

CITRUS WEED SPOTLIGHT

Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*)

By Stephen H. Futch
and David W. Hall



Life cycle: perennial grass

Plant height: usually 4 feet or less tall, occasionally more than 6 feet

Leaves: unbranched, stiff or rigid, mainly from the base; sheaths overlapping, smooth or hairy; blades long-lanceolate, 25 to 50 inches long and 2 to 4 inches wide, sharp-tipped, yellowish-green, white off-center midvein, margins serrated, hairy on upper surface at base, smooth on the lower surface

Stem: short with many overlapping sheaths

Flowers: in a silky spike-like panicle that is 1 to 9 inches long and covered by white woolly hairs; mainly February through June, but may flower year-round in the more southern locations, flowering can be induced by mowing, fire or environmental stress

Seeds: brown, oblong, one-twenty-fifth inch long, with long hairs surrounding the seed



Distribution: found in scattered locations throughout Florida; also into southern Georgia, and west into Texas. The weed invading Florida is thought to be native to southeast Asia and India.

Comment: Grows in full sun to partial shade. Aggressively invades open areas along roads and into pastures and fields. Plant spreads by rhizomes and — aided by the long hairs — wind-

dispersed seeds. A single plant can produce up to 3,000 seeds. Rhizome is white, scaly, sharp-tipped, often branching, and produces a dense mat.

Stephen H. Futch is a multi-county citrus Extension agent at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred; David W. Hall is a botanist, retired from the University of Florida departments of botany and natural sciences in Gainesville. 🍊

Index to advertisers

A-DAB, LLC	15
Alltech Crop Science	16
Arcadia Citrus Enterprises	25
BB Hobbs	8
Blue Goose Growers	22
Blue Heron Nurseries	12
Brite Leaf Citrus Nursery	32
Carden & Associates, Inc.	11
Chemical Dynamics	6
Citrus Expo Thank Yous	26-27
Citrus Expo Photos	28-29
CRDF	17
Crop Forecast	30
Crosby & Associates	32
CW Willis Citrus Nursery, LLC	32
Farkas & Fussell Citrus Nursery	32
Farkas Citrus Nursery	33
Farm Credit	7
Florida Ag in the Classroom	23
Floyd Citrus Nursery	33
Frostproof Growers Supply	21
Harris Citrus Nursery	33
Helena Chemical	4

Holmberg Citrus Nursery	22
Johnson Harvesting	32
K & C Farmer Citrus Nursery	33
Kahn Citrus Management, LLC	34
Kelly Tractor	10
KeyPlex	36
Magna-Bon	20
M&M Citrus Nursery	31
Marrone Bio Innovations	2
Maxijet	33
Mike Hurst Citrus Services, Inc.	21
Murphy Citrus Nursery	32
NovaSource	13
Nutri-Phite	34
O'Reilly Auto Parts	9
Petteway Growers Citrus Nursery ...	31
Phillip Rucks Citrus Nursery	32

Philmon Citrus Nursery	33
Pioneer Ag Equipment	20
Plant Food Systems	5
Redneck Invitational	24
Robinson Citrus Tree Planting	32
Saunders Real Estate	33
Simmons Citrus Nursery	32
Southeast AgNet	34
Southern Citrus Nurseries LLC	33
Southridge Citrus Nursery	32
Sunbelt Research & Development ...	12
Tiger Creek Citrus Nursery	33
Tropicana Products, Inc.	14
Udike Engineering	33
Willits & Newcomb	32
Wright's Citrus Nursery	32
Yara North America	35

Petteway Growers Citrus Nursery
Hamlin and Valencia
Carrizo or Swingle rootstock
Taking Orders for 2014
www.citrusandcattle.com

Roy Petteway
863-781-0099

R. Roy Petteway
863-781-3984

M&M Citrus Nursery
Pete McGuire
Trees available for planting
Liners available for budding
(772) 370-6641 Ft. Pierce, FL
Quality Trees Since 1985