

LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Greener CHOICES

ALTERNATIVES TO INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANTS



An educational pamphlet of the Lake County Office of Parks & Trails and the Big Scrub Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) of Lake and Marion counties.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Call to action	1
What you can do to help.	2
Plant Care and Wildlife Benefits	3
Plants	4
Trees	4
<i>Blooming</i>	4
<i>Shade</i>	6
<i>Fall Color</i>	7
Shrubs	8
Vines	10
Groundcovers.	12
Grasses	13
Tropical Plants	14
Wetlands	16

Call TO ACTION

Lake County is under attack and needs your help in preserving its unique environment.

Invasive non-native plants threaten to crowd out native species and disrupt Lake County's distinctive ecosystem processes.

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), while some non-natives, such as tomato plants, behave nicely and put food on our tables, others, without conditions that control them on their home turf, become invasive — growing and spreading rapidly and aggressively. Invasive plants, such as the Old World climbing fern and Brazilian pepper, cost Floridians

More than 1.7 million acres of Florida's remaining natural areas have become infested and overwhelmed with non-native plant species.

millions of dollars annually. In Florida, approximately \$45 million taxpayer dollars are spent annually on invasive plant management on natural areas and waterways.

The economic costs pale in comparison to the ecological ones. Invasive non-native species are often cited as the number two threat to global biodiversity, second only to habitat loss due to land conversion.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

The first step to control the spread of non-native plants — marked with a “X” — is to **avoid using them.**

If you have invasive plants in your landscape, consider removing them by hand pulling or carefully applying herbicide. UF/IFAS Extension Lake County, 352-343-4101, located at 1951 Woodlea Road in Tavares, can assist in providing detailed removal techniques for various invasive plants.

This brochure was designed to suggest alternatives to invasive non-native plants.

Replacing invasive non-native plants with Florida natives creates a more sustainable landscape in your yard that will have lasting benefits.

According to The Florida Native Plant Society, fnps.org, one advantage of using native plants is that they add beauty and interest to your landscape. **In addition, native plants, which are better adapted to Florida’s soil types and climate, will conserve water by requiring less irrigation once established; provide food and shelter for butterflies, birds, and other wildlife; and save money by reducing maintenance and pest control costs.**



PLANT CARE GUIDE

-  Full Sun
-  Part Shade
-  Shade
-  Moist Soil
-  Moderate Water
-  Drought Tolerant
(Applies to established plants)
-  Mature Height
(In Feet)

WILDLIFE BENEFITS

-  Butterfly Friendly
-  Bird Friendly

Invasive NON-NATIVE Trees

(Blooming)



Invasive non-native trees are typically introduced as ornamental plants because of their attractive blooms. When many of these trees bloom, seeds fall or are dispersed into the air and carried by birds, animals or the wind into other landscapes.



←---• **ORCHID TREE**
(*Bauhinia* spp.)

HEIGHT: Up to 50 feet



←---• **FLAMEGOLD TREE,**
also known as **GOLDENRAIN TREE**
(*Koelreuteria* spp.)

HEIGHT: Up to 50 feet

FLOWERING DOGWOOD

(*Cornus florida*)



←---• **CHINABERRY TREE**
(*Melia azedarach*)

HEIGHT: Up to 50 feet



← **EASTERN REDBUD**

(*Cercis canadensis*)



WHITE FRINGETREE

(*Chionanthus virginicus*)



AlterNATIVE Trees

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

- Carolina Silverbell (*Halesia carolina*)
- Loblolly Bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*)
- Sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*)
- Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
- Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*)
- Sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*)



CAROLINA SILVERBELL
(*Halesia carolina*)



LOBLOLLY BAY

(*Gordonia lasianthus*)



Invasive NON-NATIVE Trees

(Shade)



Some non-native shade trees are able to invade due to fast growth and the ability to produce large amounts of fruit. Birds and other wildlife that eat the prolific fruit become vessels for seed dispersal, thus making it hard to contain and control the spread of these invasive trees.



←---• **AUSTRALIAN PINE,**
also known as **SHEOAK**
(*Casuarina spp.*)

HEIGHT: Up to 100 feet



←---• **CAMPHOR TREE**
(*Cinnamomum camphora*)

HEIGHT: Up to 70 feet

LONGLEAF PINE
(*Pinus palustris*)
☀️ 💧 🍃 90

AlterNATIVE Trees

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

- Bluejack Oak (*Quercus incana*)
- Pond Pine (*Pinus serotina*)
- Red Bay (*Persea borbonia*)
- Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
- Sand Live Oak (*Quercus geminata*)



LIVE OAK
(*Quercus virginiana*)
☀️ 💧 🍃 60

Invasive NON-NATIVE Trees

(Fall Color)



Many invasive trees and shrubs form dense monotypic (consisting of only one type) thickets that crowd out native vegetation and prevent any other plant species from sprouting.



←---• **BRAZILIAN PEPPER,**
also known as a **FLORIDA HOLLY**
(*Schinus terebinthifolia*)

HEIGHT: Up to 30 feet



←---• **CHINESE TALLOWTREE,**
also known as a **POPCORNTREE**
(*Triadica sebifera*)

HEIGHT: Up to 50 feet

SWEETGUM
(*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
☀️ 💧 🍃 80

AlterNATIVE Trees

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

- American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)
- American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)
- Dahoon Holly (*Ilex cassine*)
- Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)
- Pignut Hickory (*Carya glabra*)
- Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)
- River Birch (*Betula nigra*)
- Turkey Oak (*Quercus laevis*)



YAUPON HOLLY
(*Ilex vomitoria*)
☀️ 💧 🍃 20

Invasive NON-NATIVE Shrubs



A mechanism used by certain plants to successfully invade is their release of allelochemicals—chemical compounds that can have harmful effects on the surrounding plant community. Allelochemicals can negatively influence growth, survival and reproduction of other plant species.



←---• **LANTANA**, also known as a **SHRUB VERBENA**
(*Lantana strigocamara*)

HEIGHT: Up to 6 feet



←---• **NANDINA**, also known as a **HEAVENLY BAMBOO**
(*Nandina domestica*)

HEIGHT: Up to 8 feet

SHINY BLUEBERRY
(*Vaccinium myrsinites*)



←---• **CORAL ARDISIA**
(*Ardisia crenata*)

HEIGHT: Up to 6 feet

OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA
(*Hydrangea quercifolia*)



FIREBUSH
(*Hamelia patens*)



AlterNATIVE Shrubs

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

- Autumn Sage (*Salvia coccinea*)
- Deerberry (*Vaccinium stamineum*)
- Florida Pennyroyal, Wild Pennyroyal (*Piloblephis rigida*)
- Garberia (*Garberia heterophylla*)
- Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)
- Scrub Mints (*Conradina* spp.)
- St. John's Wort (*Hypericum tenuifolium*)
- Mock Vervain (*Glandularia* spp.)



ST. JOHN'S WORT
(*Hypericum tenuifolium*)



FLORIDA PENNYROYAL, WILD PENNYROYAL
(*Piloblephis rigida*)



Invasive NON-NATIVE Vines



Invasive vines shade out native flora and kill trees by weighing down the canopy until it topples, or by destroying the protective bark, also known as girdling. Invasive vines can climb and completely cover trees, shrubs, and structures; form extensive ground covers; or exhibit both habits.



← • **JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE**
(*Lonicera japonica*)

HEIGHT: Up to 15 feet

CORAL HONEYSUCKLE
(*Lonicera sempervirens*)



← • **CORAL VINE**
(*Antigonon leptopus*)

HEIGHT: Up to 25 feet



← • **FLAME VINE**
(*Pyrostegia venusta*)

HEIGHT: depends upon supporting structure

YELLOW JESSAMINE, CAROLINA JESSAMINE, CAROLINA JASMINE
(*Gelsemium sempervirens*)



← • **CHINESE WISTERIA**
(*Wisteria sinensis*)

HEIGHT: Up to 65 feet



AMERICAN WISTERIA
(*Wisteria frutescens*)



AlterNATIVE Vines

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

- **Crossvine**
(*Bignonia capreolata*)
- **Netleaf Leather-Flower**
(*Clematis reticulata*)
- **Passionflower, Maypop**
(*Passiflora incarnata*)
- **Climbing Aster**
(*Symphotrichum carolinianum*)
- **Man-of-the-Earth**
(*Ipomoea pandurata*)

PURPLE PASSIONFLOWER
(*Passiflora incarnata*)



TRUMPET VINE, TRUMPET CREEPER
(*Campsis radicans*)



Invasive NON-NATIVE Groundcovers



Most invasive plants used in landscapes as groundcover are capable of aggressively reproducing by either an underground mass of roots (rhizomes), aboveground runners, or both. New plants can sprout from broken-off fragments of roots or runners, which makes total removal of these non-native plants difficult.



←---• **WEDELIA**, also known as
a **CREEPING OXEYE**
(*Sphagneticola trilobata*)

HEIGHT: Up to 1 foot



←---• **BOWSTRING HEMP SNAKEPLANT**, also known as
a **MOTHER-IN-LAW'S TONGUE**
(*Dracaena hyacinthoides*
& *Dracaena trifasciata*)

HEIGHT: Up to 3 feet

AlterNATIVE Groundcovers

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

- **Gopher Apple**
(*Geobalanus oblongifolius*)
- **Frogfruit, Turkey Tangle Fogfruit, Capeweed** (*Phyla nodiflora*)
- **Powderpuff** (*Mimosa strigillosa*)
- **Narrowleaf Blue-Eyed Grass**
(*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)
- **Partridge Berry** (*Mitchella repens*)



← **ADAMS NEEDLE**
(*Yucca filamentosa*)



→ **PARTRIDGE BERRY**
(*Mitchella repens*)



→ **DUNE SUNFLOWER**
(*Helianthus debilis*)



Invasive NON-NATIVE Grasses



These grasses take up more water and nutrients, and produce more seeds than native plants. They can eventually take over gardens, yards, and natural areas and displace native plants, animals and pollinators such as bees and butterflies.



←---• **ARUNDO**, also known as
a **GIANT REED**
(*Arundo donax*)

HEIGHT: Up to 20 feet



←---• **FOUNTAIN GRASS**
(*Cenchrus setaceus*)

HEIGHT: Up to 3 feet

MUHLY GRASS

(*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)



AlterNATIVE Grasses

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

- **Pineland Dropseed**
(*Sporobolus junceus*)
- **Purple Lovegrass**
(*Eragrostis spectabilis*)
- **Splitbeard Bluestem**
(*Andropogon ternarius*)
- **Wiregrass**
(*Aristida stricta*)



→ **FAKAHATCHEEGRASS, EASTERN GAMAGRASS**

(*Tripsacum dactyloides*)



Invasive NON-NATIVE Tropical Plants



Tropical-looking invasive plants will readily form dense growth along river and lake shores, displacing native shoreline vegetation. Many of these plants have been purposely introduced into a landscape, but may also have spread via fruit or vegetative fragments floating through waterways.



←---• **QUEEN PALM**
(*Syagrus romanzoffiana*)
HEIGHT: Up to 50 feet



←---• **GOLDEN BAMBOO**
(*Phyllostachys aurea*)
HEIGHT: Up to 40 feet



←---• **MEXICAN BLUEBELL, BRITTON'S WILD PETUNIA**
(*Ruellia simplex*)
HEIGHT: Up to 3 feet

CORALBEAN
(*Erythrina herbacea*)
☀️ 💧 🦋 🍃 15



←---• **MIMOSA, SILKTREE**
(*Albizia julibrissin*)
HEIGHT: Up to 25 feet

EVERGLADES PALM, PAUROTIS PALM
(*Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*)
☀️ 💧 20

TULIP POPLAR
(*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
☀️ 💧 🦋 90



AlterNATIVE Tropical Plants

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

- **Bluestem Palmetto, Dwarf Palmetto** (*Sabal minor*)
- **Coontie** (*Zamia floridiana*)
- **Necklace Pod** (*Sophora tomentosa*)
- **Pipestem** (*Agarista populifolia*)
- **Scrub Palmetto** (*Sabal etonia*)
- **Sea Grape** (*Coccoloba uvifera*)
- **Swamp Fern** (*Blechnum serrulatum*)
- **Switch Cane, Giant Cane** (*Arundinaria gigantea*)

COONTIE
(*Zamia floridiana*)
☀️ 💧 2



SABAL PALM, CABBAGE PALM
(*Sabal palmetto*)

☀️ 💧 🦋 🍃 60



Invasive NON-NATIVE Tropical Plants (Wetland)



Some invasive tropical plants have seeds that cling to animal fur, human clothing, vehicles and equipment and are then transported to new locations, where they eventually fall off, and may then start a new infestation.



←---• **PERUVIAN PRIMROSE WILLOW**
(*Ludwigia peruviana*)
HEIGHT: Up to 12 feet



←---• **WILD TARO**
(*Colocasia esculenta*)
HEIGHT: Up to 4 feet

SANDWEED
(*Hypericum fasciculatum*)
☀️ 💧 🦋 4



←---• **UMBRELLA PLANT**
(*Cyperus involucratus*)
HEIGHT: Dwarf plant can grow up to 2 feet.
Regular plant can grow up to 6 feet.



←---• **CAESARWEED**
(*Urena lobata*)
HEIGHT: Up to 10 feet



←---• **STRING-LILY**
(*Crinum americanum*)
☀️ 💧 3



AlterNATIVE Tropical Plants

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

- Alligatorflag (*Thalia geniculata*)
- Crimoneyed Rosemallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)
- Blue Flag Iris, Prairie Iris (*Iris spp.*)
- Lizard's Tail (*Saururus cernuus*)
- Scarlet Rosemallow (*Hibiscus coccineus*)
- String-lily (*Crinum americanum*)
- Swamp Rosemallow (*Hibiscus grandiflorus*)



CARDINALFLOWER
(*Lobelia cardinalis*)
☀️ 💧 🦋 4



BLUE FLAG IRIS, PRAIRIE IRIS
(*Iris spp.*)
☀️ 💧 3

SALT MARSH MALLOW
(*Kosteletzkya pentacarpos*)
☀️ 💧 🦋 🍃 6



• For more information about
**INVASIVE
NON-NATIVE PLANTS:**

Florida Invasive Species Partnership
floridainvasives.org

The Nature Conservancy
nature.org/florida

UF Center for Aquatic & Invasive Plants
plants.ifas.ufl.edu

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/habitat/invasive-plants

Lake Soil & Water Conservation District
district.afcd.us/lakesoilandwater

UF IFAS Extension Office
sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/lake

UF IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
plants.ifas.ufl.edu

For more information about
NATIVE PLANTS:

Florida Native Plant Society
fnps.org

Atlas of Florida Plants
florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/results.aspx



Parks & Water Resources

27351 State Road 19, Tavares, FL 32778
352-253-4950 | lakecountyfl.gov/parks