**Elephant Grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*)**

**Brief history of occurrence in NATL**

Elephant Grass was first reported in NATL in 2000 and 2003 by Dan Ward in his [Plant Inventory](http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/WardLists.htm), where he noted it as “rare; single large clump on bank w. of pond (H12)).” This is near a former active sink where members of the Agronomy Department had retrieved seeds from grasses they had introduced, grown, and harvested on the then UF Agricultural Experiment Station Farm. After NATL was established, the species was accidentally spread to gridblock F3 during the leveling of the old-field plots with a bulldozer. Once Tom Walker started treating invasive grasses with glyphosate Elephant Grass was quickly eradicated. (Growing to a height of 15ft, its clumps were easy to find; once found, the stalks were cut off near ground level and the new growth sprayed as it appeared.) The species never found its way to what became NATL-east. Elephant Grass (as ”Napier grass”) is classified as a Category I invasive in [FLEPPC’s 2011 List](http://www.fleppc.org/list/11list.html).