

Lake County, Florida

GREENER CHOICES

Alternatives to invasive-exotic plants



An educational pamphlet of the Lake County Department
of Public Resources and the Cooperative Invasive Species
Management Area (CISMA) of Lake County

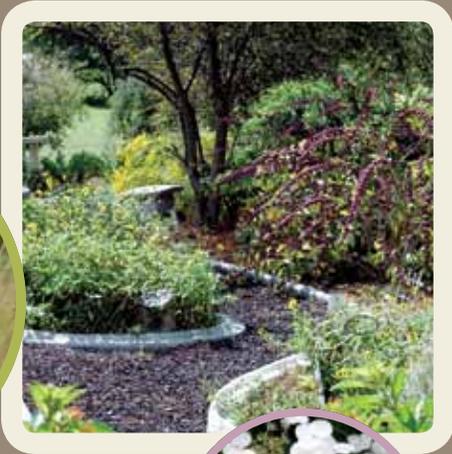


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CALL to ACTION

Lake County is under attack and needs your help in preserving its unique environment.

Invasive exotic plants threaten to crowd out native species and disrupt Lake County’s distinctive ecosystem processes.

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), while some non-natives, such as tomato plants, behave nicely and put food on our tables, others, without conditions that control them on their home turf, become invasive — growing and spreading rapidly and aggressively. **More than 1.5 million acres of Florida’s remaining natural areas have become infested and overwhelmed with non-native plant species.**

Invasive plants, such as the Old World climbing fern and Brazilian pepper, cost Floridians millions of dollars annually. Farmers, ranchers, and golf course owners spend more than \$30 million each year to eradicate exotic weeds.

The economic costs pale in comparison to the ecological ones. Invasive exotic species are often cited as the number two threat to global biodiversity, second only to habitat loss due to land conversion.

What YOU CAN do to HELP

The first step to control the spread of exotic plants (marked with "X") is to **avoid using them.**

If you have invasive plants in your landscape, consider removing them by hand pulling or carefully applying herbicide. The Lake County UF/IFAS Extension Office, (352) 343-4101, located at 1951 Woodlea Road in Tavares, can assist in providing detailed removal techniques for various invasive plants.

This brochure was designed to suggest alternatives to invasive exotic plants. **Replacing invasive exotic plants with Florida natives creates a more sustainable landscape in your yard that will have lasting benefits.**

According to The Florida Native Plant Society, www.fnps.org, one advantage of using native plants is that they add beauty and interest to your landscape. **In addition, native plants, which are better adapted to Florida's soil types and climate, will conserve water by requiring less irrigation once established; provide food and shelter for butterflies, birds, and other wildlife; and save money by reducing maintenance and pest control costs.**



Plant Care Guide

-  Full Sun
-  Part Shade
-  Shade

-  Moist Soil
-  Moderate Water
-  Drought Tolerant
(Applies to established plants)

-  0 Mature Height

Wildlife Benefits

-  Butterfly Friendly
-  Bird Friendly

Invasive EXOTIC Trees (Blooming)



Invasive exotic trees are typically introduced as ornamental plants because of their attractive blooms. When many of these trees bloom, seeds fall or are dispersed into the air and carried by birds, animals or the wind into other landscapes.



ORCHID TREE
(*Bauhinia variegata*)
HEIGHT: Up to 50 feet



CHINABERRY TREE
(*Melia azedarach*)
HEIGHT: Up to 50 feet



FLAMEGOLD TREE, also known as GOLDEN RAIN TREE
(*Koelreuteria elegans* ssp. *formosana*)
HEIGHT: Up to 50 feet

DOGWOOD
(*Cornus florida*)
☀️ 💧 25



REDBUD
(*Cercis canadensis*)
☀️ 💧 25



WHITE FRINGE TREE
(*Chionanthus virginicus*)
☀️ 💧 25

AlterNATIVE Trees

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

- **Carolina Silverbell** (*Halesia carolina*)
- **Loblolly Bay** (*Gordonia lasianthus*)
- **Sweetbay** (*Magnolia virginiana*)
- **Southern Magnolia** (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
- **Sugarberry** (*Celtis laevigata*)
- **Sparkleberry** (*Vaccinium arboreum*)



LOBLOLLY BAY
(*Gordonia lasianthus*)
☀️ 💧 75



CAROLINA SILVERBELL
(*Halesia carolina*)
☀️ 💧 25

