

# Invasive / Non-Invasive Plants

## Central Florida

When non-native plants become “invasive” by spreading aggressively into natural areas, they cause ecological issues and then have financial impact. They often quickly outgrow and replace native plants within native habitats. This threatens natural plant community structures as native species are displaced or when these plants hybridize with native plants.

## Control

Millions of dollars are now being spent each year to fight invasive exotic plants and animals. Florida, more than any other state except possibly Hawaii, faces this problematic environmental and financial issue. Local, state, and federal governments, environmental organizations and private land owners all need to play a role in the control of non-native species.

## Farmers and Ranchers

The farm community has a long history of battling invasive weeds on agricultural lands. The University of Florida Extension Service provides farmers with the research-based information needed for control. IFAS (Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences) publications are available online at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

## New Funding

Following a strong lobby by farmers and ranchers, tax dollars are now being used to control non-native plants on public lands. This, though, is not enough. The list of non-native exotic plants is growing and farmers and ranchers must increase their efforts in this battle; especially if they border public lands where these plants have spread onto their lands in the past. They must not leave uncontrolled plant communities of exotics that could now spread back to public lands.

## Steps to Take - Prevention, Detection and Control

University designed integrated approach to control is best. Each land manager in Florida needs to be practicing these methods in order to stop the spread of invasive plants.

Additional Problems for Farmers and Ranchers For over a decade this Agent has visited private lands all over Central Florida. It is well

## Farm/Ranch Case Studies Series

Fact Sheet  
#032411







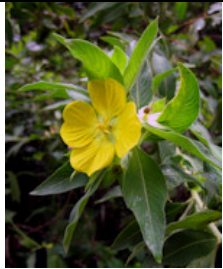




















**Dennis Mudge**  
Extension Agent III  
Livestock/Natural  
Resources/Public Policy

Orange County/University  
of Florida IFAS  
Extension Education  
Center  
6021 S. Conway Road  
Orlando, FL 32812  
407-254-9200



like “aliens” out of control because they are often toxic. Some are more poisonous than others, but this is the reason I have found that insects don’t keep many of them in check.

				
<b>Lantana</b>	<b>Rosary Pea</b>	<b>Chinese</b>	<b>Chinaberry</b>	<b>Elephant</b>
T/LK	T/LK/PP	T/LK	T/LK/PP	T/LK/PP
				
<b>Mexican bluebell</b>	<b>Primrose willow</b>	<b>Coral</b>	<b>Brazilian pepper</b>	<b>Brazilian</b>
ST/LK	ST/LK	T/LK	ST/LK	T/LK
				
<b>Asparagus fern</b>	<b>Climbing cassia</b>	<b>Tropical Soda</b>	<b>Castor bean</b>	<b>Guava</b>
T/PP	T/LK	T	T/PP	T/PP
				
<b>Chinese privet</b>	<b>White wandering</b>	<b>Camphor tree</b>	<b>Air potato</b>	<b>Skunk vine</b>
T	ST/LK	ST		

				
<b>Hydrilla</b>	<b>Torpedo grass</b>	<b>Cogongrass</b>	<b>Johnson grass</b>	<b>Begonia</b>
	<b>PE</b>	<b>ST/PE</b>	<b>ST/PE</b>	<b>T</b>

**KEY**

**T** = toxic, **ST** = suspected toxic, **LK** = Livestock killed, **PP** = people poisoned, **PE** = possible edible.

Additional information available from <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>