# KEY FEATURES IN DETERMINING THE WEEDS FROM THE NATIVES



Dexter Sowell & Kim Alexander
Florida Natural Areas Inventory





#### Introduction

- Land managers and contractors
- Active exotics removal in Florida and at same time high number of native/rare species that are very similar to exotics
- Avoiding non-target damage to our natives is KEY
- This presentation is a series of species comparisons to help us avoid non-target damage

#### **Information Sources:**

- Florida Natural Areas Inventory
- ISB Atlas of Florida Plants
- UF/IFAS Center for Invasive Plants

**EXOTIC** 

NATIVE

Don't let "mistaken identity" happen in your invasives control projects !!!

# TREES AND SHRUBS

#### **CHINESE TALLOW**

Triadica sebifera

# **CORALBEAN**

Erythrina herbacea









#### **CHINESE TALLOW**

Triadica sebifera



- Tree, unarmed
- Simple leaf
- Small yellow flowers
- Milky sap
- Capsule with white seeds

#### **CORALBEAN**

Erythrina herbacea



- Small shrub, armed
- Compound leaf
- Red tubular flower
- No milky sap
- Legume (bean pod) with red seeds



# **SHOEBUTTON ARDISIA**

Ardisia elliptica

#### **MARLBERRY**

Ardisia escallonioides







# **SHOEBUTTON ARDISIA**

Ardisia elliptica

#### **MARLBERRY**

Ardisia escallonioides



- Leaf margins revolute
- Flowers in stalked axillary clusters
- Shrub <2 meters tall</li>



- Leaf margins flat
- Flowers in terminal clusters
- Shrub/small tree to 5 meters tall or more

Ardisia crenata

# **MARLBERRY**

Ardisia escallonioides





Ardisia crenata





- Leaves with crenate margins
- Flowers in stalked axillary clusters
- Bright red drupes



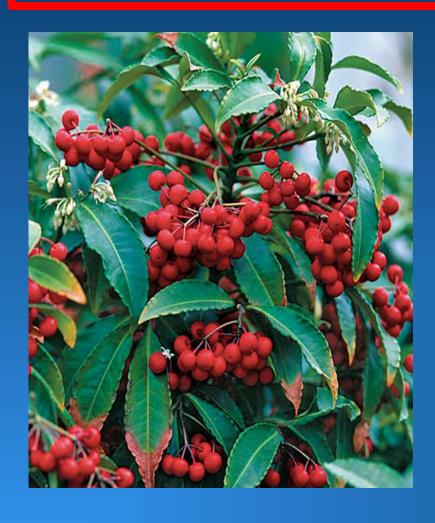
**MARLBERRY** 

- Leaves entire
- Flowers in terminal clusters
- Drupes turning black

Ardisia crenata

# WILD COFFEE

Psychotria nervosa







Ardisia crenata

#### **WILD COFFEE**

Psychotria nervosa



- Alternate leaves
- Revolute, crenate leaf margin
- Leaf veins not prominent



- Opposite leaves
- Slightly revolute, entire to wavy leaf margin
- Leaf veins prominent



Ligustrum sinense

# **GODFREY'S SWAMPPRIVET**

Forestiera godfreyi







Ligustrum sinense

# Species Distribution Map Not Vouchered Vouchered

- Terminal flower clusters
- Evergreen leaves
- Leaf margins entire
- Short petiole
- Underside of leaves with hairs along the midvein

#### **GODFREY'S SWAMPPRIVET**

Forestiera godfreyi



- Axillary flower clusters
- Deciduous leaves
- Leaf margins toothed above the middle
- Longer petiole
- Underside of leaves uniformly hairy

Ligustrum sinense

# **FLORIDA SWAMPPRIVET**

Forestiera segregata





Ligustrum sinense

# FLORIDA SWAMPPRIVET

Forestiera segregata



- Terminal flower clusters
- Short petiole
- Leaves elliptic
- Underside of leaves with hairs along the midvein



- Axillary flower clusters
- Leaves sessile
- Leaves obovate
- Underside of leaves glabrous



Ligustrum sinense

# **WALTER'S VIBURNUM**

Viburnum obovatum





Ligustrum sinense



- Four petals/flower
- Leaf margin entire
- No short shoots
- Young stems hairy

#### **WALTER'S VIBURNUM**

Viburnum obovatum



- Five petals/flower
- Leaf margin entire or serrate
- Short shoots
- Young stems and leaves with rusty scales

Scaevola taccada

# **INKBERRY**

Scaevola plumieri





Scaevola taccada



- Leaves longer (to 21 cm)
- Leaves rolled
- Leaves less succulent
- White fruit
- Green foliage

#### **INKBERRY**

Scaevola plumieri



- Leaves shorter (to 10 cm)
- Leaves flat
- Leaves more succulent
- Black fruit
- Yellow-green foliage

Scaevola taccada

#### **INKBERRY**

Scaevola plumieri







Invasive, beach Naupaka (Scaevola taccada) growing with native Inkberry (Scaevola plumieri).

Scaevola taccada



Scaevola taccada

#### **SEVENYEAR APPLE**

Genipa clusiifolia







Scaevola taccada



- Leaves alternate (but densely clustered)
- White fruit
- Fruit smaller
- Flowers zygomorphic

#### **SEVENYEAR APPLE**

Genipa clusiifolia



- Leaves opposite
- Black fruit (green when immature)
- Fruit larger (6-10cm)
- Flowers actinomorphic

# **LANTANA**

Lantana strigocamara

# PINELAND LANTANA

Lantana depressa





#### **LANTANA**

Lantana camara

# Species Distribution Map Not Vouchered Vouchered

- Obtuse leaf base
- Leaves more or less flat
- Orange or multi-colored flowers

#### **PINELAND LANTANA**

Lantana depressa



- Acute leaf base
- Leaves folded along midrib
- All flowers yellow

# LANTANA

Lantana camara

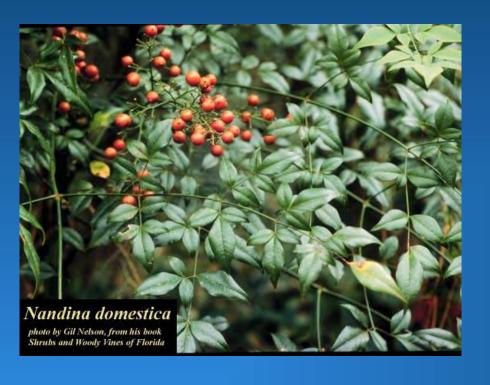


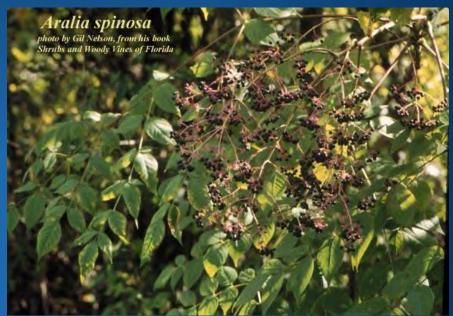
#### **HEAVENLY BAMBOO**

Nandina domestica

# **DEVIL'S WALKINGSTICK**

Aralia spinosa





# **HEAVENLY BAMBOO**

Nandina domestica

# DEVIL'S WALKINGSTICK

Aralia spinosa





#### **HEAVENLY BAMBOO**

Nandina domestica



- Leaflet margin entire
- Stem and leaves unarmed
- Red berry

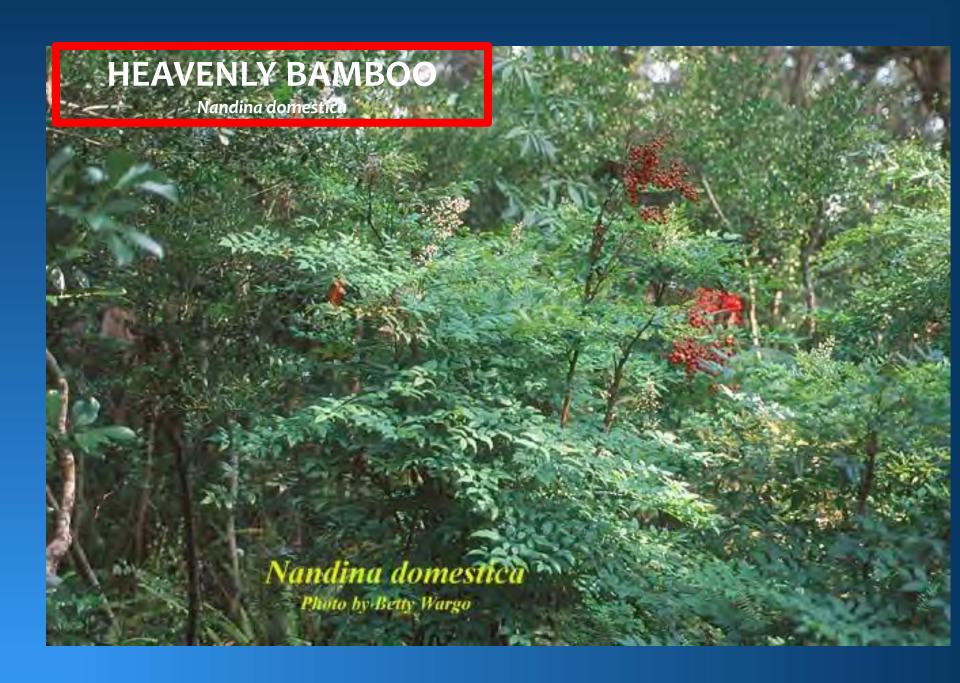
#### **DEVIL'S WALKINGSTICK**

Aralia spinosa



- Leaflet margin serrate
- Stem and leaves armed with prickles
- Purple/black drupe





### **SILVERTHORN**

Elaeagnus pungens

# Elaeagnus pungens Photo by Allen Boatman

### **GUM BULLY**

Sideroxylon lanuginosum



### **SILVERTHORN**

Elaeagnus pungens

### **GUM BULLY**

Sideroxylon lanuginosum



- Twigs and underside of leaf with silvery and rusty scales
- Fruit a large berry covered with scales
- No milky sap



- Twigs and underside of leaf with soft hairs
- Fruit a black berry
- Milky sap

### **JAVA PLUM**

Syzygium cumini





### **FALSE MASTIC**

Sideroxylon foetidissimum



### **JAVA PLUM**

Syzygium cumini



- Black fruit
- Entire leaf margin
- Opposite leaves
- Lateral leaf veins quite faint

### **FALSE MASTIC**

Sideroxylon foetidissimum



- Yellow fruit
- Wavy leaf margin
- Alternate leaves
- Lateral leaf veins more apparent

### **JAVA PLUM**

Syzygium cumini

### **FALSE MASTIC**

Sideroxylon foetidissimum





**Cupaniopsis anacardioides** 

### **PARADISETREE**





**Cupaniopsis anacardioides** 

### **PARADISETREE**





**Cupaniopsis anacardioides** 



- Leaves with 4-12 leaflets
- Leaves green when young
- Leaves yellowish-green
- Inner bark orange
- Orange, 3-lobed fruit

### **PARADISETREE**



- Leaves with 9-21 leaflets
- Leaves red-orange when young
- Leaves dark green
- Inner bark not orange
- Purplish/black fruit

Cupaniopsis anacardioides

### **PARADISETREE**





Psidium cattleianum

### **POSSUMHAW**

Viburnum nudum







Psidium cattleianum



- Crushed leaves fragrant
- Flowers/fruits axillary
- Berries yellow or red
- Berries with persistent, fleshy sepals at apex

### **POSSUMHAW**

Viburnum nudum



- Leaves not fragrant
- Flowers/fruits terminal
- Drupes purplish black
- Drupes without sepals at apex

Psidium cattleianum

### WHITE STOPPER







Psidium cattleianum

### WHITE STOPPER



- Yellowish to red berry
- Pedicels 1-2 cm long, stout
- Leaves mostly obovate
- Short acuminate leaf apex



- Black berry
- Pedicels < 0.5 cm long</li>
- Leaves ovate to elliptic
- Acute leaf apex

### **SURINAM CHERRY**

Eugenia uniflora

### WHITE STOPPER





### **SURINAM CHERRY**

Eugenia uniflora

### WHITE STOPPER



### **SURINAM CHERRY**

Eugenia uniflora



- Large, red 'ribbed' berry
- Pedicels >0.5 cm long
- Petiole very short (2-5 mm)

### WHITE STOPPER



- Small, black berry
- Pedicels < 0.5 cm long</li>
- Petiole longer and reddish

### **GUAVA**

Psidium guajava



### **POND APPLE**

Annona glabra



### **GUAVA**

Psidium guajava

### **POND APPLE**

Annona glabra





### **GUAVA**

Psidium guajava

### **POND APPLE**

Annona glabra





- Opposite leaves
- Leaf veins prominent
- Fruit with persistent, fleshy sepals at the apex

- Alternate leaves
- Leaf veins obscure
- Fruit without persistent sepals

### **CAMPHOR TREE**

Cinnamomum camphora

### **SWAMP BAY**

Persea palustris









### **CAMPHOR TREE**

Cinnamomum camphora



- Crushed leaves have a strong camphor smell
- Glaucous leaf underside
- Three veins at leaf base
- Fruit with a cupule

### **SWAMP BAY**

Persea palustris



- Crushed leaves have a bay leaf smell
- Pubescent leaf underside
- One vein at leaf base
- Fruit lacking a cupule

### LAUREL FIG

Ficus microcarpa

### **STRANGLER FIG**

Ficus aurea









### **LAUREL FIG**

Ficus microcarpa



- Smaller leaves (4-6 cm long)
- Veins obscure
- Lowest pair of veins at a sharper angle than rest
- Figs ca. 1 cm long

### STRANGLER FIG

Ficus aurea



- Larger leaves (6-12 cm long)
- Veins yellowish
- Lowest pair of veins not different
- Figs ca. 2 cm long

### **LAUREL FIG**

Ficus microcarpa

### **STRANGLER FIG**

Ficus aurea





Leucaena leucocephala

### WILD TAMARIND



Leucaena leucocephala



- Leaflet very asymmetrical
- Legume narrower
- 10 stamens/flower
- Stipules inconspicuous

### **WILD TAMARIND**



- Leaflet slightly asymmetrical
- Legume wider
- >10 stamens/flower
- Stipules conspicuous, large on new growth

Leucaena leucocephala

### WILD TAMARIND



Leucaena leucocephala

### **WILD TAMARIND**





- Gland at top of petiole (under first leaflets) on lead tree
- Stipules at base of new leaves on wild tamarind



### **BRAZILIAN PEPPER**

Schinus terebinthifolia\*

### **DAHOON**

Ilex cassine



Ilex cassii

- Recent name change to match latin gender of Schinus
  - ... folius to ... folia

### **BRAZILIAN PEPPER**

Schinus terebinthifolia

DAHOON Ilex cassine



- Compound leaf
- Crushed leaves have a pungent odor
- Drupes with a single seed
- Drupe without a black dot on top



- Simple leaf
- Crushed leaves are odorless
- Drupes with four seeds
- Fruit with a black dot on top (persistent stigma)

### WHITE MULBERRY

Morus alba

# Morus alba Photo by Allen Boatman Morus alba Photo by Shirley Denton

# **RED MULBERRY**





### WHITE MULBERRY

Morus alba

### **RED MULBERRY**



- Upper leaf surface glabrous
- Lower leaf surface with hairs on veins or glabrous
- Leaf apices abruptly acuminate
- Leaves usually dark green



- Upper leaf surface scabrous (with short hairs)
- Lower leaf surface covered with soft hairs throughout
- Leaf apices conspicuously acuminate
- Leaves usually mid-green

### WHITE MULBERRY

Morus alba

### **RED MULBERRY**





# PAPER MULBERRY

Broussonetia papyrifera

### **RED MULBERRY**





### **PAPER MULBERRY**

Broussonetia papyrifera

### **RED MULBERRY**



- Clonal, thicket forming
- Small twigs pubescent
- Petioles often longer, up to the length of the leaf
- Leaves usually dull green



- Solitary
- Small twigs glabrous, or with only a few hairs
- Petioles 2 to 2.5 cm long
- Leaves usually mid-green

### **SISAL HEMP**

Agave sisalana

### **FALSE SISAL**

Agave decipiens









#### **SISAL HEMP**

Agave sisalana



- Leaves entire
- Leaves larger
  - 90-130 cm long
  - 9-12 cm wide
- Upper leaf surface flat

#### **FALSE SISAL**

Agave decipiens



- Leaves w/ recurved teeth
- Leaves smaller
  - 70-100 cm long
  - 7-10 cm wide
- Upper leaf surface concave

# FERNS

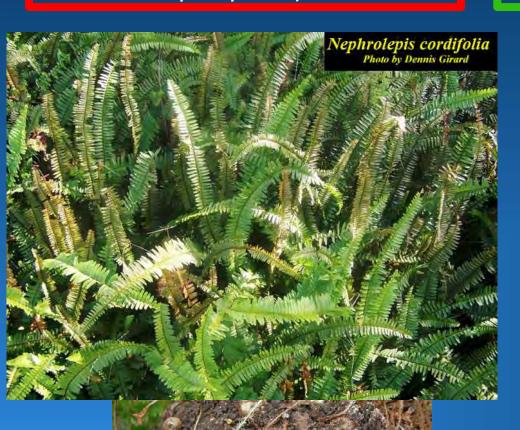
- Ferns are a primitive plant group that do not produce flowers or fruits.
- The leaves of ferns are often called **fronds**
- Leaflets are called **pinnae** (1<sup>st</sup> order segments) or **pinnules** (2<sup>nd</sup> order or greater segments)



Nephrolepis cordifolia

## WILD BOSTON FERN

Nephrolepis exaltata





Nephrolepis cordifolia



- Roots with tubers
- Scales on rachis two colors
- Pinnae (leaflets) blunttipped

#### **WILD BOSTON FERN**

Nephrolepis exaltata



- Roots lacking tubers
- Scales on rachis one color
- Pinnae more pointed at apex

Nephrolepis cordifolia

## WILD BOSTON FERN

Nephrolepis exaltata









Nephrolepis cordifolia

## **PLUME POLYPODY**

Pecluma plumula





Nephrolepis cordifolia



- Rarely epiphytic
- Pinnae serrate
- Kidney-shaped indusium

### **PLUME POLYPODY**

Pecluma plumula



- Usually epiphytic
- Pinnae entire
- No indusium

Nephrolepis cordifolia

## PLUME POLYPODY

Pecluma plumula





HERBS and GRASSES

## **RATTLEBOX**

Sesbania punicea



## **BLADDERPOD**

Sesbania vesicaria



#### **RATTLEBOX**

Sesbania punicea



- Plants woody
- Flowers yellowish in center, but without distinctive eye
- Fruit 4-angled

#### **BLADDERPOD**

Sesbania vesicaria



- Plants mainly herbaceous
- Flowers yellow to tricolored with a distinctive yellow eye
- Fruit flattened (2-angled)

## **RATTLEBOX**

Sesbania punicea





## **BLADDERPOD**

Sesbania vesicaria





### PERUVIAN PRIMROSEWILLOW

Ludwigia peruviana





## ANGLESTEM PRIMROSEWILLOW

Ludwigia leptocarpa





#### PERUVIAN PRIMROSEWILLOW

Ludwigia peruviana

### ANGLESTEM PRIMROSEWILLOW

Ludwigia leptocarpa





- Overall larger plant/shrub
- Larger flower
- Usually 4 petals
- Fruits square, broad, to 3 cm long

- Smaller plant/herb
- Smaller flower
- Usually 5 petals
- Fruits narrowly cylindrical, to 5 cm long

### PERUVIAN PRIMROSEWILLOW

Ludwigia peruviana

## ANGLESTEM PRIMROSEWILLOW

Ludwigia leptocarpa









## **PRAXELIS**

Praxelis clematidea





## **BLUE MISTFLOWER**

Conoclinium coelestinum





#### **PRAXELIS**

Praxelis clematidea



- Crushed leaves have a pungent odor of cat urine
- Phyllaries deciduous (absent in fruit)
- Flower heads more thano.5 cm long

#### **BLUE MISTFLOWER**

Conoclinium coelestinum



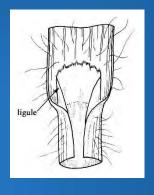
- Crushed leaves may be fragrant, but not of cat urine
- Phyllaries persistant (present in fruit)
- Flower heads less thano.5 cm long

### A NOTE ABOUT GRASSES

Grasses (Poaceae) have a special leaf structure consisting of

- 1) the blade the part of the leaf above the sheath,
- 2) the sheath the lower part of the leaf that envelops the stem,
- 3) the **ligule** a flap-like membrane or line of hairs on the inside of the leaf at the junction of the blade and the sheath.







Membranous

Ciliate

Imperata cylindrica

## **BROOMSEDGE BLUESTEM**

Andropogon virginicus





Imperata cylindrica



- Rhizomatous
- Midvein of leaf white and often offset

### **BROOMSEDGE BLUESTEM**

**Andropogon virginicus** 



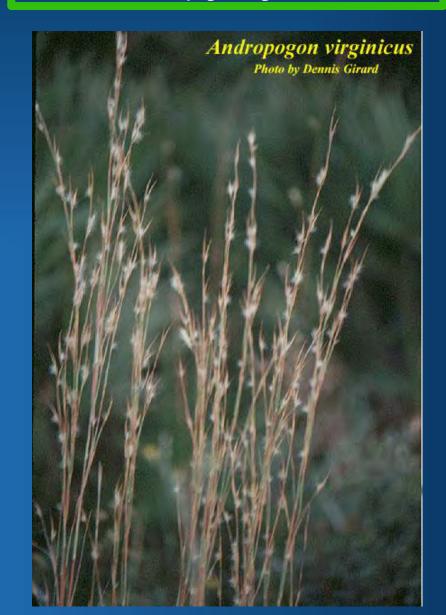
- Clumping
- Midvein of leaf usually centered

Imperata cylindrica

## **BROOMSEDGE BLUESTEM**

**Andropogon virginicus** 





Imperata cylindrica



## YELLOW INDIANGRASS

Sorghastrum nutans





Imperata cylindrica

#### **YELLOW INDIANGRASS**

Sorghastrum nutans



- Midvein of leaf white and often offset
- Ligule short (0.2-3.5 mm)
- Large fuzzy panicle of flowers, silvery white and cylindrical

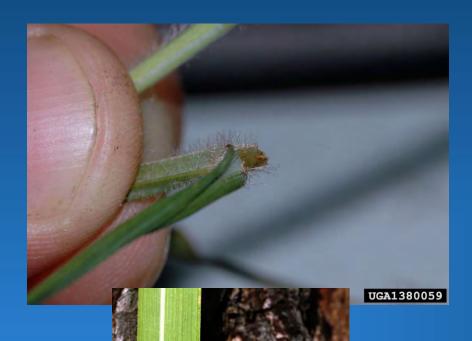


- Midvein of leaf usually centered
- Ligule long (2-6 mm)
- Plume-like panicle of flowers, bronze yellow

Imperata cylindrica

## YELLOW INDIANGRASS

Sorghastrum nutans





## **TORPEDO GRASS**

Panicum repens



## **MAIDENCANE**



### **TORPEDO GRASS**

Panicum repens

#### **MAIDENCANE**



- Plants shorter (20-90 cm tall), leaves narrower
- Rhizomes sharp-pointed
- Inflorescence broader



- Plants taller (50-200 cm tall), leaves broader
- Rhizomes not sharp
- Inflorescence narrow (to 1 cm wide)

Hymenachne amplexicaulis

### **MAIDENCANE**





Hymenachne amplexicaulis



- Ligules 1-2.5 mm long
- Internodes with solid white pith
- Base of leaf blade clasping

#### **MAIDENCANE**



- Ligules <1 mm long</li>
- Internodes without solid white pith
- Base of leaf cordate

Hymenachne amplexicaulis

### **MAIDENCANE**







Hymenachne amplexicaulis

## **AMERICAN CUPSCALE**

Sacciolepis striata





Hymenachne amplexicaulis



- Ligules 1-2.5 mm long
- Internodes with solid white pith
- Base of leaf blade clasping

#### **AMERICAN CUPSCALE**

Sacciolepis striata



- Ligules <1 mm long</li>
- Internodes without solid white pith
- Base of leaf cordate

## **BURMA REED**

Neyraudia reynaudiana

## **COMMON REED**





### **BURMA REED**

Neyraudia reynaudiana



- Ligules on both sides of leaf (line of hairs around collar)
- Glabrous internodes

#### **COMMON REED**



- Ligule only on inside of leaf
- Pubescent internodes

## **NAPIER GRASS**

Pennisetum purpureum

## **COMMON REED**





### **NAPIER GRASS**

Pennisetum purpureum



- Ligules 1.5 to 5 mm long
- Inflorescence a dense terminal panicle

### **COMMON REED**



- Ligules about 1 mm long
- Inflorescence a bushy panicle

#### **NAPIER GRASS**

Pennisetum purpureum



#### **COMMON REED**

Phragmites australis



#### **NAPIER GRASS**

Pennisetum purpureum

#### **COMMON REED**

Phragmites australis



**Ligule on Napier grass** 



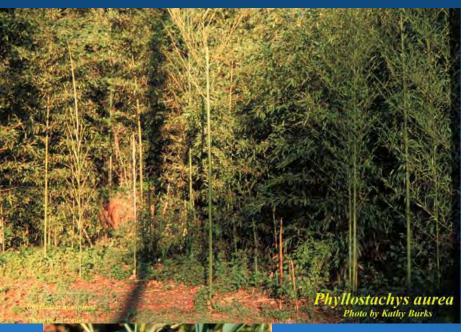
Ligule on common reed

#### **GOLDEN BAMBOO**

Phyllostachys aurea

#### **SWITCHCANE**

Arundinaria gigantea







#### **GOLDEN BAMBOO**

Phyllostachys aurea



- Stem flattened or grooved on one side just above the node
- Swollen band just below node

#### **SWITCHCANE**

Arundinaria gigantea



- Stem round
- Node may be swollen, but lacking a swollen band just below the node

#### TROPICAL NUTRUSH

Scleria microcarpa

#### **TALL NUTGRASS**

Scleria triglomerata



#### TROPICAL NUTRUSH

Scleria microcarpa



- Leaf sheath strongly winged
- Achenes in multiple lax racemes
- Achenes with a large "cupula" at base

#### **TALL NUTGRASS**

Scleria triglomerata



- Stem sharply angled, but leaf sheath not winged
- Achenes in 1 to several clusters
- Achenes with 3-lobed disk at base and subtended by bracts, but no "cupula"

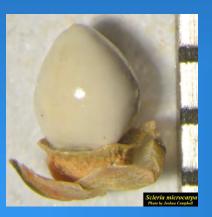
#### TROPICAL NUTRUSH

Scleria nicrocarpa



Scleria triglomerata









## VINES

#### **CHINESE WISTERIA**

Wisteria sinensis

#### **AMERICAN WISTERIA**

Wisteria frutescens





#### **CHINESE WISTERIA**

Wisteria sinensis



- Leaves longer (to 40 cm)
- Flowers just before or as leaves are emerging
- Inflorescence longer (up to 40 cm long)

#### **AMERICAN WISTERIA**

Wisteria frutescens



- Leaves shorter (to 30 cm)
- Flowers after leaves have appeared
- Inflorescence shorter (up to 25 cm long)

#### **CHINESE WISTERIA**

Wisteria sinensis

#### **AMERICAN WISTERIA**

Wisteria frutescens



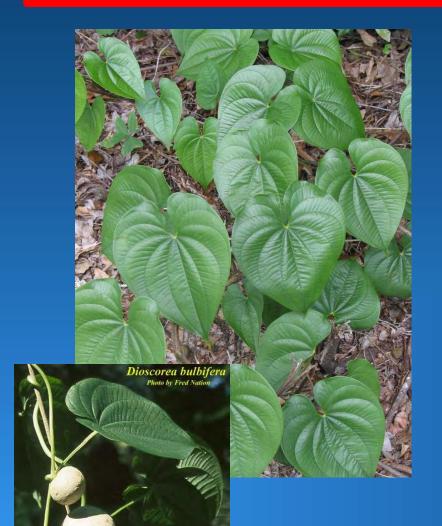


#### **AIR-POTATO**

Dioscorea bulbifera

#### FLORIDA YAM

Dioscorea floridana





#### **AIR-POTATO**

Dioscorea bulbifera



- Stems have aerial tubers
- Leaves larger, 9-11 nerved
- Secondary veins often prominent

#### **FLORIDA YAM**

Dioscorea floridana



- Stems lacking tubers
- Leaves smaller, 7 nerved
- Secondary veins less prominent

#### JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE

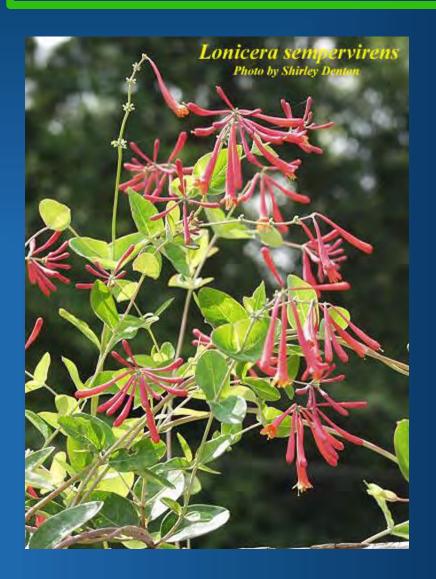
Lonicera japonica

#### TRUMPET HONEYSUCKLE

Lonicera sempervirens







#### JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE

Lonicera japonica

# Species Distribution Map Not Vouchered Vouchered

- Leaves pubescent or glabrous, but not glaucous
- Leaf apex acute to slightly acuminate
- Flowers white to creamy yellow

#### TRUMPET HONEYSUCKLE

Lonicera sempervirens



- Leaves with a glaucous underside
- Leaf apex rounded
- Flowers red

### JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE

Lonicera japonica

#### TRUMPET HONEYSUCKLE

Lonicera sempervirens





#### **BEACH VITEX**

Vitex rotundifolia

#### **RAILROAD VINE**

Ipomoea pes-caprae ssp. brasiliensis









#### **BEACH VITEX**

Vitex rotundifolia



- Opposite leaves
- Woody growth
- Panicles of smaller blue flowers

#### **RAILROAD VINE**

Ipomoea pes-caprae ssp. brasiliensis



- Alternate leaves
- Herbaceous
- Solitary, "morning glory" flowers

#### **BEACH VITEX**

Vitex rotundifolia

#### **RAILROAD VINE**

Ipomoea pes-caprae ssp. brasiliensis







## THANK YOU!!

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