

INVASIVE PLANT

Student Video Challenge

Sample Story Scenarios

Dear Student,

The following scenarios are provided as general ideas or examples of stories that can be told for this invasive plant video project. Feel free to use these scenarios or change them to suit your needs.

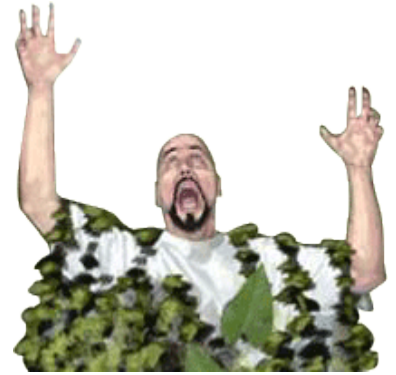
Another option: feel free to create your own scenarios, based on what you've learned about invasive plant problems in Florida.

Before you begin, be sure to watch the following presentations as they will help to give you more background knowledge on the subject:

Silent Invaders ~ http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education/module1/web/silent_invaders.html

A Fish Tale ~ http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education/module2/web/fish_tale.html

Why Manage Invasive Plants? ~ http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education/module3/web/why_manage.html



What Makes A Good Story?

Telling a good story is an art form and there are many ways to do it. Developing a video from your story will require even more preparation and thought – and a willingness to let your creativity shine through. The following links provide useful basic information about how to effectively tell a story through a variety of media (video, storybooks, etc.) We recommend that your video team spend some time looking over these materials before beginning your project (especially the director and/or writer(s)).

General STORYTELLING: <http://ringlingstorytellers.blogspot.com>

STORY structure: <http://spring1010.blogspot.com/>

SCENE structure: <http://basicscenestructure.blogspot.com/>



A Product of the UF/IFAS Osceola County Hydrilla and Hygrophylla Demonstration Project

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola>

INVASIVE PLANT

Student Video Challenge

Sample Story Scenarios

1) Plant Rescue 911

A musical ~ A call comes in from a group of native plants that are being crowded out by a hygrophila invasion. The rescue squad (herbicide applicators) must figure out how to find the native plants under the invasive plants and rescue them by removing the invader --without hurting the native plants. They have three management methods available to them: (1) mechanical control (2) herbicide control (3) hand removal (known as physical control). Time is critical.

Line: *Who's your daddy?*

Use at least three of these factoids in your video.

1. Hygrophila is a submersed plant that was brought to the United States as an aquarium plant around 1945.
2. Hygrophila is a fast-growing and fast-spreading invasive plant that can out-shade and out-compete other submersed plants.
3. Hygrophila clogs irrigation and flood control canals and forms large mats that interfere with navigation.
4. Eel grass and baby's tears are examples of native submersed plants in Florida. Hygrophila is so invasive that it can out-compete these native plants.
5. Hygrophila is difficult to control. Mechanical harvesters and chopping machines help remove hygrophila but these machines also fragment the plants which can spread the plant to new areas. (Note: Like hydrilla, this plant can reproduce from a single fragment.) Hand removal is also very difficult due to this fragmentation. In its native country of India, researchers are looking for biological control agents such as insects that could eat hygrophila and keep it under control. Very few aquatic herbicides are effective against hygrophila.

NOTES:



A Product of the UF/IFAS Osceola County Hydrilla and Hygrophila Demonstration Project

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola>

INVASIVE PLANT

Student Video Challenge

Sample Story Scenarios

2) Looking for Light

Create this scenario: Two types of invasive plants, hydrilla and water hyacinth, are keeping sunlight from reaching native submersed plants (eel grass) that are growing on the bottom below. Resident animals (fish, turtles, aquatic insects, etc.) start having difficulty with respiration after several days of cloudy weather. (Note: this is due to less photosynthesis occurring in the lake.) The creatures devise a plan to save their habitat and themselves. You decide on the plan.

Line: *Get me a Pepsi, a paperclip and a pair of scissors.*

Use at least three of these factoids in your video.

1. Water hyacinth is one of the fastest growing plants known. If left alone, it can double the area it covers in as little as a week.
2. Hydrilla is an invasive plant that can fill up lakes and ponds from the bottom to the top. These dense mats slow down water movement and can prevent boating and swimming.
3. Hydrilla mats can form a cover over the surface of water bodies, like an umbrella, that will not allow light or oxygen into the water, killing native plants, fish and other wildlife.
4. Hydrilla is a submersed plant that was brought to Florida in the 1950s from Asia to grow in aquariums.
5. Large mats of water hyacinth cause problems like stopping boats, providing places for mosquitoes to live, and covering up native plants that are good for fish and wildlife. These large mats can limit the transfer of oxygen into the water.
6. Some ducks and other water birds (especially American coots) like to eat hydrilla.
7. Hurricanes have been known to help control hydrilla; in some parts of Florida, hurricane winds blew so hard that it blew the plants right out of the lake.

NOTES:



A Product of the UF/IFAS Osceola County Hydrilla and Hygrophila Demonstration Project

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola>

INVASIVE PLANT

Student Video Challenge

Sample Story Scenarios

3) Cypress Gardens Ski Parade

The town's champion water ski team has decorated their skiers and boat with invasive hydrilla for the annual July 4 boat parade. (They don't know that hydrilla is an invasive plant.) They are about to spread tubers and fragments all over the lake during the event. Two Eighth graders, Emily Surez and Mustav Lernsomethin have to convince the parade officials to disqualify the popular winning ski team and save the lake from being taken over by hydrilla.

Line: *Where did this itch come from?*

Use at least three of these factoids in your video.

1. Hydrilla is an invasive plant that can fill up lakes and ponds from the bottom to the top (surface). These dense mats slow down water movement and can prevent boating and swimming.
2. Hydrilla mats can form a cover over water bodies, like an umbrella, that will reduce light and oxygen into the water. If left unmanaged, it can result in fish kills.
3. Hydrilla is a submersed plant that was brought to Florida in the 1950s from Asia to grow in aquariums.
4. In Florida, hydrilla does not form seeds. Instead it forms buds on the roots called tubers that can lay dormant in the lake bottom for years before sprouting. Once hydrilla makes tubers, it is nearly impossible to eradicate.
5. The main way that hydrilla spreads is by small fragments of the plants breaking off and forming new plants. Boaters can unknowingly spread hydrilla when small pieces of the plant are transported on boat trailers and fishing equipment. Boaters are advised to remove plants from all boating equipment before they leave the water body.

NOTES:



A Product of the UF/IFAS Osceola County Hydrilla and Hygrophylla Demonstration Project

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola>

INVASIVE PLANT

Student Video Challenge

Sample Story Scenarios

4) Grassy Dilemma

Create an invasive torpedograss puppet. The puppet convinces the golf course maintenance person that they should continue planting his family members along the shoreline of a creek near a golf course in north Florida. Area homeowners don't care one way or the other until the golf course begins to be taken over by the torpedograss, making it impossible to hold a prestigious tournament that brings millions of dollars into the local economy. Devise a plan to save the golf course and the tournament at the same time.

Line: *I can't believe she ate the whole thing.*

Use at least three of these factoids in your video.

1. Torpedograss is one of the most serious weed problems in Florida.
2. It is native to Africa and/or Asia and was introduced to the United States before 1876, primarily through seed used for forage crops.
3. Torpedograss grows in or near shallow waters where it can quickly displace native vegetation and it can also be found upland.
4. Torpedograss spreads by rhizomes which are underground root-like stems that send out leaves and shoots.
5. Herbicides can be effective in controlling torpedograss but it requires several applications. Mechanical control such as continuously tilling the soil can provide good control, especially when combined with herbicide applications.

NOTES:



A Product of the UF/IFAS Osceola County Hydrilla and Hygrophila Demonstration Project

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola>

INVASIVE PLANT

Student Video Challenge

Sample Story Scenarios

5) Invasive Trivia Game

Create a game show scenario for “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire.” The contestant, Mrs. Hissy Fits has one last question to answer correctly and she will win a million dollars. The question pertains to a specific aquatic invasive plant in Florida (hydrilla, hygrophila or water lettuce). She decides to call her husband Bubba Fits to find her answer. You decide the plant, the question, and the outcome.

Line: *I thought you gave up smoking?*

Use at least three of these factoids in your video.

1. Hygrophila is an invasive aquatic plant that has invaded rivers, streams and ditches in Florida.
2. Hydrilla and hygrophila are submersed plants that were brought to the United States as aquarium plants around 1940s and 1960s. *Definition: submersed plant- a plant that grows primarily below the water's surface.*
3. Hydrilla is an invasive plant that can form infestations that fill up lakes and ponds from top to bottom. These dense mats slow down water movement and can prevent boating and swimming.
4. Water lettuce is a floating plant that commonly forms large infestations which prevent boating, fishing, and other uses of lakes and rivers. *Definition: floating plant- a plant that is not rooted in the soil under the water. These plants are free-floating and get their nutrients directly from the water.*
5. Water lettuce mats greatly reduce biological diversity. These mats eliminate native submersed plants by blocking sunlight and altering plant communities.

NOTES:



A Product of the UF/IFAS Osceola County Hydrilla and Hygrophila Demonstration Project

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola>

INVASIVE PLANT

Student Video Challenge

Sample Story Scenarios

6) Don't Let it Loose!

Little Scotty has an aquarium with exotic fish and exotic plants. He's sick of feeding the fish and cleaning the aquarium so he plans to dump it into the pond behind his house. Count Weedbuster, a superhero who prevents the spread of invasive plants, gets wind of what little Scotty is up to. Decide how Count Weedbuster can save the day and prevent the fish and plants from being introduced into the pond (and other Florida lakes and ponds).

Line: *I thought we were in this thing together.*

Use at least three of these factoids in your video.

1. The impacts of introducing non-native species- animal or plant- into a new ecosystem are often unknown and can turn out to be devastating. Preventing these introductions is critical to protect Florida's environment.
2. Never release unwanted pets into the natural environment. Doing so is unfair to the animal, is environmentally irresponsible and against the law.
3. Invasive aquatic plants can grow rapidly, blocking canals and other waterways. Once the plants are introduced, removing these plants is time consuming and expensive (costing many millions of dollars).
4. Introduced exotic fish could cause significant economic losses for the fishing industry.
5. It is recommended that when aquarium owners want to "dismantle" their aquarium... they should dump gravel, plants, snails, etc. into a bucket with a 10% bleach solution for at least 24 hours, then drain the water and dump the treated "decorations" into a trash bag and dispose in the garbage.
6. The exotic snakehead fish from Asia and Africa has been introduced into Florida waters. This is a predatory fish that is eating our native fish, turtles, frogs, and lizards.

NOTES:



A Product of the UF/IFAS Osceola County Hydrilla and Hygrophylla Demonstration Project

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola>

INVASIVE PLANT

Student Video Challenge

Sample Story Scenarios

7) Catch of the Day

While out fishing, Billy thinks he's caught a big fish but when he reels in his line he discovers that what he caught is a bundle of the invasive weed hydrilla. Billy's daughter, Amanda Hugenkiss, has to explain to her father what he has caught and why invasive plants are so bad. She also has to make sure that the hydrilla doesn't leave the lake with them (on their boat, trailer or clothing) so it doesn't get transported to a new area.

Line: *I thought we were going to the prom*

Use at least three of these factoids in your video.

1. Hydrilla is an invasive plant that can form infestations that fill up lakes and ponds from the bottom to the top. These dense mats slow down water movement and cause flooding. It and can also prevent boating, fishing and swimming.
2. Hydrilla mats can form a cover over water bodies, like an umbrella, that will reduce light and oxygen into the water. If left unmanaged, it can result in fish kills.
3. Hydrilla is a submersed plant that was brought to Florida in the 1950s from Asia to grow in aquariums.
4. In Florida, hydrilla does not form seeds. Instead, this plant forms buds on the roots called tubers that can lay dormant in the lake bottom for years before they sprout. Once hydrilla makes tubers, it is nearly impossible to eradicate.
5. The main way that hydrilla spreads is by small fragments of the plants breaking off and forming new plants. Boaters can unknowingly spread hydrilla when small pieces of the plant are transported on boat trailers and fishing equipment. Boaters are advised to remove plants from all boating equipment before they leave the water body.
6. On lakes that have major infestations of hydrilla, bass and other sport fish are smaller and weigh less.

NOTES:



A Product of the UF/IFAS Osceola County Hydrilla and Hygrophila Demonstration Project

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola>

INVASIVE PLANT

Student Video Challenge

Sample Story Scenarios

8) Speedy Hydrilla Removal

Inspired by NASCAR Racing ~ Teams of (student) anglers run all around a boat and trailer, inspecting the equipment while an inspector watches. A commentator announces what they are doing in the background: “Officials are inspecting boat trailers that are being prepared for fishing the next lake in a “speed bass fishing derby” -- an event that involves anglers fishing three lakes in one day. Officials are looking for boat trailers leaving with invasive plants still on trailer... One official spots a hydrilla fragment attached to a trailer and announces “That’s a penalty!”

Line: Next stop “Lake Toho.”

Use at least three of these factoids in your video.

1. Hydrilla is an invasive plant that can form infestations that fill up lakes and ponds. These dense mats slow down water movement and can prevent boating and swimming.
2. Hydrilla mats can form a cover over water bodies, like an umbrella, that will reduce light and oxygen into the water. If left unmanaged, it can result in fish kills.
3. Hydrilla is a submersed plant that was brought to Florida in the 1950s from Asia to grow in aquariums.
4. In Florida, hydrilla does not form seeds. Instead, this plant forms buds on the roots called tubers that can lay dormant in the lake bottom for years before they sprout. Once hydrilla makes tubers, it is nearly impossible to eradicate.
5. The main way that hydrilla spreads is by small fragments of the plants breaking off and forming new plants. Boaters can unknowingly spread hydrilla when small pieces of the plant are transported on boat trailers and fishing equipment. Boaters are advised to remove plants from all boating equipment before they leave the water body.

NOTES:



A Product of the UF/IFAS Osceola County Hydrilla and Hygrophila Demonstration Project

<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/osceola>

INVASIVE PLANT

Student Video Challenge

Sample Story Scenarios

9) Hyacinth Explosion

While out walking near a local pond, Betsy Sue and Freddy Max spot some floating plants with pretty purple flowers. They don't realize that these plants are the aquatic weed, water hyacinth and they decide to collect some and put them in the lake behind their house. A few weeks later the hyacinth has filled up the lake and there isn't any room for the fish or birds anymore or the water skiers who are about to compete in their annual water skiing competition next weekend. The tournament is a fundraiser for their annual Senior Canoe Trip to the mountains. You decide how they will remove the hyacinth and return their lake to its natural state (and save the skiing tournament).

Line: *You can't tell a plant by the color of its flower but by the content of its character.*

Use at least three of these factoids in your video.

1. Water hyacinth is one of the fastest growing plants known. Left alone, it can double the area it covers in as little as a week.
2. Water hyacinth is an exotic floating plant that is found in freshwater ponds, lakes and rivers.
3. Large mats of water hyacinth cause problems like stopping boats, providing places for mosquitoes to live, and covering up native plants that provide good habitat for fish and wildlife. These large mats can limit the transfer of oxygen into the water from the air above.
4. Water hyacinth greatly reduces biological diversity.
5. Water hyacinth is believed to have been introduced into the United States in 1884.
6. Water hyacinth can be controlled with aquatic herbicide or machines that harvest the plants and remove them from the water.

NOTES: