Florida
EXOTIC PEST PLANT COUNCIL

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"Weeds in La Florida, 2001"
Marking 500 years of first contacts with alien plants
And scouting the future
Smith, Jackie, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Invasive Plant Management, Wellington; 561-791-4720; smithj1@mail.state.fl.us . What is “maintenance control” anyway?

Maintenance Control is a seemingly simple way of managing exotic invasive plant problems. In the early 1970's, both the federal government and the State of Florida legislatively mandated it for exotic aquatic plant control. In this paper, there will be a discussion about the history and several case studies. Methods of maintenance control for upland exotic plants will be talked about. The economics will also be discussed.

Stocker, Randall, Director, University of Florida, IFAS, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Species; 352-392-9613; aquplants@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu . Florida and the National Invasive Species Council.

The National Council was established in 1999 when President Clinton issued Executive Order 13112. It is co-chaired by the Secretaries of the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce. Also established by the Order, to provide avenues for wide input, was the Invasive Species Advisory Committee, which includes representation from many stakeholders such as state government agencies and non-government organizations. On January 18, 2001, with considerable initial input from Advisory Committee subgroups, the Council approved the first edition of the National Invasive Species Management Plan (available on-line at www.invasivespecies.gov). This is our first look at an evolving national-level process to address the numerous invasive pest issues facing our country. It strongly emphasizes not only the importance of international coordination and cooperation but also the importance of grass-roots (literally, in some cases) management and monitoring programs, especially for invasive plants.

Wilson, Sandra B.\(^1\) and Patrick C. Wilson\(^2\), Departments of \(^1\)Environmental Horticulture and \(^2\)Soil and Water Science, Indian River Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Fort Pierce; 561-468-3922, sbwilson@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu . Could we be producing, purchasing, or planting invasive exotic plants of the future?

The State of Florida spends millions annually to control invasive exotic plant species that have collectively disrupted thousands of acres of natural ecosystems throughout the state. As national leaders in ornamental plant production, the Florida environmental horticulture industry is faced with rising concerns about the potential for nonnative plants to escape cultivation and displace native species and ecosystems. By the time the severity of an invasion is recognized, it is often too late for effective control, thus reinforcing the concept that prevention is the best method for protection. It would be useful to determine if practical methods can be developed to assess the potential invasiveness of non-native plant species prior to their introduction. A critical step to formulating a screening protocol is the knowledge of seed production, germination, and viability of the target species. Seeds from twenty ornamental plant species (routinely propagated vegetatively) were collected from two locations and germinated in incubators with light or darkness at 10, 15, 24, and 33 °C. Concurrent greenhouse studies were conducted using 4” pots filled with soilless media and by placing seed on the soil surface or 1 cm below the soil surface. Varying germination rates amongst species will be discussed as well as a separate experiment conducted specifically to focus on the nutrient uptake and photosynthesis of Mexican petunia (Ruellia brittoniana) and its potential invasiveness across cultivars.