

Program Name: South Florida Water Management District Invasive Species Management
Project Name: Invasive Species Research and Information Exchange
Project ID: 2823
Lead Agency: SFWMD

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

Measurable Output(s): Development of new management approaches for invasive plants through applied research and information exchange between cooperators; development of management plans for priority invasive species.

Project Synopsis: The SFWMD continues to conduct and fund research programs in herbicide development and management techniques for priority invasive species. Recent developments in herbicide evaluations and management best management practices are improving control efficacy for numerous species, including hydrilla, shoebutton Ardisia, cattail, and Brazilian pepper. New research evaluating the efficacy of new herbicides for the control of invasive grasses and floating aquatic plants are currently underway.

There is still a large gap in acquiring sufficient funding to implement the multi-species control program with multi-agency integration. However, some success has been achieved through collaboration with Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA). As mandated in the Everglades Forever Act, the SFWMD continues to coordinate invasive species management with other agencies throughout the Everglades Protection Area. In 2008, the SFWMD, FWC, USACE, FWS, and NPS entered into an MOU that formalized ongoing coordination through the formation of the Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) The Everglades CISMA has achieved many successes in improving implementation of regional control strategies, including early detection and rapid response activities. For example, collaborative efforts to reduce localized populations of the sacred ibis and Asian black mangrove are ongoing with success in containing and possibly eradicating these species. Recent rapid response efforts for other newly established species, such as mile-a-minute weed and the black and white Argentine tegu, have had less success in containing populations, further underscoring the need for more effective prevention measures at the state and federal level.

Current Status: Development and refinement of control tools for invasive species has recently focused on herbicides for cattail, shoebuttan Ardisia, hydrilla, roundleaf tooth cup, and limpgrass. The District continues to fund biological control research institutions for melaleuca and Old World climbing fern. The SFWMD expends \$300,000 annually toward development of biological control agents for these two invasive species through agreements with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS).

Cost: Total
 Project Development: N/A
 Land Acquisition: N/A

Project Schedule:

**Downy Rosemyrtle Management Trials
 Vegetation Management Section**

Downy rosemyrtle rapidly invades pine flatwoods. Difficult to control once dominant.



After mechanical shredding, team allowed weed regrowth then applied combinations of herbicide.



After 12 months, native vegetation is recovering and downy rosemyrtle well controlled.



Start Date: 2007
 Finish Date: TBD

Detailed Project Budget Information (\$1000) / Expenditures to Date

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
SFWMD*	110	160	156	206	307	257	257	207	1,453

*SFWMD: Expenditures to date per fiscal year. The 2014 figure does not include funding to USDA/ARS for biological control research (\$300,000) and CERP Biological Control Implementations (\$661, 536) which are identified on other project sheets.

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