

Cogongrass – Why Should I Care?

Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) is recognized as one of the world's worst weeds. This non-native grass is widely distributed in Florida and the Southeastern U.S. It is a **serious threat** to public and private forests, agricultural lands, and natural areas. The use of “**threat**” here is not a scare tactic or clever politically correct strategy. Cogongrass is a **threat**.

Why?

Cogongrass is **aggressive** and **invasive**. It spreads by means of airborne seeds and very efficient underground rhizomes. It takes advantage of sites disturbed in agricultural, silvicultural, logging and construction activities. It is a master at “relocating” via contaminated logging, forestry, and road construction/maintenance equipment. Once established, cogongrass is **extremely difficult to control**. Eradication may require **3-5 years** of diligent and costly herbicide treatments.

So What?

If you have cogongrass –

- it will spread and your situation will worsen
- it will decrease native plant biodiversity and wildlife habitat quality
- it is not palatable as a livestock forage
- it will increase your fire hazard and associated damages
- it will impact your neighbors' property
- it will make pine regeneration nearly impossible
- it will decrease your land management options
- it will lower the value of your real estate

Recognized as both a **state and federal noxious weed**, cogongrass is **regulated**; it is **illegal** to sell hay or sod from cogongrass-infested fields. Human movement of the grass in any fashion is **illegal**.

Additional **information** and **photos** at http://www.fl-dof.com/forest_management/fh_invasives_cogon.html

For **treatment** see http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/parks/cogon_grass.html

For **assistance** visit <http://floridainvasives.org> or contact your local County Forester or Extension Agent.

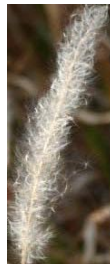
The longer you delay treatment – the **more expensive** treatment will be.



Rhizomes



Leaf blade



Seed head



Roadside infestation

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE
James R. Karels, Director

Preserve Cogongrass Monitoring & Treatment

Quarterly Monitoring and herbicide treatment.

New out breaks will be treated .



Walk way from Club house to Locksle Ct



Wetland 73

Approximately 2-acres of cogongrass occurs in the uplands near the wetland conservation areas (WCA). The cogongrass treatment includes initial herbicide, follow up herbicide in 30 days, and mowing of thatch after a sufficient kill of cogongrass. Blue dye is used with herbicide to mark the treated area. The treatment of the upland cogongrass should reduce potential future infestation to the wetlands.

