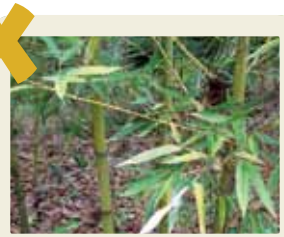
Invasive EXOTIC Tropical Plants

Tropical-looking invasive plants will readily form dense growth along river and lake shores, displacing native shoreline vegetation. Many of these plants have been purposely introduced into a landscape, but may also have spread via fruit or vegetative fragments floating though waterways.

QUEEN PALM
(Syagrus romanzoffiana)

HEIGHT: Up to 40 feet



GOLDEN BAMBOO
(Phyllostachys aurea)

HEIGHT: Up to 40 feet

MEXICAN PETUNIA
(Ruellia brittoniana)

HEIGHT: Up to 3 feet

CORAL BEAN
(Erythrina herbacea)

15

MIMOSA
(Albizia julibrissin)

HEIGHT: Up to 25 feet

AlterNATIVE Tropical Plants

TULIP POPLAR
(Liriodendron tulipfera)

90

OTHER ALTERNATIVES

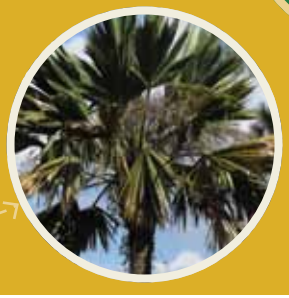
- **Bluestem Palmetto, Dwarf Palmetto** *(Sabal minor)*
- **Coontie** *(Zamia floridiana)*
- **Necklace Pod** *(Sophora tomentosa)*
- ***Pipestem*** *(Agarista populifolia)*
- ***Scrub Palmetto*** *(Sabal etonia)*
- **Sea Grape** *(Coccoloba uvifera)*
- **Swamp Fern** *(Blechnum serrulatum)*
- **Switch Cane, Giant Cane** *(Arundinaria gigantea)*

COONTIE
(Zamia floridana)

2

EVERGLADES PALM, PAUROTIS PALM
(Acoelorraphe wrightii)

20



SABAL PALM, CABBAGE PALM
(Sabal palmetto)

60

Invasive EXOTIC Tropical Plants *(Wetland)*

Some invasive tropical plants have seeds that cling to animal fur, human clothing, vehicles and equipment and are then transported to new locations, where they eventually fall off, and may then start a new infestation.

PERUVIAN PRIMROSE WILLOW
(Ludwigia peruviana)

HEIGHT: Up to 12 feet

WILD TARO
(Colocasia esculenta)

HEIGHT: Up to 4 feet

UMBRELLA FLAT SEDGE
(Cyperus involucratus)

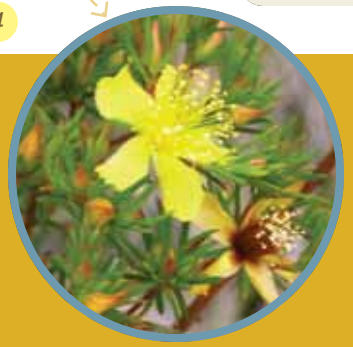
HEIGHT: Dwarf plant can grow up to 2 feet. Regular plant can grow up to 6 feet.

CAESAR'S WEED, also known as CAESARWEED
(Urena lobata)

HEIGHT: Up to 10 feet

AlterNATIVE Tropical Plants

SANDWEED
(Hypericum fasciculatum)



STRING-LILY
(Crinum americanum)

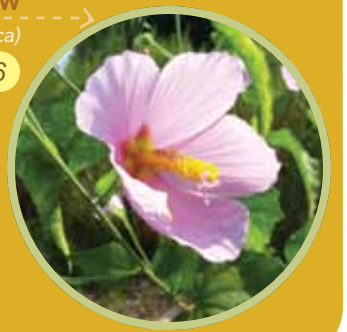
OTHER ALTERNATIVES

- **Alligator Flag** *(Thalia geniculata)*
- **Crimsoneyed Rosemallow** *(Hibiscus moscheutos)*
- **Dixie Iris, Prairie Iris** *(Iris hexagona)*
- **Lizard's Tail** *(Saururus cernuus)*
- **Scarlet Rosemallow** *(Hibiscus coccineus)*
- **String-lily** *(Crinum americanum)*
- **Swamp Rosemallow** *(Hibiscus grandiflorus)*

CARDINAL FLOWER
(Lobelia cardinalis)

DIXIE IRIS, PRAIRIE IRIS
(Iris hexagona)

SALT MARSH MALLOW
(Kosteletzkya virginica)



For MORE INFORMATION about invasive-exotic plants:

- **Florida Invasive Species Partnership**
  www.floridainvasives.org
- **The Nature Conservancy**
  www.nature.org/floridainvasive
- **The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council**
  www.fleppc.org
- **UF Center for Aquatic & Invasive Plants**
  http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu
- **Lake County Water Authority**
  www.lcwa.org
- **Lake County Horticultural Learning Center**
  http://lake.ifas.ufl.edu/discovery-gardens/index.shtml
- **Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission**
  http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/habitat/invasive-plants/

For MORE INFORMATION about native plants:

- **Florida Native Plant Society**
  www.fnps.org

LAKE COUNTY FLORIDA

For more information, call (352) 253-4950, or log on to www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks.

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