

The Problem

Ornamental plants have been introduced into horticulture from around the world. Here in Florida, without the specialized pest and diseases that keep these plants in check in their original homes, some of these plants “take off” and invade natural areas.

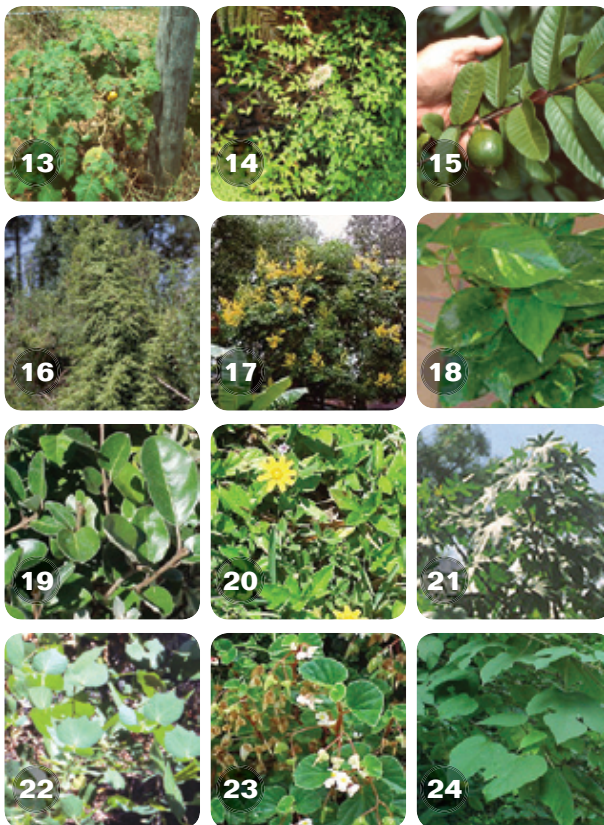
Many people are unaware of this problem and just consider these plants easy to grow and good to give away to friends or to sell in the nursery trade.

Snake plant, also called bow string hemp or mother-in-law's tongue is one of those plants that can take over, particularly in South Florida. It is currently listed as a FLEPPC category II plant.

Invasive

Not invasive

Did you think the multi-color shrub lantana was a native? In fact it is from the West Indies, but is “naturalized” in Florida. Listed as FLEPPC category I, lantana invades natural areas. (The low-growing yellow Lantana “Gold mound” doesn't produce seeds, is not invasive, and in fact is a good water-wise plant).



Pull out these plants (FLEPPC category I)

13. **Tropical soda apple** (*Solanum viarum*)
14. **Nandina** (*Nandina domestica*) worse in N. Florida
15. **Guava** (*Psidium guajava*)
16. **Japanese climbing fern** (*Lygodium japonicum*)

Also to avoid (FLEPPC category II)

17. **Golden rain tree** (*Koelreuteria elegans*)
18. **Pothos** (*Epipremnum pinnatum* cv. Aureum)
19. **Thorny eleagnus (silverthorn)** (*Elaeagnus pungens*)
20. **Wedelia** (*Wedelia trilobata*)
21. **Castor bean** (*Ricinus communis*)
22. **Caesar's weed** (*Urena lobata*)
23. **Wax begonia** (*Begonia cucullata*) worse in N. Florida.
24. **Paper mulberry** (*Broussonetia papyrifera*)

For more pictures and information, see the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) website www.fleppc.org.

Tear it out and replace? With what?

For substitutes, check www.WaterAuthorityofVolusia.org. For control methods, call the University of Florida Extension: from DeLand (386) 822-5778, from Daytona Beach (386) 257-6012, and from New Smyrna Beach (386) 423-3368.

Avoid these plants



Remove These!

Plants that invade natural areas



Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)

Brazilian pepper is prohibited by FDEP and FDACS, because of the way it takes over roadsides and natural areas. Millions of dollars are spent each year on eradication of this plant in South Florida and coastal areas.



Chinese tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*)

Chinese tallow was widely used as an ornamental for fall color and fast growth, but it takes over wetlands in the South, including the St. Johns River marshes near Gemini Springs. It has been prohibited to sell or transport in Florida since 1998.

Who decides what is invasive

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) is a group of botanists and specialists in the area of control of exotic plant pests. Every two years these professionals update their lists of problematic plants. FLEPPC Category I plants are "Invasive exotics that are altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives." FLEPPC Category II plants are "Invasive exotics that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I plants."

FDEP-prohibited list

Some of FLEPPC Category I plants, like Brazilian pepper and Chinese tallow, have been placed on a prohibited plant list by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The FDEP-prohibited list includes water weeds and wetland invaders. Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) are on this list.

FDACS-prohibited list

Other FLEPPC Category I plants invade agricultural or urban areas and are prohibited by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Individuals propagating, transporting, or selling plants on the FDEP and FDACS prohibited lists are subject to fines.

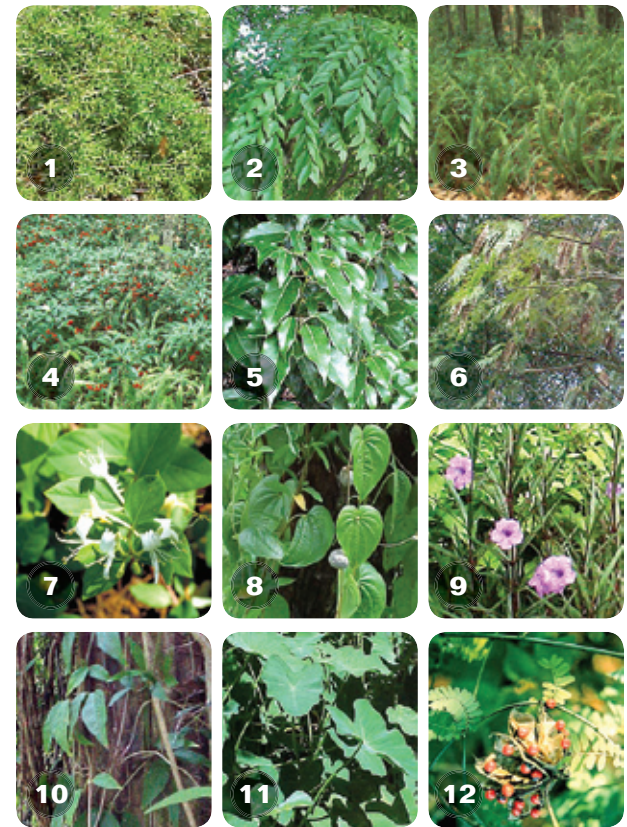
Some other FDEP-prohibited or FDACS-prohibited plants found in Volusia County are Australian pine (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), Melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), Skunk vine (*Paederia foetida*), and Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*).



Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*)

This invasive vine from the Orient is a really big problem in Georgia and the Carolinas, but it also invades disturbed lots in DeLand and other parts of the county.

Invasive plants to avoid



These EPPC category I plants are problematic in Volusia County but not currently prohibited.

1. Asparagus fern (*Asparagus densiflorus*)
2. Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*)
3. Sword (Boston) fern (*Nephrolepis cordifolia*)
4. Coral ardisia (*Ardisia crenata*)
5. Camphor (*Cinnamomum camphora*)
6. Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*)
7. Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
8. Air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)
9. Mexican petunia (*Ruellia brittoniana*)
10. Cat's claw vine (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*)
11. Elephant ear or wild taro (*Colocasia esculenta*)
12. Rosary pea (*Abrus precatorius*)

Not illustrated: Cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*)

Brochure supported by FLEPPC and Volusia County Environmental Management (www.volusia.org/environmental). Additional help from local chapters of the Florida Native Plant Society (www.fnps.org). DSG DS 9/03