

Control of invasive exotic plants in NATL

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In 2012, the two of us prepared a summary of efforts to control NATL's invasive plants from 1994 to May 2012. [That summary](#) is currently on the web. Afterwards we reconsidered which species were the greatest threat to NATL and assigned the species of greatest concern to places in a [new classification](#) of NATL's invasive plants. Now we are working on a framework to report annually the status of NATL's invasive species of greatest concern in a straightforward, revealing manner. Below are examples of how this framework may operate. These are taken from a [spreadsheet](#) that has notes to explain the details.

coral ardisia (*Ardisia crenata*)

cogangrass (*Imperata cylindrical*) [link to 2012 doc file and map]

At its peak in NATL, cogangrass had attained a solid stand in much of Old-Field Plot A, and large patches were frequent elsewhere in NATL. but by 2011 its known occurrence had been reduced to 17 small, countable patches. If the area in NATL dominated by cogangrass in 2005 had been divided up into units the size of the patches that are now counted, there would have been many more than 20. Since 2011, these countable, discrete patches have been the subject of intensive treatment but as some patches are eradicated (or are thought to be eradicated), others (but fewer) are discovered elsewhere. When the soil of OF Plot A was highly disturbed by clearing, stump removal, and disking during its "re-start" in 2013, two new patches were detected and treated in an area near Gridstake F3, last thought active in 201?.

skunkvine (*Paederia foetida*) [link to 2012 doc file and map]

Skunkvine was first identified in NATL in 2000 and was recognized as a major threat by 2004, when it was found to dominate a large area of hammock on either side of Gasline Trail. By fall of 2008 this infestation was almost eradicated and by 2012 no more could be found. In the meantime, in August 2009, a new extensive patch of skunkvine was discovered in gridblock G10. This second infestation was twice drenched with herbicide by UF's EH&S pest control. Plants that survived were sprayed by a NATL assistant, and, by December 2009, only two vines could be found (and were hand pulled). No more plants were found at this site until early April 2014, when one plant was found and pulled. On the same date, nine were found in the original patch (though none had been found there in 2012-13. In July 2013, a third patch, along the west end of the south border of NATL-west was found and treated. This patch was less extensive than the previous ones but include one vine with flowers.

cat's-claw vine (*Macfadyena. unguis-cati*)

air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)