

## How Can You Get Involved?



1. Landscape with native plants when planting your yard. Encourage your local nursery to offer more native plants.
2. Eliminate seed sources; remove invasive species from your yard.
3. Support invasive removal:
  - A. Encourage your neighbors, families and friends to remove invasives from their properties.
  - B. Participate in Task Force invasive removal work days.
4. Sign up to be added to the Hillsborough County Invasive Species Task Force mailing list, (813) 671-7754.

## For More Information:

### Hillsborough County Invasive Species Task Force

Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department  
3709 Gulf City Road  
Ruskin, FL 33570  
Ph: (813) 671-7754 or (813) 672-7876  
Fax: (813) 671-7758  
<http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/parks/conservationservices/invasive.cfm>

### Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council

<http://www.fleppc.org>

### Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Invasive Plant Management

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/invaspec/2ndlevpgs/uplandsplntman.htm>

### Florida Native Plant Society

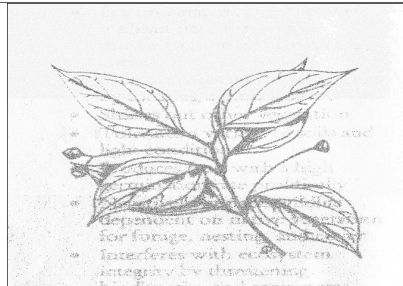
<http://www.fnps.org>

### University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

<http://www.ifas.ufl.edu>

### Hillsborough County Extension Service

(813) 744-5519  
<http://www.hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu>



Camphor Tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*)

## Hillsborough County Invasive Species Task Force



Air Potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)

*Working to Control the Spread of Invasive Species in Hillsborough County*



## What are invasive species?

Invasive plant species can be defined as vegetation that grows to the point of compromising native plant communities. Non-native usually refers to vegetation brought over to America after European contact, but it can also mean any plant not native to the region. Not all non-native species are invasive; some are beneficial. These plants are introduced for various reasons and flourish due to lack of natural competition and Florida's semi-tropical climate.

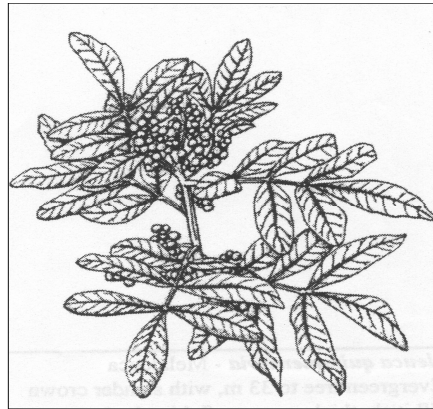
## Why should we try to eradicate these plants?

An estimated 1.5 million acres of Florida's natural areas are infested with non-native, invasive plant species. Invasive species are often a detriment to both the native environment and its biodiversity. They can out-compete, and often replace, native plant species, diminish wildlife habitat, decrease recreational resources and negatively affect the natural health and economy of plant communities. Some of these plants, even when contained in yards, provide a seed source and can be spread by birds, mammals, wind and water.

## What is the purpose of the Task Force?

The Task Force's goals are to:

1. Help remove existing invasives on public lands in Hillsborough County.
2. Eliminate their spread to other sites.
3. Educate the public about the existence and harmful nature of invasive species.
4. Encourage removal on private property.



Brazilian Pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)

## How does the Task Force intend to realize those goals?

The Task Force coordinates land managing agencies on work days at various sites where nuisance vegetation is removed and, when necessary, native vegetation is replanted. On larger projects, the Task Force encourages and facilitates citizen involvement and volunteerism. The Task Force participates in various events to educate the public. Projects include the creation of a field identification manual and demonstration video that show the best management practices for eradication and native plant replacement. The Task Force and the Hillsborough County Extension Service co-sponsor seminars to educate homeowners on invasive control and/or removal on private property. For more information on the Homeowners Seminar please contact the Hillsborough County Extension Service (see contact information on back).

Invasive Species	Replacements
Brazilian pepper ( <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> )	Yaupon holly
Melaleuca ( <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> )	Magnolia
Australian pine ( <i>Casuarina spp.</i> )	Longleaf pine Slash pine
Skunk vine ( <i>Paederia foetida</i> )	Coral honey suckle
Air potato ( <i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i> )	Carolina Jessamine
Old World Climbing Fern ( <i>Lygodium microphyllum</i> )	Coral honey-suckle
Lead tree ( <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> )	Pignut hickory
Cogon Grass ( <i>Imperata cylindrica</i> )	Gamma grass Muhly grass
Chinese tallow ( <i>Sapium sebiferum</i> )	Red maple
Chinaberry ( <i>Melia azedarach</i> )	Sweet gum
Carrotwood ( <i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i> )	East Palatka holly
Camphor tree ( <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> )	Red cedar