



Plants We Should Know

LeRoy Rodgers, SFWMD



ECISMA Containment Plant Species



Cogongrass



Bushweed



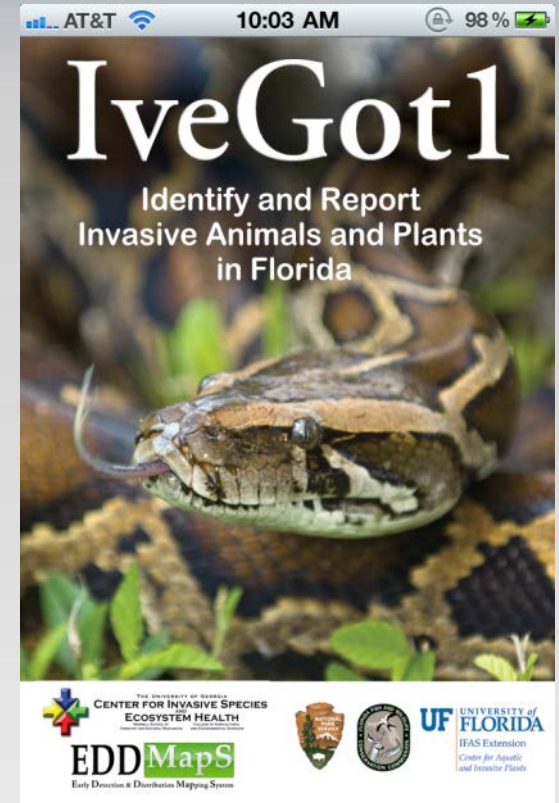
Wright's Nutrush



West Indian Marsh Grass



Giant Brake



West Indian Marsh Grass

(*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*)



West Indian Marsh Grass

- *Hymenachne amplexicaulis*
- Perennial grass
- Native Range: Central and South America, Caribbean
- Established in Central and South Florida; limited distribution in Everglades
- FLEPPC Category 1



West Indian marsh grass
Hymenachne amplexicaulis
Photo by Vic Ramey
Copyright 2000 Univ. Florida

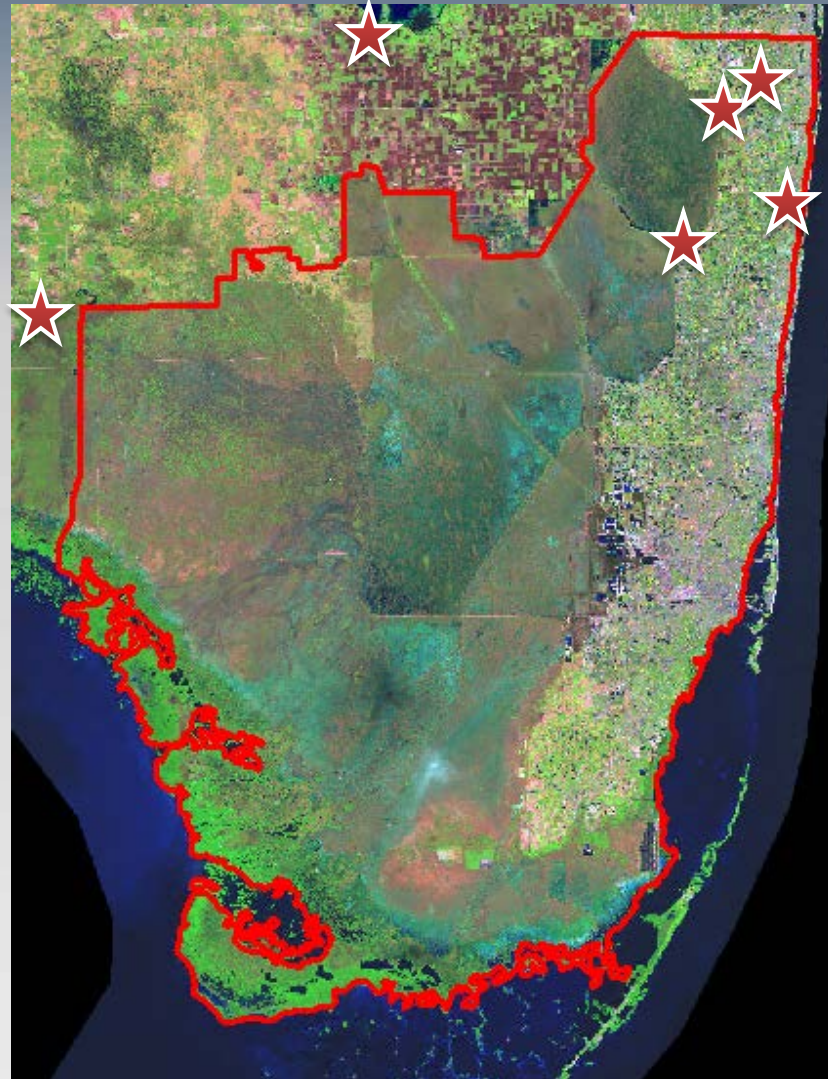
West Indian Marsh Grass



Photo - Chris Gardiner ©

**Habitat: Wetlands,
marshes, drainage
ditches/canals.**

West Indian Marsh Grass



West Indian Marsh Grass



Cordate (heart shaped) leaf base

West Indian marsh grass
Hymenachne amplexicaulis
Photo by Ann Murray
© 2000 University of Florida

West Indian Marsh Grass



Spike like inflorescence

Photo - Bruce Cook
© DPI & F

West Indian Marsh Grass



Pithy stems

West Indian Marsh Grass Might be confused with...



American cupscale (*Sacciolepis striata*)



Maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*)



Both have similar growth form and flowers, but only West Indian Marsh Grass has a **White pithy stem**

Common Bushweed



EVERGLADES CISMA

Common Bushweed

- *Flueggea virosa*
(*Euphorbiaceae*)
- Fast growing shrub/tree
- Native Range: Old World Tropics from west Africa to Asia and Australia.
- Naturalized in Puerto Rico, Florida, Hawaii
- Former FLEPPC Category II Species
- IFAS/UF Status Assessment “Not a Problem Species”
- PIER Assessment ranks as “high risk” for Hawaii

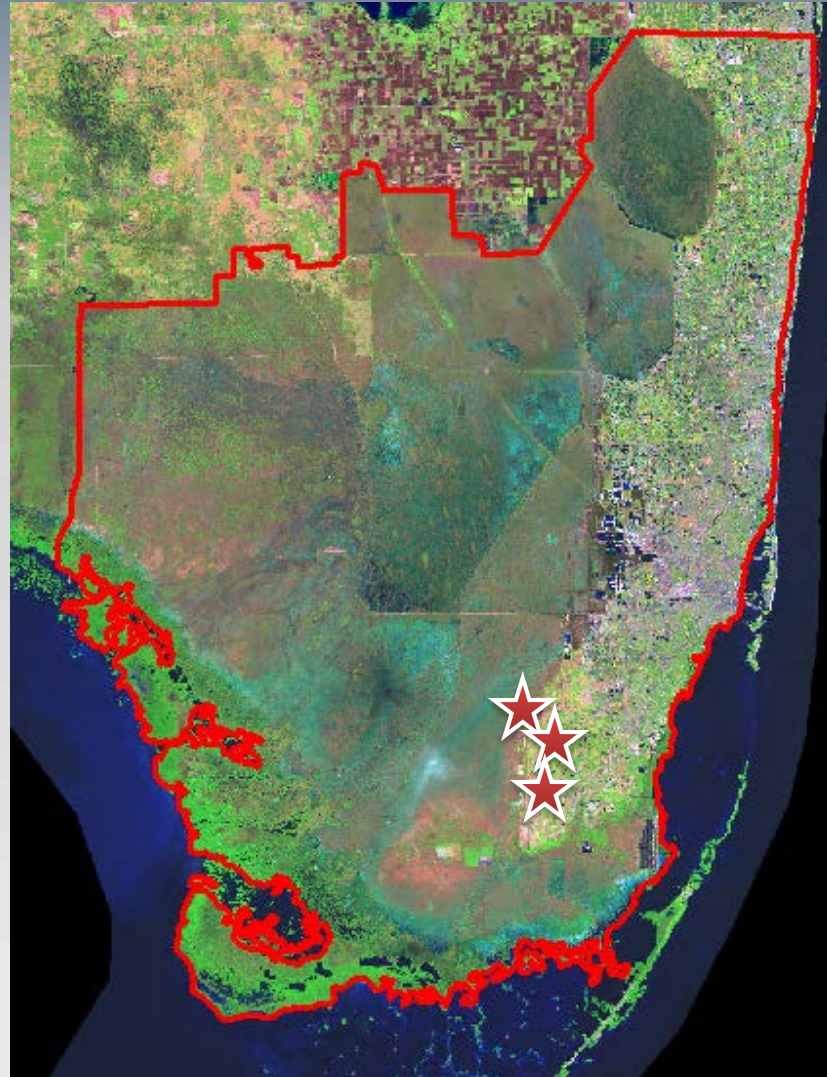


Common Bushweed

- Habitat
 - Prefers forest edges, disturbed sites, and rocky substrates (esp. limestone substrate)
 - In Florida and Puerto Rico, roadsides, disturbed sites, and pine rocklands
 - Forms dense thickets in open areas
 - Fire tolerant



Common Bushweed



EVERGLADES CISMA

Common Bushweed



**Long straight stems,
reddish brown**

Common Bushweed



Angular arrangement of stems and leaves

Common Bushweed



White round berries

Common Bushweed Might be confused with...

Snowberry (*Chiococca alba*)



Snowberry vs. Bushweed



Snowberry

**Clambering vine-like
shrub**



Common Bushweed

Numerous erect branches

Giant Brake

(*Pteris tripartita*)



Giant Brake

- *Pteris tripartita*
- Large ornamental fern
- Native Range: Africa, Pacific, tropical and temperate Asia
- Naturalized in West Indies, Central and South America, and Florida
- Classified as invasive in South Florida, *IFAS Invasive Plants Working Group*



Giant Brake



EVERGLADES CISMA

Giant Brake

- Habitat
 - Prefers low, moist habitats
 - Wet flatwoods, cypress swamp, tree islands, hardwood hammocks, floating peat mats
 - Has formed dense stands in disturbed tree islands



Giant Brake



Fronds 1-3 m

Giant Brake



Long petiole (up to 1.25 m); straw colored to reddish brown

Giant Brake



Frond divided into five segments

Giant Brake

Might be confused with...

Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*)

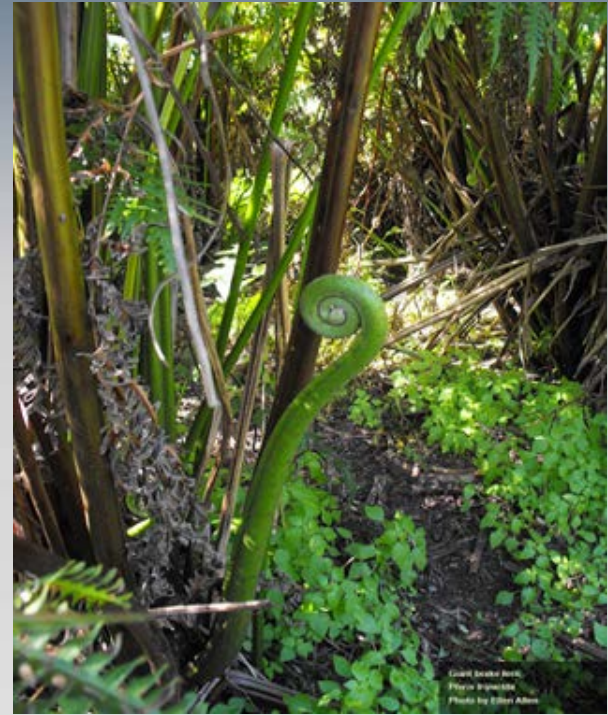


Bracken vs. Giant Brake



Bracken

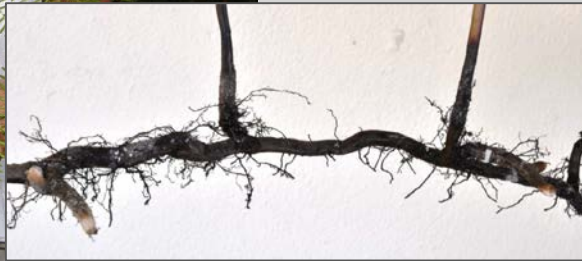
**Smaller diam. petioles
Finer texture**



Giant Brake

**Long, larger diam.
petiole; coarse texture**

Bracken vs. Giant Brake



Bracken

**Single fronds emerging
along creeping rhizome**



Giant Brake

**Fronds emerging from
stout, scaly stem**

Giant Brake

Might be confused with...

Florida Tree Fern (*Ctenitis sloanei*)



Shirley Denton, December 2000

© Shirley Denton

Florida status: endangered

Institute of Regional Conservation reports present at:

Big Cypress National Preserve

Bill Sadowski Park

Black Creek Forest

Camp Owaissa Bauer

Castellow Hammock Park

Deering Estate at Cutler

Everglades National Park

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park

Fern Forest Nature Center

Fuchs Hammock Preserve

Hattie Bauer Hammock

Matheson Hammock Park

Florida Tree Fern vs. Giant Brake



Florida Tree Fern
Petiole not divided



Giant Brake
Petiole divides into
five segments

Wright's Nutrush (*Scleria lacustris*)



EVERGLADES CISMA

Wright's Nutrush

- *Scleria lacustris*
- Large annual sedge
- Native Range: Africa, Central/South America and the Caribbean
- Naturalized in Florida
- FLEPPC Category 1

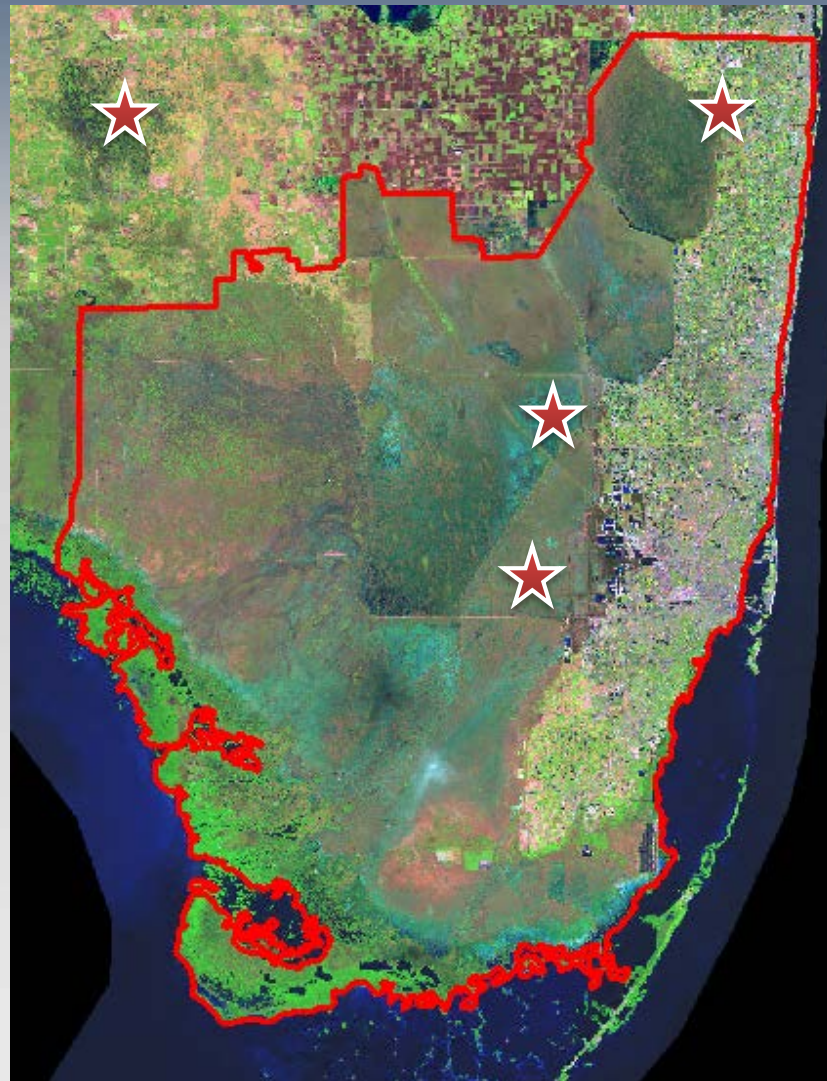


Wright's Nutrush



Habitat: Seasonal wetlands with dry spring months and wet summers.

Wright's Nutrush



Wright's Nut Rush



(photo by Leo Nico, USGS).

Robust three-sided stem; side width up to 2.5 cm.

Wright's Nut Rush



Reddish tinge at the base of stems/roots

Wright's Nutrush



Leaf cross section

Leaves up to 30 cm long
with “W” pleats and
blunt tips.

Wright's Nutrush

Might be confused with...



Netted nutrush
(*Scleria reticularis*)
but it is MUCH smaller

Wright's Nutrush

Might be confused with...

Narrowfruit Horned Beaksedge (*Rynchospora inundata*)



Leaves longer and
thinner

Pleat not pronounced

Leaf margins generally
smooth

Cogongrass



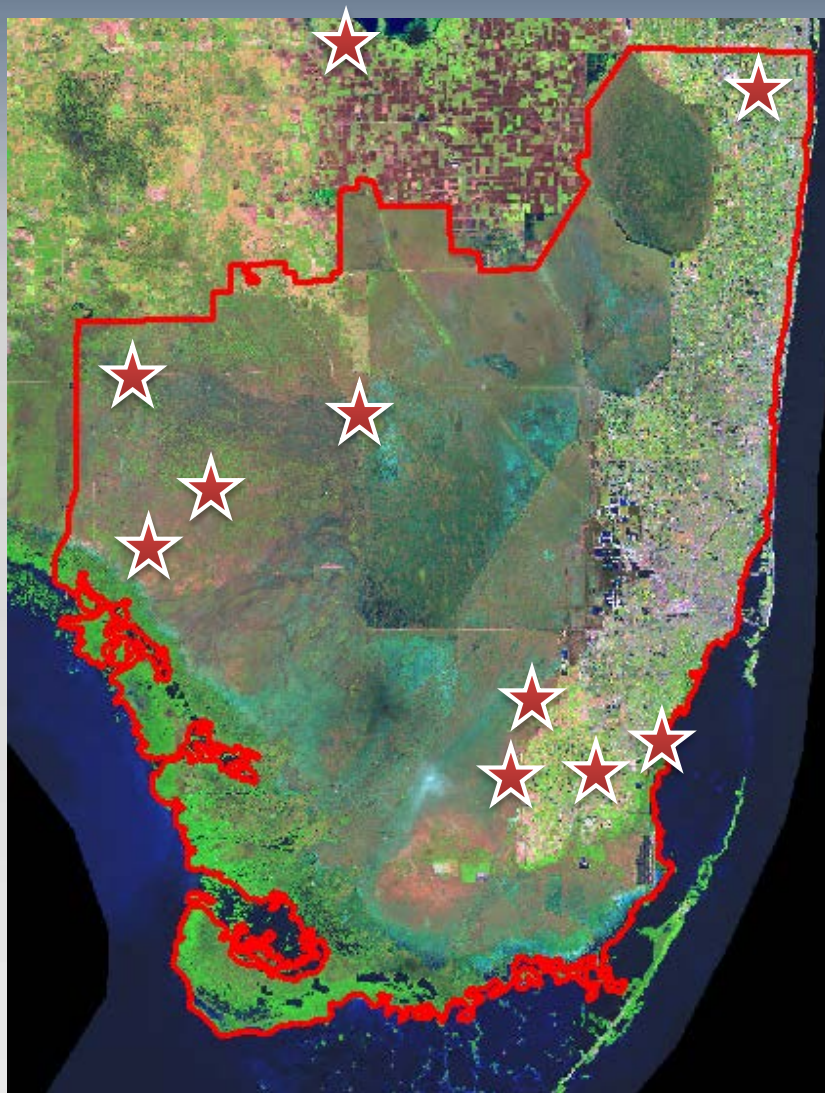
- *Imperata cylindrica*
- Perennial rhizomatous grass
- FLEPPC Category 1
- Native Range: Southeast Asia
- Occurs throughout SE US

Cogongrass



Habitat: Mesic flatwoods, herbaceous marshes and disturbed areas.

Cogongrass



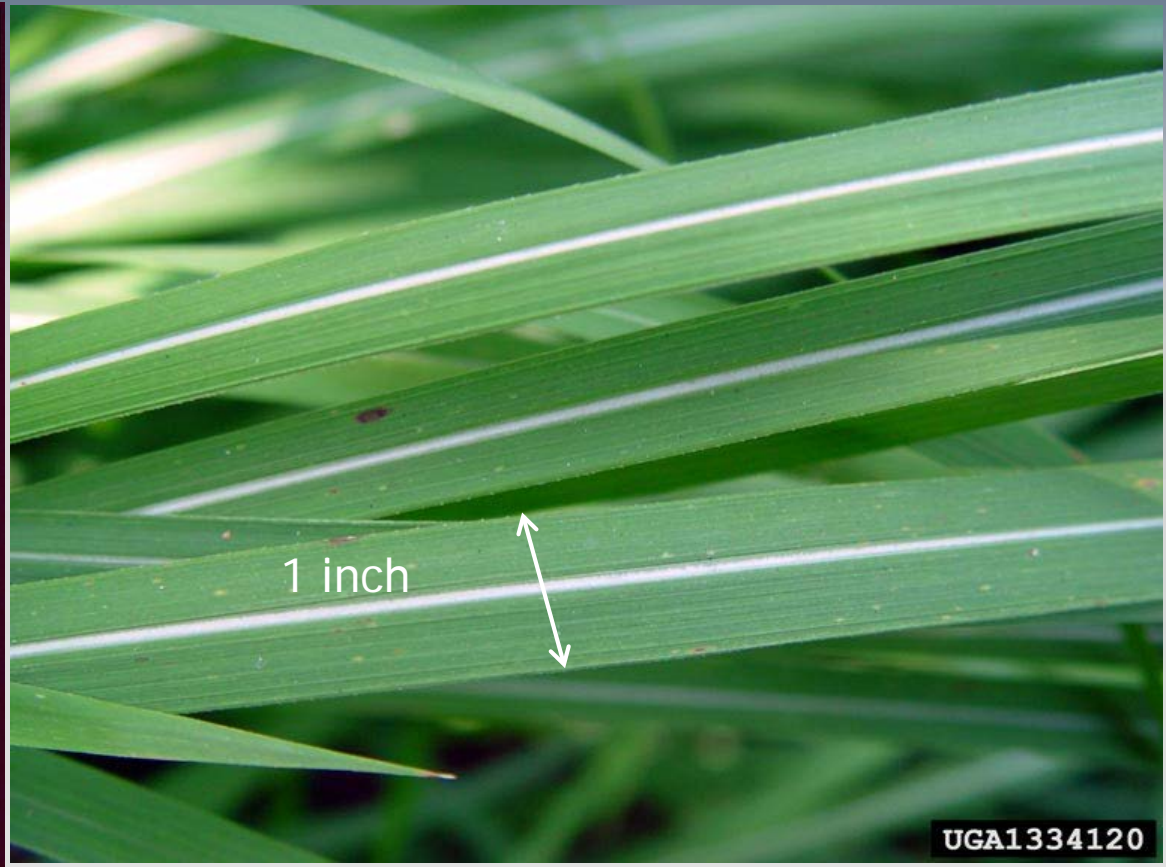
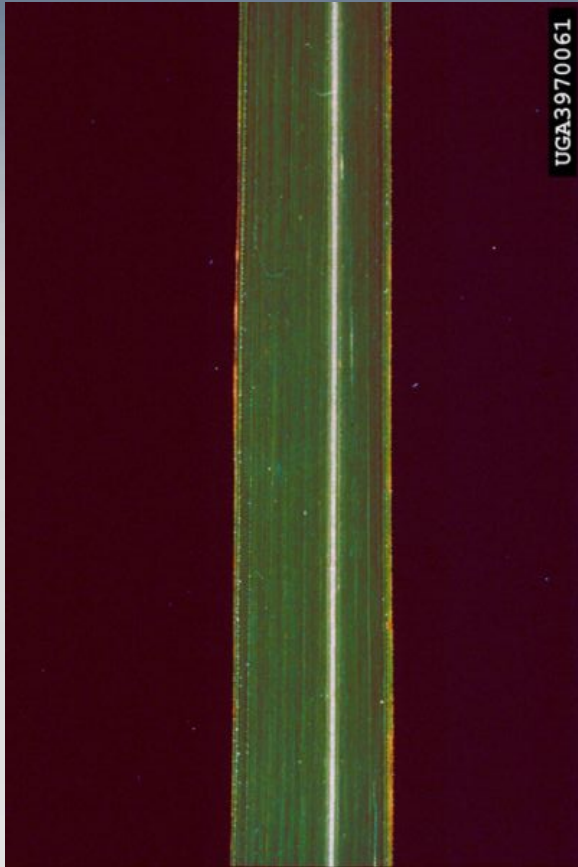
EVERGLADES CISMA

Cogongrass



**Yellowish-green
erect leaves;
dense patches**

Cogongrass



Prominent white, offset midrib

Cogongrass



White cylindrical inflorescence; 2-8 inches long

EVERGLADES CISMA

Cogongrass

Might be confused with...

Brazilian satintail (*Imperata brasiliensis*)

Brazilian satin tail: 1 stamen/flower, primarily grows on rocky limestone sites
Cogon Grass: 2 stamens/flower, wide range of sites



Brazilian satin tail, sparse growth habit



Cogon grass, dense growth habit

Please Report on EDDMaps



Cogon grass



Bushweed



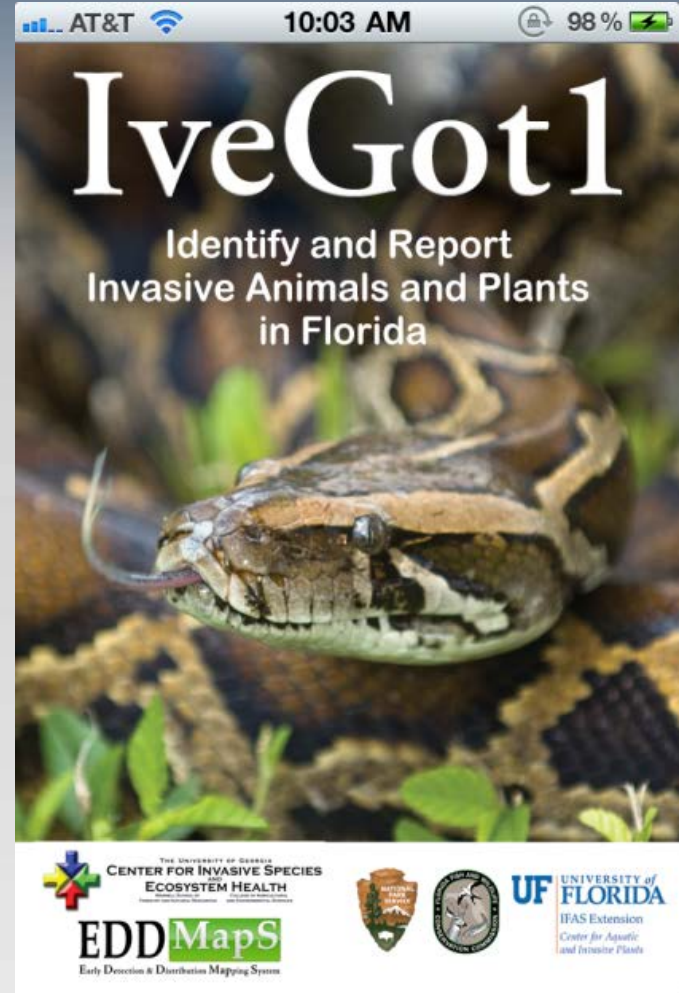
Wright's Nutrush



West Indian Marsh Grass



Giant Brake



AT&T 10:03 AM 98%

IveGot1

Identify and Report
Invasive Animals and Plants
in Florida

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
CENTER FOR INVASIVE SPECIES
ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

EDDMapS
Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System

NATIONAL FLORA SERVICE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS Extension
Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

Thanks

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Dennis Giardina, FWC



Spurgecreeper

- *Dalechampia scandens*
- Perennial vine growing from woody rootstock
- Native Range: Central and South America, West Indies
- Naturalized in Florida, Galapagos Islands
- Classified as Invasive by *IFAS Invasive Plants Working Group* (predictive tool).



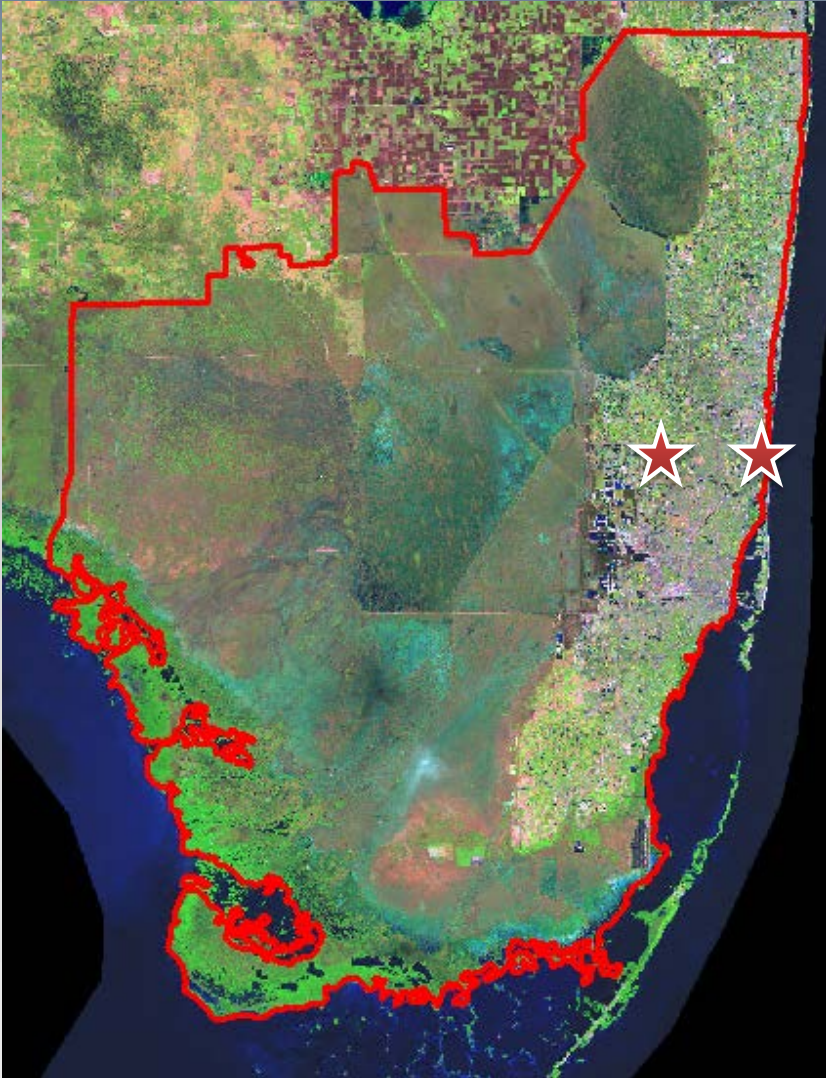
Dalechampia scandens
Photo by Pat Howell

Spurgecreeper

- Habitat
 - Forest edges, pinelands, cypress swamp margins, disturbed sites
 - Occurs in open and deep shade areas
 - Tolerates shallow, nutrient poor soils



Spurgecreeper



Spurgecreeper -- How to Identify



**Three lobed leaves
(sometimes five
lobed)**

Spurgecreeper -- How to Identify



© W J Hayden

**Leaf-like
bracts below
flowers**

Spurgecreeper -- How to Identify

**Pubescent
leaves with
stinging hairs**

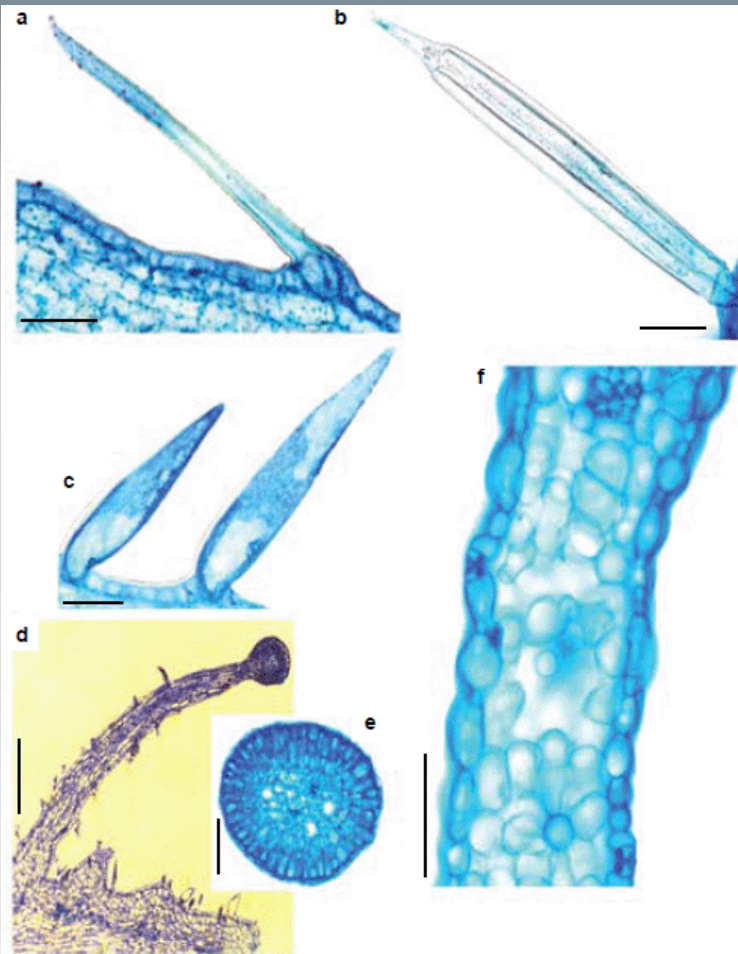


Fig. 2. Trichomes, gland and bract of *Dalechampia stipulacea*. a. Unicellular nonglandular trichome. b. Pluricellular glandular trichome. c. Unicellular glandular trichome. d. Stalked gland in longitudinal section. e. Gland head in cross-section. f. Bract detail in cross-section. Scales = 50 μ m.

Spurgecreeper
Might be confused with...
Passion Flowers (*Passiflora* spp.)



Passion Flower vs. Spurgecreeper



Passion Flower
Tendrils present



Spurgecreeper
No tendrils

Passion Flower vs. Spurgecreeper



Passion Flower

**Radially symmetrical
inflorescence**

Spurgecreeper

**Bilaterally symmetrical
inflorescence**

Passion Flower vs. Spurgecreeper



Passion Flower

Fruit -- fleshy berry



Spurgecreeper

Fruit -- dry capsule