

Invasive Vegetation -

Cogongrass

(Imperata cylindrica)



Chris Koepfel

INVASIVE & NUISANCE SPECIES IN BREVARD COUNTY FLORIDA

IDENTIFICATION, REMOVAL, AND REPLACEMENT

Chris Koepfel

Species was added to the Florida Noxious Weed List (5b-57.007 FAC) by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Plants on the Florida Noxious Weed List may not be introduced, possessed, moved, or released without a permit.

IDENTIFICATION



Chris Koeppel



Mark Atwater, Weed Control Unlimited, Inc.



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Perennial grass to 5 feet tall with extensive rhizomes. Grass forms dense monocultures (one species of plant) and produces chemicals to limit growth of other plants. Grass is highly susceptible to fire, and has changed fire regimes in Florida due to its ability to ignite wildfires quickly. Introduced from Asia originally as farm animal forage, little value has been derived from this grass.

Leaves are hairy at the base, and have rough, silica-containing edges, with a lime-green to slightly yellow color eventually turning into a reddish-tan color. Leaf blades will cause lacerations due to the silica contact. Flowers are large silky white plumes up to 8 feet tall. Each blade has an OFFCENTER rib (see center picture).

REMOVAL

- *Burn or **mow** first,
- ***Till** (dig and turn soil) to depth of 6"
- *Apply *glyphosate* or *Imazapyr* (*according to label*) to new leaves in 30-120 days or during late summer
- ***Plant native** species to replace grass.

Although tillage and herbicides will provide some control and suppression of cogongrass, long-term eradication is seldom achieved. An integrated approach that combines burning, tillage (mechanical disturbance) and chemical applications provide the best solution for cogongrass management.

REPLACE WITH

Muhly Grass



Larry Allbain

Purple Lovegrass



James H. Miller

- ***Muhly grass** (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)
- ***Purple Lovegrass** (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)
- ***Wiregrass** (*Aristida stricta beyrichiana*)

MORE INFORMATION



Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office
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Building A, Suite 219
Viera, FL 32940
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Brevard County Natural Resources
<http://www.brevardcounty.us/natres/publications.cfm>
FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services
<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/botany/noxweed.html>
FL Dept. of Environmental Protection
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/invaspec/>
FL Exotic Pest Plant Council
www.fleppc.org
Invasive and Exotic Species
<http://www.invasives.org>
National Wildlife Federation
http://enature.com/native_invasive/
University of FL IFAS, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>