

2011

Dear Educator,

**Thank you for your interest in our Invasive Plant Education Initiative and Curricula.** We've been busy developing lessons and activities and making them available on our website as they are completed. This notebook is just a sampling so please be sure to check out the website: <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education>.



Our goal is provide educators with the information and resources needed to teach students about the harmful impacts some non-native, invasive plants are having on Florida's natural areas and neighborhoods. We hope to continue this conversation with students as they mature into the next generation of environmental stewards. **To accomplish this, we've worked with dozens of teachers around the state to produce presentations, lessons and activities that communicate the following "take home" messages and correlate to Florida's Sunshine State Standards:**

❖ **MODULE 1 ~ Silent Invaders**

This is the core lesson, upon which all other activities and lessons are based. It provides a basic (and humorous) introduction to aquatic and terrestrial plants found in Florida along with definitions of native, non-native and invasive species. Students learn how non-native, invasive plants are impacting our waters and upland natural areas along with positive actions **we** can take to help prevent future damage.

❖ **MODULE 2 ~ A Fish Tale**

Students learn about the relationship between photosynthesis and submersed aquatic plants in Florida's freshwaters—and how invasive plant species make it harder for native plants to "do their job."

❖ **MODULE 3 ~ Why Manage Invasive Plants?**

Managing invasive plants is something we **have** to do to keep them from causing further harm. Students learn how prevention and "maintenance control" are effective strategies for keeping things under control.

❖ **MODULE 4 ~ Viva la Difference!**

Florida's subtropical climate, unique geology and abundant plant growth make our lakes quite different from northern lakes. In fact, the abundance of aquatic plants plays a major role in lake trophic state and biological productivity—much more than people think.

Each module may be utilized in its entirety or parts may be used as stand-alone lessons, labs or research activities. This Education Initiative is for you! Please let us know what we can do to make your job easier as you teach this important subject.

Thank you for all you do!



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Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative • <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education>

A Collaboration of the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants  
and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission / Invasive Plant Management Section