

HOW INVASIVE PLANTS ARE REGULATED

Slide 1

The following slides will explain about invasive plants and how they are regulated in St. Lucie County. For more information regarding invasive plants visit the Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States at invasiveplantatlas.org.

Slide 2

Executive Order (EO) 13112 defines invasive species as species that are non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health. Invasive species can be plants, animals, or pathogens.

Slide 3

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, otherwise known as FLEPPC, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to “support the management of invasive exotic plants in Florida’s natural areas”. While FLEPPC is not a regulatory agency, FLEPPC’s List of Invasive Plant Species can become a regulatory list when it has been adopted in local ordinances, such as the case in St. Lucie County.

Slide 4

Land Development Code Section 7.09.05, Removal of Exotic Vegetation, requires all Category I plants to be removed for site plan approval and prohibits the planting of Category I plant according to the latest edition of FLEPPC List of Invasive Plant Species.

Category I plants are defined by FLEPPC as invasive plants that alter native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with natives. Visit fleppc.org to get the most current FLEPPC Invasive Plant List.

Slide 5

In these last few slides are comparisons between a Florida native plant and their invasive impersonators that occur in St. Lucie County. Contact the UF/IFAS Extension Office at sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/stlucie for assistance with identifying plant species and recommendations for removing Category I invasive plants.

Slides 6-12

Comparisons