

**Project Name:** Casuarina Biological Control Agents  
**Project ID:** 2601  
**Lead Agency:** U.S. Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service  
**Authority:** ARS

**Strategic Plan Goal(s) Addressed: Primary:** 2.B.3

**Measurable Output(s):** Number Biological Control Agents Developed and Released Against Melaleuca

**Project Synopsis.** Biological control agents have the potential of providing greater efficiency and improved economy. Ultimately, they may prove to be the only truly effective large-scale means of reversing and halting the effects of *Casuarina* spp. (Australian pine) on the South Florida habitat. Most effective agents tend to be discovered in that portion of the invasive species’ native range that genetically corresponds most closely to the plant populations being targeted for control. However, several species of *Casuarina* have each been imported into Florida multiple times. Recently completed genetic analysis has confirmed the presence of three species, as well as at least one (and possibly two) hybrids. Preliminary surveys in Australia show that hundreds of species attack these *Casuarinas* species, but funding for host range trials has suffered during the recent economic downturn. Ultimately, this project consists of releasing and redistributing biological control agents that have been approved through the federal regulatory process for use against Australian pine in the United States.

**Cost:** Total:  
 Project Development:  
 Land Acquisition: \$0 – long term lease with University of Florida  
 Implementation:  
 Operations and maintenance: not yet included in budget

**Project Schedule:**

Start Date: 2004  
 First Agent released: 2012  
 Finish Date: TBD

**Detailed Project Budget Information**

	2011	Balance to complete	Total
Federal			
State			
Tribal			
Local			
Other			
<b>Total</b>			<b>TBD</b>

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