

Prohibited Invasive Plant Species

Informational Guide

Lee County has long recognized the harmful ecological impact of invasive exotic vegetation. Invasive exotic plant species out-compete native vegetation, degrade native habitats, and reduce plant diversity. Maintenance standards, regulations regarding invasive exotic vegetation, and a list of prohibited invasive plant species are incorporated within the Lee County Land Development Code for developed properties.

Per [Lee County Land Development Code Section 10-420\(h\)](#), the following highly invasive exotic plants may not be planted and must be removed from the development area. Methods to remove and control invasive exotic plants must be included on Development Order plans, as well as a statement that the development area will be maintained free from invasive exotic vegetation in perpetuity. Prohibited invasive exotic vegetation on a developed property may result in Code Enforcement action.



Left: South Florida Slash Pine overgrown with exotic Air Potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)
Right: South Florida Slash Pine after invasive exotic removal and treatment

For the purpose of this subsection, invasive exotic plants include:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Additional Information
Rosary pea	<i>Abrus precatorius</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UF/IFAS Assessment UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
Earleaf acacia	<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UF/IFAS Assessment UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants Invasive Plant Management Guide (PDF)
Woman's tongue	<i>Albizia lebbek</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UF/IFAS Assessment UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
Bishopwood	<i>Bischofia javanica</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UF/IFAS Assessment UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
Australian pines	All <i>Casuarina</i> species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UF/IFAS Assessment UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants FWC Weed Alert (PDF) Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Carrotwood	<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UF/IFAS Assessment UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants Invasive Plants in Natural Area Weeds: Carrotwood
Dodder	<i>Cuscuta</i> spp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UF/IFAS Assessment Biology and Management of Dodder
Rosewood	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UF/IFAS Assessment UF/IFAS Indian Rosewood
Winged yam	<i>Dioscorea alata</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UF/IFAS Assessment UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
Air potato	<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UF/IFAS Assessment UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
Murray red gum	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UF/IFAS Assessment
Weeping fig	<i>Ficus benjamina</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UF/IFAS Assessment UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
Cuban laurel fig	<i>Ficus microcarpa</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UF/IFAS Assessment

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
Cogongrass	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Assessment • UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants • FWC Weed Alert
Lead tree	<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Assessment • UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
Japanese Climbing fern	<i>Lygodium japonicum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Assessment • UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants • FWC Weed Alert (PDF)
Old World climbing fern	<i>Lygodium microphyllum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Assessment • UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants • FWC Weed Alert (PDF)
Melaleuca, paper tree	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Assessment • UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants • FWC Weed Alert (PDF)
Downy rose myrtle	<i>Rhodomyrtus tomentosa</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Assessment • UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
Chinese tallow	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Assessment • Chinese Tallow – Gardening Solutions • Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services • FWC Weed Alert (PDF)
Beach naupaka	<i>Scaevola taccada</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Assessment • UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants • FWC Weed Alert (PDF)
Brazilian pepper, Florida holly	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Assessment • UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants • FWC Weed Alert (PDF)
Tropical soda apple	<i>Solanum viarum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Assessment • UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
Java plum	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Assessment • UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
Rose apple	<i>Syzygium jambos</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Assessment
Cork tree	<i>Thespesia populnea</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Assessment
Wedelia	<i>Wedelia trilobata</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Assessment • UF/IFAS Wedelia (PDF)
Beach vitex	<i>Vitex rotundifolia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UF/IFAS Assessment • UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

Additional Resources:

- [Non-Native Invasive Plants](#)
- [Invasive Non-Native Plants - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services](#)
- [Understanding Plant Status: Native, Florida-Friendly, and Invasive Species](#)
- [Help Protect Florida's Natural Areas from Invasive Plants](#)
- [Community Development Environmental Sciences Webpage](#)