

## **Lists of invasive plants in Florida**

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(Prepared by Dr. Alison Fox, Department of Agronomy, UF/IFAS, Gainesville)

There are many lists of invasive plants in Florida each with their own purpose and regulatory effect. The following are some of the most commonly cited lists with a brief summary of their main features.

### Regulations that apply in Florida

1. Federal Noxious Weed List (<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppg/weeds/>) administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the Federal Noxious Weed Act, lists plants that are prohibited from importation and interstate transport anywhere in the U.S. without a special permit. Currently includes 96 species or genera.
2. Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services – Noxious Weed List (<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/botany/noxweed.html>) has regulatory authority in Florida and includes most species from the Federal Noxious Weed List. Listed plants are prohibited from possession, cultivation, introduction, collection, and transportation without a special permit. Currently includes 67 species or genera.
3. Florida Department of Environmental Protection – List of Prohibited Aquatic and Wetland Plants (<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/invaspec/index.htm>) has regulatory authority in Florida. Listed plants are prohibited from possession, cultivation, introduction, collection, and transportation without a special permit. Currently includes 27 species or genera of aquatic and wetland plants.
4. Local ordinances – some Florida counties and municipalities have addressed specific exotic plant species in their ordinances. These typically relate to exemptions from tree-removal permits, a requirement for removal under certain circumstances, or a prohibition from planting.

### Policy within the University of Florida – Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)

5. IFAS Assessment of the Status of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas (<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment.html>) has no regulatory authority but is the basis for providing consistent recommendations from UF/IFAS faculty about the use of non-native plants in Florida. Non-native species are evaluated by trained staff using specific criteria to determine whether they: occur in natural areas in Florida; have negative ecological impacts there; are likely to increase in distribution; are difficult to manage; and have economic value. The resulting Conclusions of the IFAS Assessment are listed in tables on the website sorted by genus or by common name. These Conclusions indicate whether the species can be recommended by UF/IFAS faculty or whether the species is invasive and cannot be recommended. Recommendations may differ for north, central and southern zones in Florida (counties per zone are listed on the website). All evidence used to complete an assessment is archived and is available upon request. Currently 260 species are listed in the Conclusions tables, of which 84 species are prohibited or invasive in some part of Florida. A summary of why this assessment system was developed and its characteristics is provided at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG100>. The IFAS Assessment tool itself, including definitions and explanations of the criteria, is available at: <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/finalassessjun05.pdf>.

## Advisory

6. Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) - Invasive Plant List (<http://www.fleppc.org/list/list.htm>) is an advisory list of 133 species of non-native plants already found escaped from cultivation in Florida. This list has no regulatory authority but is developed by professional botanists, university faculty members, agency resource-managers and researchers. It is intended to assist land-managers in setting priorities for control programs and to inform concerned property owners about species they might wish to remove or avoid using. The list has two categories; species in Category I are found to be altering native plant communities while those in Category II are increasing in abundance or frequency. Photographs and information on most Category I species can be found at: [http://www.fleppc.org/ID\\_book.htm](http://www.fleppc.org/ID_book.htm)