Making a Difference

Invasive species management is a challenge—from herbicide application and manual removal to prescribed burns and biological control. With the efforts of our faculty members, students, and countless volunteers, a few of the original threats to NATL's biodiversity have been successfully eradicated. Other species are still being monitored (and controlled) to prevent unnatural community succession.

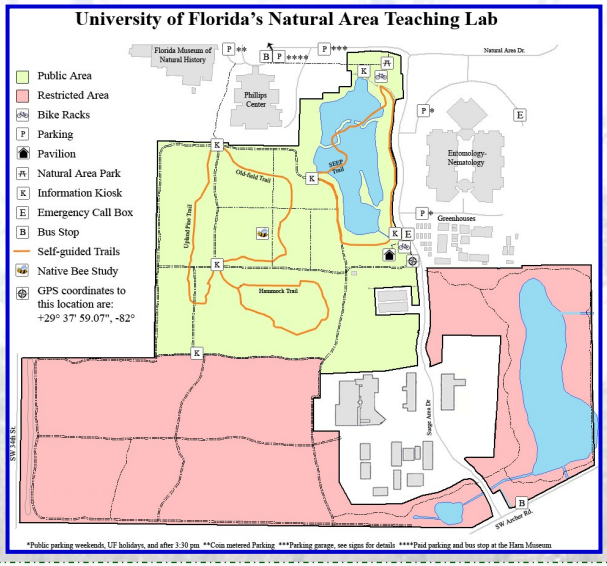
Eradication of Elephant Grass

In 2000, elephant grass was first reported in NATL. At a height of nearly 15ft it was easy to find. Stalks were cut off near ground level and the new growth was sprayed as it appeared. Glyphosate treatments led by Tom Walker quickly eradicated the species.
(http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/21ElephantGrassControl.docx)

Coral Ardisia Progress

Eradication efforts began in 2010 and by May 2013, only 7 mature berried plants were found (6 in NATL West, 1 in East). Methods included physical removal of roots and aboveground parts, especially berries, followed by application of foliar spray triclopyr. Coral ardisia eradication is still in progress.
(http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/00ArdisiaExecSum+1.doc)


54 Coral Ardisia plants pulled at MLK Day of Service 2014.



Want to get involved?

Join us in the fight against invasive species by following these steps:

1. "Like" The Natural Area Teaching Lab page, which can be found at: https://www.facebook.com/NATL.UF and follow us on Twitter (@UFNATL)!
   We post opportunities for involvement with NATL such as clean-ups, invasive removals, or native planting projects on these sites.
2. Walk along NATL's trails often to learn about the beauty and value of our natural ecosystems.
3. If you spot something suspicious, such as a large invasive plant, sizeable article of trash, or obstructions along the trails, contact a NATL officer at NATL@ufl.edu.

LIKE US ON facebook

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NATL's MOST WANTED INVASIVE PLANTS!

While exploring our trails, you have probably seen signs describing plants and animals along the way. The 60 acres encompassed by NATL are home to numerous species representative of both the state of Florida and the southeastern U.S.

However, the diverse ecosystems within NATL also provide abundant resources for non-native wildlife, and among these are several troublesome invasive plants.

This brochure is designed to help you identify the most threatening invasive plant species present in NATL.

UF NATL Natural Area Teaching Laboratory

A TRIPLE THREAT: Three of the most threatening plant species in NATL

Cogongrass #1
Imperata cylindrica

HOW TO IDENTIFY

- Color: light green
- Growth habit: tall beds of perennial grass forming loose clusters or bunches reaching 4ft high
- Leaves: up to 1in wide; finely serrated edges (rough to the touch) and overlapping sheaths
- Flowers: off-white seed-head (feathery texture)
- Other notable characteristics: very dense rhizome mats; distinct off center whitish mid-rib for each leaf blade

GROWTH HABIT

Photo Credits:
Top Right: Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, Bugwood.org

If you are interested in reading more about these invasive plants and others not discussed in this brochure, scan the QR code on the next panel to visit NATL's Most Wanted webpage!

Skunkvine #2
Paederia foetida

HOW TO IDENTIFY

- Color: bright green
- Growth habit: perennial woody vine runs along the ground, spirals up small trees, and crowds the canopy
- Leaves: opposite pairs; oval-lance shaped; bases have distinct stipules
- Flowers: grayish pink to lilac with 5 petals; fuzzy
- Other notable characteristics: foul odor emitted from crushed leaves/stems (hence the name!)

GROWTH HABIT

Photo Credits:
Above: Betty Wargo, www.florida.plantatlas.usf.edu

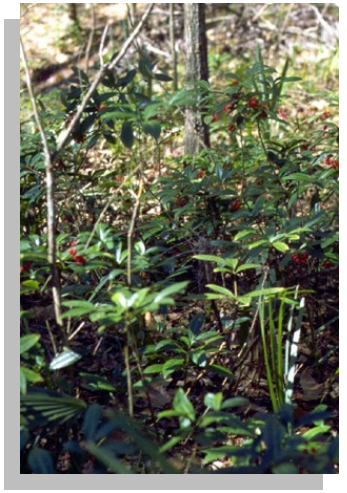
SCAN QR HERE!

Coral Ardisia #3
Ardisia crenata

HOW TO IDENTIFY

- Color: light to dark green
- Growth habit: small shrub less than 5ft tall; form multi-stemmed clumps
- Leaves: glossy, bright yellow mid-vein and a lobed margin
- Flowers: inconspicuous and white
- Other notable characteristics: bright red berries and large tap roots

GROWTH HABIT



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