

Module 3 ~ Why Manage Invasive Plants? (UE/MS/HS)

Keyword Definitions



1. **aquatic plants** – plants that grow in water or wet areas; plants that must complete part or all of their life cycle in or near the water.
2. **biological control** – n. is the use of insects, fish, diseases, and other biological agents to weaken or cause stress to an unwanted invasive plant species. biological control agents usually are host specific; they feed on that one species of plant only.
3. **chemical control** – n. the use of specially formulated herbicides (registered with the U.S. EPA) to kill or control plants.
4. **crisis management** – n. refers to “emergency” steps that have to be taken to gain control of a serious or threatening situation. in this instance, it refers to plant management steps that have to be taken to try and manage (i.e., get rid of) large infestations of plants in a habitat.
5. **environmental** – adj. pertaining to one's environment (i.e., the circumstances, objects, or conditions by which one is surrounded). When discussing ecology, it refers to the air, water, minerals, organisms, and all other external factors surrounding and affecting a given organism at any time.
6. **flood control** – n. activities, structures or techniques used to control rivers and/or other aquatic waterways, to minimize the occurrence of floods.
7. **habitat** – n. the locality or external environment in which a plant lives.
8. **herbicide** – n. a chemical that kills plants or inhibits their growth; intended for weed control.
9. **hydrilla** – n. a non-native, aquatic submersed plant that was introduced to Florida in the late 1950s. It is believed to be from southern India and Korea. It can grow from the bottom of a lake to the surface and form dense mats, shading out native vegetation and causing oxygen problems. It is considered invasive in Florida.
10. **infestation** – n. occurs when something occupies an environment or habitat in such large numbers that it becomes harmful, threatening, or noxious.
11. **invasive plant** – n. a non-native plant species (to an ecosystem) that is causing or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
12. **maintenance control** – n. controlling exotic weeds on a continuous basis, using a variety of techniques (biological, chemical, mechanical), so that troublesome plants can be kept at the lowest feasible levels.
13. **mechanical control** – n. the use of machines to shear, crush, shred, press, pull and remove aquatic weeds from aquatic systems (lakes, rivers, canals, etc.).
14. **native** – n., adj. indigenous to an area; originally from a specific area; naturally occurring in a given area.
15. **native plant** – n. a plant species that occurs naturally within a geographic region or area. In Florida, the phrase “native plant” refers to those species that were here prior to European contact (also referred to as an indigenous plant). It has not been introduced by humans, intentionally or unintentionally.
16. **native habitat** – n. the region where a plant or animal originally came from, grows and lives.



IFAS Extension
Center for Aquatic
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17. **non-native** (plant) – n. a plant species that is present in a region outside of its original, historic range due to intentional or unintentional introduction; it's not necessarily invasive. Also referred to as non-indigenous or exotic. The introduction of the plant to a new area is often the result of human activity. In Florida, a non-native plant is a species that has become part of the flora since the arrival of Christopher Columbus (i.e., any plant species introduced after 1513).
18. **physical control** – n. refers to various “physical” methods used to control problem plants including: pulling plants out of the ground or water; cutting them with a hand-held blade; water level manipulation (lowering the water to kill off plants); dredging; using physical barriers on the surface and/or dyes in the water to block sunlight; bottom barriers, nutrient alteration; aeration and prescribed fire. These methods are also referred to as “cultural control.”
19. **plant management** – n. the process of evaluating plant growth in a particular habitat and developing a management plan. The plan usually includes strategies for controlling (removing) problem plants while also encouraging the growth of beneficial plants through protection, replanting efforts, etc.
20. **public awareness** – n. increasing knowledge among the general public about a particular subject or issue.
21. **prevention** – n. stopping an action or event before it starts. In this case, it refers to keeping (potentially) invasive plants from being introduced to a new area by acting responsibly. Preventative actions: learn to recognize invasive plant species; don't move plants from one region to another; dispose of invasive plants in the household garbage (not in a compost pile); only plant non-invasive plant species in our yards, etc.
22. **recreational use** – the use of land or water for the purpose of leisure activities, for fun and/or entertainment.
23. **restoration** – n. the act of repairing or renovating so as to restore to its original condition, an intentional activity that initiates or accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem with respect to its health, integrity and sustainability. Frequently, the ecosystem that requires restoration has been degraded, damaged, transformed or entirely destroyed as the direct or indirect result of human activities, such as the intentional or unintentional introduction of invasive species.
24. **water hyacinth** – a tropical floating aquatic plant, from South America, that is considered one of the worst problem plants in the world. After it was introduced to Florida in the late 1890s, it clogged entire waterways making boat navigation impossible. Today, these plants are kept at the lowest possible levels to prevent them from causing the problems. These plants have large “showy” lavender colored flowers that are considered pretty by many people, which is why they were introduced here in the first place.
25. **weed** – any plant that crowds out a cultivated and desired plant; not necessarily an invasive plant.



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