

Palm Beach County Prohibited Plants



Air potato
Dioscorea bulbifera

Identifying Characteristics:
Vine with stems up to 60 feet or more in length. Heart-shaped leaves. Aerial tubers (“potatoes”) are round, brown and range in size from golf ball to tennis ball size.

Growth Characteristics:
Found in residential areas, growing on fence lines and trees, especially in shady areas. Is dormant in winter, dropping the tubers which sprout in the spring.

Did You Know?
Introduced in 1905 from tropical Asia for commercial use to provide food for livestock.



Carrotwood
Cupaniopsis anacardioides

Identifying Characteristics:
Tree to 35 feet tall. Leaves are evergreen, shiny and leathery. Fruits are formed in 1 inch capsules and are yellow to orange when ripe – split to reveal 3 seeds.

Growth Characteristics:
Grows in wet and dry areas, in any soil type, in full sun or full shade. Invades coastal sites including mangroves, cypress swamps, and marshes. Seeds dispersed by birds.

Did You Know?
Introduced as a landscape plant in the 1960s. Dropped fruits can stain sidewalks and cars.



Old World climbing fern
Lygodium microphyllum

Identifying Characteristics:
Viney fern that can grow to 90 feet. Wiry stems may be green to orange, turning dark brown or black. Leaves are 2 to 6 inches long and 2 to 3 inches wide.

Growth Characteristics:
Will grow in shady or sunny areas. Form mats up to 4 feet thick on trees and shrubs, smothering native vegetation. Reproduce by millions of spores spread by wind.

Did You Know?
Facilitates the spread of fire into the tree canopy which can fuel destructive wildfires.



Australian pine
Casuarina spp.

Identifying Characteristics:
Evergreen tree to 150 feet tall. Although the tree resembles a pine, it does not have needles. Seeds form in woody, cone-like clusters about ¾ inch long.

Growth Characteristics:
Found on sandy shores, pinelands and road shoulders. Grows very fast – 5 to 10 feet per year. Trees blow over easily in storms due to shallow root systems.

Did You Know?
Introduced in the early 1900s and planted as windbreaks and shade trees.



Earleaf acacia
Acacia auriculiformis

Identifying Characteristics:
Tree to 50 feet tall. Leaves are blade-like and slightly curved, up to 8 inches long. Fruits produced in flat, brown, oblong pods which are twisted at maturity.

Growth Characteristics:
Invades pinelands, scrub, and hammocks. A fast-growing, brittle tree that breaks easily in storms. Displaces native vegetation and threatens to shade out rare plants.

Did You Know?
Originally from Australia and Indonesia. Introduced during the early 1930s as a landscape plant.



Melaleuca
Melaleuca quinquenervia

Identifying Characteristics:
Tree to 100 feet tall. White, many-layered peeling bark. Leaves smell like camphor when crushed. Fruits are small, brown, cone-like clusters that can hold up to 300 seeds.

Growth Characteristics:
Prefers wet sites such as lake shores, swamps and wetlands. Sprouts easily from stumps and roots. Spreads rapidly, creating thickets. Releases seeds when stressed.

Did You Know?
May cause headaches, rashes, asthma attacks and respiratory irritation in some people.



Brazilian pepper
Schinus terebinthifolius

Identifying Characteristics:
Multi-trunked shrub or tree; can grow to 40 feet tall, forming thickets. Crushed leaves smell peppery or like turpentine. Produces clusters of red berries.

Growth Characteristics:
Salt-tolerant, able to withstand flooding, fire and drought. Sprouts easily from trunk and roots. Seeds spread by wildlife (birds and small mammals).

Did You Know?
Relative of poison ivy. Sap may irritate skin and pollen may cause respiratory irritation.



Kudzu
Pueraria montana var. lobata

Identifying Characteristics:
Vine with rope-like brown woody stems up to 100 feet long. Lavender flowers bloom June to September. Fruits are clustered, dry, flattened, bean pods.

Growth Characteristics:
Occurs along streams and roadsides. Forms dense mats over the ground, debris, shrubs and trees. Can kill a tree by blocking out all sunlight.

Did You Know?
Found throughout the southeast. More common in northern Florida than southern Florida.



Queensland umbrella tree
Schefflera actinophylla

Identifying Characteristics:
Evergreen tree to 40 feet tall. Leaves up to 2 feet long, shiny, palm-like shape. Red flowers appear in dense clusters above foliage.

Growth Characteristics:
Found in a variety of habitats, from cypress swamps to sand pine scrub. Can be found growing as seedlings in the boots of cabbage palms (similar to strangler figs).

Did You Know?
Introduced in 1927 for use as an indoor house plant and outdoor landscaping.



Old World climbing fern

Prohibited Nonnative Plants

Palm Beach County

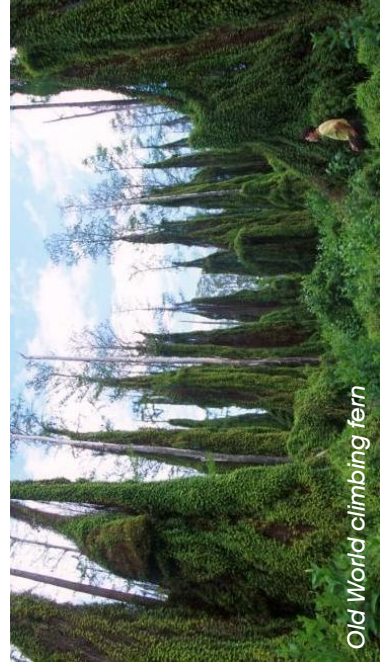


Australian pine

There is a silent, green invasion occurring in South Florida. Not stealthy little green men from Mars, but nonnative invasive plants from Asia, Australia, and South America. These "invaders" displace Florida's native plants, turning healthy, diverse habitats into monocultures that offer little in the way of food or shelter to Florida's native animals. Nonnative invasive plants grow quickly, produce abundant seeds, have no natural enemies, and flourish in a wide range of soil conditions.

Why Should I Care About Nonnative Invasive Plants?

- ❖ **HEALTH:** They pose serious health threats to persons allergic to pollen or sap.
- ❖ **DAMAGE TO PROPERTY:** Many of these plants are easily damaged during high wind events due to brittle wood and/or shallow root systems.
- ❖ **MESSY:** Some plants produce large quantities of fruits which stain sidewalks, roadways, and cars.
- ❖ **DESTROYING PARADISE:** Florida's forests and wetlands are being devoured by plants such as the Old World climbing fern which now blankets large areas of central and southern Florida.



Old World climbing fern

Want To Know More?

University of Florida
Center for Aquatic & Invasive Plants
<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>

Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council
www.fleppcc.org

Florida Native Plant Society
www.fnpps.org

South Florida Water Management District
www.sfwmd.gov

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods
Florida-Friendly Landscaping
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>

Florida Invasive Species Partnership
www.floridainvasives.org



Connect with the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management and download our mobile maps.



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Planting Native Vegetation

Many positive things can be said about the benefits of planting native vegetation.

- 1 Native plants require less maintenance.
- 2 Native plants are more drought tolerant.
- 3 Native plants attract wildlife.

These easy-to-find native plants are great replacements for nonnative invasive plants that may be lurking in your backyard:

- Live oak
- Quercus virginiana*
- Height up to 65 feet
- Acorns 1", egg-shaped
- Replaces Australian pine

- Cabbage palm
- Sabal palmetto*
- Height up to 65 feet
- Florida state tree
- Replaces umbrella tree

- Coco-plum
- Chrysobalanus icaco*
- Height up to 16 feet
- Dark purple, berry-like fruit
- Replaces earleaf acacia

- Dahoon
- Ilex cassine*
- Height up to 30 feet
- Red, berry-like fruit
- Replaces Brazilian pepper

- Paradise tree
- Simarouba glauca*
- Height up to 25 feet
- Noted for straight trunk
- Replaces carrotwood

What's Being Done About These Prohibited Plants?

Article 14.C of Palm Beach County's Unified Land Development Code

- Requires removal of nine nonnative invasive plants prior to receipt of a Certificate of Occupancy for new construction in unincorporated Palm Beach County.
- Prohibits planting any of these nine nonnative invasive plants.
- Properties in unincorporated Palm Beach County developed after April 1986 must remain clear of these nine invasive plants.
- Individual municipalities may have their own invasive plant removal requirements.

Palm Beach County Code – Article 14.D

- Requires removal of nine nonnative invasive plant species on all properties within 500 feet of a designated natural area, including those in municipalities.
- Requires removal of Old World climbing fern and air potato from all developed properties countywide.
- The nine prohibited nonnative plants were to be removed in accordance with the code's Appendix 10 schedule.

The "Nasty Nine": Old World Climbing Fern, Air Potato, Melaleuca, Brazilian Pepper, Carrotwood, Earleaf Acacia, Schefflera, Australian Pine, Kudzu

Department of Environmental Resources Management Invasive Plant Removal Program

The Department actively manages more than 31,000 acres of environmentally sensitive lands throughout Palm Beach County. Nonnative invasive plants are controlled through mechanical removal and the application of herbicides. Removal work is performed by contractors and volunteers.



Melaleuca removal at Pine Glades Natural Area - 2006

Five Things You Can Do

1. Learn to identify nonnative invasive plants and remove them from your yard.
2. Consider landscaping with Florida native plants.
3. Don't throw yard debris in nearby natural areas. This action can spread invasive plants through fragile habitats.
4. Volunteer to remove nonnative invasive plants from local natural areas. Check out www.pbcgov.com/erm/calendar.htm to view upcoming volunteer projects. Learn more about nonnative invasive plants by visiting www.pbcgov.com/erm.