

Program Name: Enhanced Mitigation Techniques for Control of Cactus Moth
Project ID: 2802
Lead Agency: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Plant Industry

Strategy and Biennial Report Objective Addressed: 2-B.4
Invasive Species Strategic Action Framework Goal: 4

Project Synopsis: The cactus moth, *Cactoblastis cactorum*, native to South America, has been used as an effective biological control agent against exotic *Opuntia* cacti around the world, including several Caribbean islands, Hawaii and Australia. However, the recent unintentional arrival of the moth in the Florida Keys in 1989 was recognized by scientists and conservationists as a serious threat to the rich flora and biodiversity of the native desert ecosystems in North America and to agriculture in Mexico where the cacti fruit and young vegetative parts are a staple diet for humans and chopped plants serve as cattle fodder in times of drought. The moth's accelerated dispersal along the Atlantic coast to South Carolina and along the Gulf coast to Alabama in recent years and more recently to Mississippi and Louisiana (2008 & 2009, respectively) has heightened the sense of urgency to slow its natural progression.

Current Status: Ongoing (project up for renewal annually)

Project Schedule:

Start Date: 7/1/2013
 Finish Date: 6/30/2014

Detailed Project Budget Information

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Balance to Complete	Total
Federal	193,500						
SFWMD**							
Local							
Total	\$193,500						TBD

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Hyperlink: <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Plant-Industry/Science/Biological-Control/Cactus-Moth-Rearing>