

Lake Wales Ridge Most Unwanted

Many folks know about invasive exotic plants like Brazilian pepper and invasive exotic animals like Burmese Pythons. More aggressive than other non-natives, they do not stay where planted and instead spread into natural areas, crowding out the native plants and dependent wildlife. Exotic pets are great escape artists and are also often dumped when their owners cannot take care for them anymore or find a home for them. The Heartland Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area works together across public and private conservation lands to reduce the abundance and chokehold of our most prolific invaders.

Why Early Detection?

The rules of engagement for invasive exotics are threefold: Prevention (cheapest option), Early Detection/Rapid Response (the second cheapest option) and Control (the most expensive option).

Prevention aims to identify invaders before they have escaped, and plan accordingly. Stopping the arrival of a damaging insect that is hiding in ornamental plant imports is a great example of prevention.

Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR) is the next step if prevention hasn't worked and a small number of new invasives have taken hold. There is still a chance with a concerted effort to remove a new population before it gets too widespread to handle.

Control: A misnomer at best, control is anything but. It means management of these invasives species in perpetuity, a constant effort against a constant seed source to keep our natural areas as healthy as possible.

The Early Detection Scavenger Hunt:

The hardest part about EDRR is finding out where the new invaders are. First invasions are sparse and often overlooked. The purpose of the Early Detection Scavenger Hunt is to increase the number of eyes on the ground so that we can efficiently protect our natural areas. To that end, managers of our natural areas are offering prizes to folks that can help us correctly identify and map the new species of biggest concern. We are also interested in increasing participation in the EDDMapS website, an excellent tool for tracking the spread of invasive species and learning which new invaders are near your area.

The Prizes:

Conservation land managers in the Heartland Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area are offering prizes for the most correctly identified species. The Grand Prize winner will have first choice, then Regional Prize winners will choose on a first come, first serve basis. Prizes include: 1) 4 passes to Bok Tower Gardens; 2) a private tram tour at Circle B Bar Reserve; 3) a private canoe tour of Lake Russell at The Nature Conservancy's Disney Wilderness Preserve; 4) a private buggy tour at TNC's Disney Wilderness Preserve; and 5) a goody bag including (but not limited to) a TNC reusable shopping bag, sunscreen, a t-shirt from Archbold Biological Station and a gift certificate to The Natives Nursery.

Grand Prize: For the largest number of newly mapped, correctly identified species populations overall.

Regional Prizes: For the largest number of newly mapped, correctly identified species populations in each region.

Regions are:

- 1) Polk County
- 2) Hardee County
- 3) DeSoto County
- 4) Highlands County

The Rules:

- The EDRR Scavenger Hunt begins August 1st 2011 and ends on February 29th 2012.
- To be considered a valid entry, contestants must upload original photos of their finds via www.IveGot1.org.
- To be considered a valid entry, the species reported cannot be a repeat of a previously mapped find, already present on the EDDMapS distribution maps.
- Entries of one of the Top 13 Early Detection Priority Species will be awarded triple points and all other entries will be awarded single points.
- Winners will be announced March 12th 2012.

The Mapping Process: www.IveGot1.org

The I've Got 1 website is powered by EDDMapS (Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System). It uses Google Maps or GPS points to log your species, and allows you to upload photos from your scavenger hunt. Training can be found here: [a 13 minute "How To" video](#).

The Top 13 Early Detection Priority Species

Below is the Heartland CISMA's list of priority early detection species. Each species has many links to help you learn more about the species, especially what it looks like and where it has already been mapped. On the next page is a single page of images to help you in your scavenger hunt.

A couple of hints: Some species are really, really rare here so far. In some cases, you can use the EDDMapS distribution map to find a live specimen to get a better look at what you are looking for.









#	Distribution Map	Common Name	Species Name	Similar Species	Best Links
1	EDDMapS , USDA	Heavenly bamboo	<i>Nandina domestica</i>		UF/IFAS , Invasive.org , WSU
2	EDDMapS , USDA	Melaleuca, paper bark	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	Bottlebrush Tree	UF/IFAS , Invasive.org , ERDC , Bugwood Wiki , USFS
3	EDDMapS , USDA	Kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana var. lobata</i>	Air potato	UF/IFAS , Invasive.org , TNC , SEPPC , USFS
4	EDDMapS , USDA	Chinese privet	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Walter's viburnum , Forestiera spp.	UF/IFAS , Invasive.org , TheWildClassroom.com , Virginia DCR
5	EDDMapS , USDA	Oyster plant, boat lily, wandering Jew	<i>Tradescantia spathacea</i>		UF/IFAS , Invasive.org , GISD
6	EDDMapS , USDA	Mother-in-law's tongue, bowstring hemp	<i>Sansevieria hyacinthoides</i>	Adam's needle , Soap aloe	UF/IFAS , FloridasNature.com , ABS
7		Red root floater	<i>Phyllanthus fluitans</i>		FLEPPC (pg 14)
8	EDDMapS	Downy rose myrtle	<i>Rhodomyrtus tomentosa</i>	Rhododendron spp.	UF/IFAS , FloridasNature.com , NBII , ABS
9	EDDMapS	Black and white tegu lizard	<i>Tupinambis marianae</i>		Wikipedia , Species Profile , KeysNews.com , UF/IFAS 1 , UF/IFAS 2
10	EDDMapS	Purple swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>	Purple Gallinule	FFWCC , Invasive.org , UF/IFAS , Miami Herald
11	EDDMapS	Monk parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	Green Parakeet , Blue-crowned Parakeet , Parakeets	FFWCC , Invasive.org , IF/IFAS
12	EDDMapS	Pythons/Boas	<i>Python spp.</i>	Florida water snakes	FFWCC , Invasive.org , UF/IFAS 1 , UF/IFAS 2 , Science Daily
13	USGS	Pacu	<i>Colosomma spp.</i>	Piranha	FFWCC , USGS

Species Cheat Sheet

This is just a small primer to help you in your search. If you are not very familiar with the species, be sure to consult the links provided on the previous page.

A small hint: In some cases, you can use the EDDMapS distribution map to find a live specimen to get a better idea of what you are looking for.



Melaleuca	Kudzu	Chinese privet	Oyster Plant
			
Mother-in-law's tongue	Red root floater	Downy rose myrtle	Black and white tegu
			
Purple Swamphen	Monk Parakeet	Pythons/Boas	Pacu
