

One man's weed...

"The U.S., jolted into action by the mushrooming magnitude of invasive plants and the damage they have wrought – and continue to cause – has launched a new, internet-based effort to choke off domestic retail sales of banned plants as one phase of a strategy to limit further introduction and spread of invasive plant species."

Scientists at the Center for Integrated Pest Management (CIPM) at North Carolina State University, together with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS), have developed a "web crawler" that searches the internet for web sites selling plants officially defined as noxious weeds or invasive species*. The system, Agricultural Internet Monitoring System (AIMS), will be used primarily to locate, then notify, offending vendors, according to R.E. Stinner, lead researcher on the AIMS program.

Vendors identified by AIMS as offering banned species online will be notified and directed to stop selling the plants. AIMS will then keep track of retailers who continue to sell illegal plants; refusal to comply with notification can lead to prosecution and the possibility of substantial fines.

Depending on performance and results from the AIMS program, federal officials will consider developing a cooperative effort with equivalent organizations in other countries. Authorities in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa have expressed an interest in some form of joint effort.



...is another man's treasure!

FOR SALE!

AIR POTATO - *Dioscorea bulbifera* - We are offering small tubers of the Air potato. A mature plant is quite a sight. It grows vigorously producing upright vines that are often supported with some type of trellis. The dark green leaves are heart shaped and attractive - but its the aerial potatoes that steal the show as they begin to develop at various intervals on the vines. Although they are thought of as a novelty, they actually are edible. Not to be confused with another variety which is rather bitter. They are very easy to grow. Provide warmth and bright light. Now available. No shipping to Florida or Texas.

1@\$3.95 Add to cart

10@\$30.50 Add to cart

Editor's Note: *Dioscorea bulbifera* currently is not on the Federal Noxious Weed List. There is work to be done!

•For more information, contact R.E. Stinner, CIPM, North Carolina State University, 919-515-1648, Ron_Stinner@ncsu.edu

•To report internet sites offering prohibited plants for sale, contact Sherrena.A.Harrison@aphis.usda.gov

*For a copy of the Regulated Pest List in PDF format, go to:

<http://www.invasivespecies.org/RegulatedPestList.pdf>

or go to the USDA/APHIS web site at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/regpestlist/>
Pests other than weeds are listed (viruses, insects, bacteria, etc.)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR INVASIVE PLANT RESEARCH

Deadline: February 27, 2004

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) has available funding for a small number of research grants/scholarships for students conducting studies related to invasive exotic plant management in Florida.

The deadline for proposal submission is February 27, 2004. Written proposals should be no more than three pages in length and should request funding for no more than \$2,500. The proposal should include a summary of the research project and its relationship with Florida exotic plant management problems. Particular plant species involved in the study should be one or more of the Category I or Category II exotic pest plant species listed by FLEPPC (see web site: www.fleppc.org). In addition, the applicant should provide complete contact information and a detailed budget, with an explanation of how the funding will be used. Examples include (but are not limited to) travel funds for field work, funds for research equipment or supplies (or temporary use of specialized equipment), stipend for applicant's project work time not otherwise supported, travel funds for presentation of the research, etc. In developing the budget, funds requested are to be used for the direct costs of conducting research on the proposed project and are not to be used for indirect costs incurred by the student's university.

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked on the critical management need for scientific results in the area of study and on the clarity of the submitted request.

Basic eligibility requirements:

To be eligible for funding, applicants must be an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled at an accredited institution of higher learning anywhere within the United States. However, the research must be on a listed Florida invasive plant (http://www.fleppc.org/Plant_list/list.htm). An accompanying letter of recommendation from a faculty advisor is strongly encouraged.

Send proposals by e-mail, fax, or mail to:

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Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. February 27, 2004.