

## What Is An Invasive Plant?

Of the more than 4,000 plant species found in Florida, over 1,300 are **non-native** or **exotic**, which is defined as a species of plant that usually comes from another region, country, continent, or ocean. When these plants negatively impact human health, the economy or the environment, they are considered to be **invasive**.

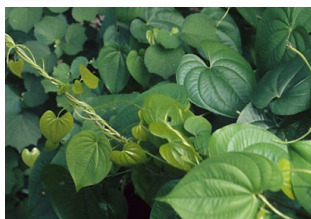
## Prohibited Plants in Florida

Some invasive plants are so problematic, an individual propagating, transporting or selling them may be subject to fines from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The four most common prohibited plants you may find in your landscape are shown below.



**Japanese Climbing Fern**  
*Lygodium japonicum*

U.S. Forest Service



**Air Potato**  
*Dioscorea bulbifera*

Ann Murray, University of Florida 1999



**Brazilian Pepper**  
*Schinus terebinthifolius*  
(pictured on cover)

GTM Research Reserve



**Popcorn Tree,  
Chinese Tallow**  
*Sapium sebiferum*

pictureplants.com

Brochure assistance provided by the University of Florida/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants.  
Visit [plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/722](http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/722).

## So, What's The Problem?

In their native ranges, plants generally do not become a nuisance. With modern transportation, many exotic plants have caught a free ride to Florida. Once they arrive, they are free from natural enemies that existed in their home range (insects, diseases, etc.) and can outgrow and replace Florida's native plants, which diminishes our state's natural beauty. Furthermore, animals that use native plants are often unable to adapt to a non-native plant invasion so they may leave the area or die out.

## Why Should We Care?

Millions of dollars are spent each year to control invasive plants in Florida. If not kept in check, invasive plants can reduce Florida's biodiversity, reduce wildlife habitat, impact endangered species, and more.

## Keeping Things Under Control

After much research, we know that some invasive plant species will never be eradicated in Florida; they simply reproduce too quickly. For those species the strategy is to keep infestations at the lowest feasible levels. This helps lessen overall environmental damage including the reduction of herbicides needed for control.

## Take Action Now

Preventing the introduction and spread of non-native plants in Florida is the most effective and least expensive means of protecting natural habitats.

- Learn to identify invasive plants. Get the full list at [www.fleppc.org](http://www.fleppc.org).
- Inspect your yard, woods, and garden, for invasive plants; throw them in the trash (don't compost them).
- Replace invasive plants with native plants. Ask your nursery or garden center for native and/or non-invasive plants and do not purchase invasive plants.
- Never transport Florida's plants to other areas or give invasive species to neighbors or friends.



**Native Plant Consulting** **Native Gardens Nursery**

[www.gtmnerr.org](http://www.gtmnerr.org)  
[www.floridainvasives.org/FirstCoast](http://www.floridainvasives.org/FirstCoast)  
[www.nativeplantconsulting.com](http://www.nativeplantconsulting.com)

# Invasive Plants You Should Know



## Northeast Florida

This brochure is just the beginning.  
You can find more information at  
[www.gtmnerr.org/invasiveplants.php](http://www.gtmnerr.org/invasiveplants.php).

## Non-native, Invasive Plants



Mimosa Tree  
*Albizia julibrissin*

Wikipedia



Asparagus Fern  
*Asparagus aethiopicus*

Ken Langeland, University of Florida 2010



Wild Taro  
*Colocasia esculenta*

www.texasinvasives.org



Sword (Boston) Fern  
*Nephrolepis cordifolia*

Wikipedia

## Non-native, Invasive Plants



Heavenly Bombop, Nandina  
*Nandina domestica*

Wikipedia



Coral Ardisia  
*Ardisia crenata*

Lia Sansom, GTM Research Reserve



Japanese Honeysuckle  
*Lonicera japonica*

Wikipedia



Mexican Petunia  
*Ruellia simplex*

Rosanna Freyre, University of Florida 2013

## Non-native, Invasive Plants



Lantana  
*Lantana camara*

Wikipedia



Golden Rain Tree  
*Koeleruteria elegans*

Wikipedia



Wedelia  
*Sphagneticola trilobata*

Wikipedia



Silverthorn  
*Elaeagnus pungens*

Lia Sansom, GTM Research Reserve