

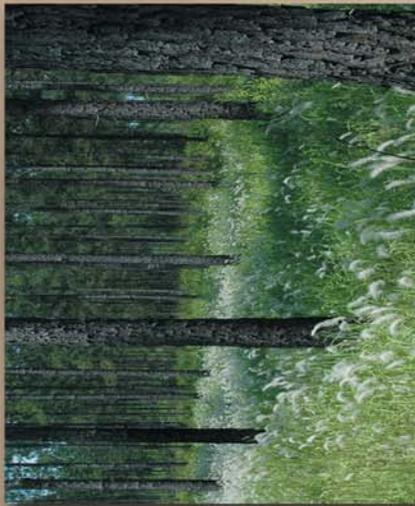


ALABAMA'S MOST UNWANTED

Have You Seen This Invasive Weed?

COGONGRASS

IMPERATA CYLINDRICA



CHARGE: CRIMES AGAINST NATURE

AKA: JAPANESE BLOOD GRASS, RED BARON GRASS

CONSIDERED: DANGEROUS AND DESTRUCTIVE, EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE, DESTROYS CRITICAL HABITAT, NO WILDLIFE BENEFITS

LAST SEEN: SPOTTED THROUGHOUT SOUTH AND CENTRAL ALABAMA AND HEADED NORTH. COLONIZES BY RHIZOMES AND SPREADS BY WIND-DISPersed SEEDS. ALSO KNOWN TO HITCHHIKE

AROUND THE STATE, CATCHING RIDES ON ATVs, SKIDDERS, ROAD GRADERS, MOWERS, FOOD PLOT EQUIPMENT, FOREST ROAD AND RIGHT-OF-WAY EQUIPMENT.

DESCRIPTION: GRASS IS 1-5 FT. TALL, OFTEN LEANING INTO MATS WHEN OVER 3 FT. TALL, TUFTS OF LONG LEAVES, YELLOW-GREEN, BLADES WITH OFF-CENTER MIDVEIN, SILVER PLUMED FLOWERS AND SEEDS IN SPRING, ARISING FROM SHARP-TIPPED WHITE-SCALY RHIZOMES. FLOWERS FROM FEBRUARY - MAY IN ALABAMA. BROWN OBLONG SEEDS APPEAR MAY - JUNE AND ARE RELEASED WITHIN SILVERY HAIRY HUSKS FOR WIND DISPERSAL.

RESEMBLES JOHNSONGRASS, PURPLETOP, SILVER PLUMEGRASS AND SUGARCANE PLUMEGRASSES BUT NONE OF THESE HAVE THE OFF-CENTERED WHITISH MIDVEIN OR STEM.

ECOLOGY: GROWS IN FULL SUNLIGHT TO PARTIAL SHADE, AND CAN INVADE A RANGE OF SITES. AGGRESSIVELY INVADERS RIGHTS-OF-WAY, NEW FOREST PLANTATIONS, OPEN FORESTS, OLD FIELDS AND PASTURES. RAPIDLY GROWING AND BRANCHING RHIZOMES FORM A DENSE MAT ENABLING IT TO EXCLUDE MOST OTHER VEGETATION. BURNS EXTREMELY HOT, ESPECIALLY IN WINTER, AND PROMOTED BY BURNING. ABSENT IN AREAS WITH FREQUENT TILLAGE.

HERBICIDE CONTROL: COGONGRASS CONTROL VARIES ACCORDING TO THE AGE AND RHIZOME MAT DENSITY AND DEPTH. YOUNG INFESTATIONS ARE USUALLY EASIER TO CONTROL THAN OLDER WELL-ESTABLISHED INFESTATIONS. CONTROL MEASURES RANGE FROM MOWING AND TILLING TO HERBICIDE CONTROL. HERBICIDE CONTROL VARIES ACCORDING TO LOCATION, TIME OF YEAR, AND TIMBER TYPE. MULTIPLE TREATMENTS MAY BE REQUIRED FOR TOTAL ERADICATION.

IF YOU HAVE SEEN THIS UNWANTED WEED CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

WWW.FORESTRY.ALABAMA.GOV



PHOTOS: DANA McREYNOLDS, ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION
CHRIS EVANS, RIVER TO RIVER, CWMA, BUGWOOD.ORG

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