

FLORIDA KEYS INVASIVE EXOTICS TASK FORCE LIST OF INVASIVE PLANTS OF THE FLORIDA KEYS - 2010-2012

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	KEYS INVASION PATTERN AND COMMENTS	SEEDING DISPERSAL & SEASON
FKIETF CATEGORY I: INVASIVE EXOTICS THAT ARE ALTERING FLORIDA KEYS NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES BY DISPLACING NATIVE SPECIES, CHANGING COMMUNITY STRUCTURES OR ECOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS, OR HYBRIDIZING WITH NATIVES			
<i>Casuarina spp.</i>	Australian pine	Highly invasive in wetlands and uplands; sale banned.	wind-blown, year-round
<i>Colubrina asiatica</i>	Asiatic colubrina	Highly invasive ,esp. beaches and coastlines; very fast growing & reproduce	seeds may be dispersed by birds, floating capsules, year-round
<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	Lead tree	Thickly invasive on roads & edges; has a long-lived seedbank	nearly year-round
<i>Manilkara zapota</i>	Sapodilla	commonly found near old (abandoned) home sites; Key deer eat seedlings but may also disperse seeds	heavy fruit, year-round seed dispersal by mammals (incl. bi-peds)
<i>Panicum maximum</i>	Guinea grass	Already common in upper Keys, spreading quickly along US1 and areas of Big Pine.	rhizomes and seeds; dispersed by mowing and mowing equipment
<i>Sansevieria hyacinthoides</i>	Bowstring hemp	If left unchecked, few can cover huge areas in hammocks; examples in Crane Point and north Key Largo	rhizomes; humans, seed (possibly)
<i>Scaevola sericea</i>	Beach naupaka	Floating seeds spread to backcountry, Florida Bay and Bahamas. Banned from sale/propagation in Florida July 2007	tides/birds/animals, nearly year-round
<i>Schinus terebinthifolia</i>	Brazilian pepper	Highly invasive in wetlands and uplands	birds, mammals, Oct - March
<i>Thespesia populnea</i>	Seaside mahoe	Floating seeds invade pristine coastal transistion areas. Still sold in some Florida stores and nurseries.	floating, year-round
FKIETF CATEGORY II: INVASIVE EXOTICS THAT HAVE INCREASED IN ABUNDANCE OR FREQUENCY BUT HAVE NOT YET ALTERED FLORIDA KEYS PLANT COMMUNITIES TO THE EXTENT SHOWN BY CATEGORY I SPECIES			
<i>Adenantha pavonina</i>	Red sandalwood	Fast growing & seeding from where planted, esp. hammocks	wind-blown
<i>Agave sisalana</i>	Sisal hemp	Establishes where dumped and spreads from landscapes	tall seed stalks, Jun-Aug
<i>Albizia lebeck</i>	Woman's tongue	Heavy seeder, is a legumes so hard to kill with herbicides treat entire circumference especially at the root collar	wind-blown
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i>	Sprenger's asparagus-fern	Spreads from landscapes and establishes where dumped	dumping/birds/animals
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Madagascar periwinkle	disturbed sites, beaches	wind-blown
<i>Cryptostegia madagascariensis</i>	Madagascar rubber vine	In transitional wetlands/hammocks, Upper keys old homesteads	summer, wind-blown
<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i>	Crowfoot grass	So far seems to be limited to disturbed sites or as an early colonizer only at natural sites	wind-blown, mowing and mowing equipment
<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	Air Potato	Invades variety of habitats: 23 FL counties, Big Pine & Cudjoe	vine, tubers, floats
<i>Epipremnum pinnatum v. aureum</i>	Golden Pothos	Has spread from landscapes, dump sites to hammock	vining, dumping
<i>Ficus microcarpa</i>	Laurel fig	Highly invasive in uplands in Upper Keys, epi- and litho-phytic & Duck Key wetlands	birds
<i>Hylocereus undatus</i>	Night-blooming cereus	Spreads from landscapes and dump sites; localized	animals, suckering
<i>Kalanchoe spp.</i>	Life plant, Chandelier plant	Spreads from landscapes and dump sites; localized	dumped; or spread unintentionally by pieces falling off plants
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana, shrub verbena	Spreads from landscapes to hammock/pineland margins	bird dispersed, year-round
<i>Macroptilium lathyroides</i>	Jumbie bean, siratro	edge species, moving into coastal berms, dunes, wetlands, hammocks	wind-blown, mowing
<i>Melinis repens</i>	Natal grass	Occurs roadside over the entire Keys; potential problem	year-round
<i>Neyraudia reynaudiana</i>	Burma reed	Prefers disturbed sites but moves into undisturbed hammocks; occurs on all roadsides in Upper Keys; large patch on Big Pine Key	seed/rhizome
<i>Pennisetum purpureum</i>	Napier grass	So far limited to roadsides, hairs on stems and leaves can cause skin irritation	mowing, and on r-o-w maintenance equipment, year-round
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	Fountain grass	Landscape spreading on roadsides, medians etc. 18-mi stretch (2010) Card Sound Road (2007) Angelfish Crk bridge (2005) MM 103.6	mowing, and on r-o-w maintenance equipment, year-round
<i>Schefflera actinophylla</i>	Queensland umbrella tree	Hammock and mangrove margins, disturbed sites and spoil islands in the Upper Keys	birds, summer
<i>Sesbania herbacea</i>	Danglepod, Sesbania	Mainland native. moving into wetlands from roadsides	Prolific annual seeder, seeds long lasting
<i>Sophora tomentosa var. occidentalis</i>	Texas Necklace pod	Hybridizes with <i>Sophora tomentosa var. truncata</i> ; native can have silvery fuzzy leaves on young foliage; Texas var. retains pubescence	Necklace pod
<i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i>	Wedelia	disturbed sites, beaches, wetlands	year-round
<i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i>	Nettle-leaf Porterweed	Non-native porterweed that hybridizes with native	year-round
<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>	St. Augustine grass	Planted, beginning to invade hammocks from roadsides and yards	rhizomes, Sep-Nov
<i>Syngonium podophyllum</i>	Am. evergreen, Arrowhead vine	usually found spreading from planted areas and dump sites	rhizome or cuttings
<i>Tabebuia heterophylla</i>	Pink shower tree	Newer invader, with many large local infestations keyswide; emerging major problem in hammocks Sugarload, Cudjoe, Summerland	wind-blown, Mar - Aug
<i>Talipariti tiliaceum</i>	Sea hibiscus	So far largely limited to disturbed sites	drift seed/wrack lines
<i>Tecoma stans</i>	Yellow elder	moving into hammocks from disturbed edges	wind; seed is a samara
<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	Tropical almond	occasional problem on Keys coastlines and near plantings	drift seed
<i>Tradescantia spathacea</i>	Oyster plant	Spreads from landscaping and establishes where dumped; often sprouting from tree hollows or any moist location	spreads by seed and dumping
<i>Tribulus cistoides</i>	Puncture weed	Moving down the roadside; also on beaches	animals, year-round
<i>Zoysia japonica / Z. tenuifolia (now pacifica)</i>	Zoysia grass	Escaping from park residence at N end of Bahia Honda	rhizomes

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FKIETF CATEGORY III: INVASIVE EXOTICS THAT HAVE NOT YET BECOME A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN THE FLORIDA KEYS BUT ARE TO BE WATCHED (TBW).			
<i>Ardisia elliptica</i>	Shoebuttan ardisia	Moving south on Card Sound Road; not yet over bridge	birds, year-round
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed	recent new Summerland Key, Little Torch	wind; escaped cultivation
<i>Asparagus setaceus</i>	common asparagus-fern	occasionally found in hammock margins in NKL	birds, or by ROW maintenance equipment
<i>Asystasia gangetica</i>	Ganges primrose	Spreads from disturbed sites and climbs forest edges	Mar - Aug
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>	Orchid tree	Planted here but no escape observed yet; emerging problem in hammocks Cudjoe	see escaped cultivation, seeds long lasting
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	Paper mulberry	One escape in Key Largo, serious problem in Dade	seeds at very young age
<i>Bucida buccera</i>	Black Olive	Copious seeder, invades canopy gaps near parent	unknown
<i>Bucida spinosa</i>	Ming Tree	One escape in North Key Largo. Population in Homestead.	unknown
<i>Clusia rosea</i>	Pitch apple/autograph tree	spreading in Key Largo. Considered an extirpated/re-established plant for lower Keys (Big Pine Key) based on one specimen reported	birds, spring-summer
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Carrotwood	Recent (1990s) introduction; has spread from plantings in Key West; invades uplands to buttonwood zone	birds/small mammals
<i>Delonix regia</i>	Royal Poinciana	saplings and young trees found spreading into hammocks in KLH,Cupania and Cudjoe	seeds - wind, water, dumping; seeds long lasting
<i>Dichrostachys cinera</i>	Sickle bush, Marabu	Dense thickets in Cuba, Pacific Islands.	mowing, rhizomes
<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i>	Pencil cactus	Occasionally found surviving along woods edge.	dumped
<i>Ficus altissima</i>	False banyan	Planted here but no escape observed in Keys yet	birds
<i>Flacourtia indica</i>	Governor's plum	found 106.5 KL,Very invasive in Miami-Dade pineland and hammock	animals
<i>Furcraea foetida</i>	Central American sisal	Spreads from landscapes and dump sites; localized	Jun - Aug
<i>Hamelia patens var. glabra</i>	African Fire Bush	<i>Hamelia patens var. patens</i> ; common name is a misnomer - it is not from Africa but from American tropics	sold as "native" firebush
<i>Indigofera spicata</i>	Indigofera	Found along roadsides Keys-wide.	spread by ROW maintenance & equipment
<i>Jacquinia arborea</i>	Bracelet Wood	disturbed sites, campground at JPCRSF & in Geiger Key	fruits are buoyant; birds
<i>Jasminum fluminense</i>	Brazilian jasmine	large infestation found in JPCRSF east of MM 102; a major pest in Miami-Dade	black fruits attractive to birds; seeds may also be dispersed by other animals
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	Melaleuca	Localized invasions in Key Largo, Stock Island & Boca Chica	wind-blown, Aug - Dec
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Chinaberry	Planted as ornamental and has potential to spread;	animals
<i>Merremia tuberosa</i>	Wood rose	It is planted in Keys; and is a problem in Dade	year-round
<i>Murraya paniculata</i>	Orange-jessamine	Planted here but no escape observed yet; does escape occasionally in Miami-Dade.	animals
<i>Nephrolepis brownii</i>	Asian sword fern	Invades hammocks	seeds spores/rhizome
<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>	Tuberous sword fern	Invades hammocks	seeds spores/rhizome
<i>Ochrosia parviflora</i>	Kopsia	Found Cupania Hammock, wetland edges in Key West	water and dumping
<i>Panicum repens</i>	Torpedograss	Present in Keys, but extent of invasion unknown	rhizomes/seeds
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	Senegal Date Palm	Localized problem at Marquesas Keys and Cape Florida	rhizomes/seeds
<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>	Date palm	Found in many old home sites, can move into coastal hammocks	rhizomes/seeds
<i>Pongamia pinata</i>	pongamia	Aggressive in Dade. 100's of seedlings near Big Pine adult	seeds long lasting
<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Guava	Spreads from mainland fruit trees into uplands	mammals/humans
<i>Psidium cattleianum</i>	Strawberry guava	Spreads from mainland fruit trees into uplands	mammals/humans
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	castor bean	Usually found near dump sites; ruderal areas	capsule "explosively" eject seeds
<i>Selenicereus pteranthus</i>	Snake Cactus	escapes from plantings	live cuttings; dumped
<i>Senna pendula</i>	Christmas senna	Crocodile Lake, and private property on ramrod	seed long lasting
<i>Solanum viarum</i>	Tropical soda apple	Invades pastures and upland pines; found in FDOT sod	livestock/mamals/ hay
<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Java Plum	One site on Ramrod key, emerging problem in hammocks	birds/small mammals
<i>Tamarindus indicus</i>	Tamarind	emerging problem in hammocks	naturalizing from landscape plants
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	Chinese Tallow	not reported in the Keys yet,	humans, crows
<i>Turnera ulmifolia</i>	Yellow alder, RamGoat	Disturbed areas; may invade beach dunes	unknown
<i>Vitex trifolia</i>	Chastetree	DJKLHBSF under FKEC power lines & Long Key as landscape tree; escaped on Big Pine	Landscapers; very difficult to kill
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Washingtonia Palm	readily spreads from landscape specimens, found in all var. habitats	birds, mammals. Mowers, in mulch

The FKIETF has kept a formal list of exotic species that its members find to be invasive since 1999. Listings are based primarily from on-the-ground, local knowledge of individual species and their behavior in natural areas. The list is updated every two years.

For more info, please visit: www.floridainvasives.org/Keys