium/cat/imagesearch.asp>; at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden’s Virtual Herbarium, www.virtualherbarium.org/vhportal.html, The Robert K. Godfrey Herbarium at Florida State University, <http://herbarium.bio.fsu.edu/index.php>; the University of Florida’s IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>, and the USDA PLANTS database, <http://plants.usda.gov/>. 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.

