Nandina

Nandina domestica

(Thunb) Berberidaceae

Biology

- Introduced from China and Japan in early 1800’s
- Also called heavenly bamboo
- Evergreen to semi-evergreen shrub
- Visually similar to bamboo

Background

Economic Uses

- Cultivated as an ornamental
- Attractive foliage, flowers and fruit

Distribution

- Found in isolated areas of north and central Florida
- Found along roadways and disturbed areas, forest edges, waterways
  - Generally as a direct escape from cultivation
- Also found in certain conservation areas, woodlands and floodplains

Nandina Distribution in Florida

Impacts

- Category 1 invasive species (FLEPPC)
  - –Limited spread into undisturbed sites
- Available for sale in the nursery trade, newer hybridized cultivars do not produce seed
- Spread by wildlife, vegetatively through suckers and rhizomes
- Forms dense thickets, displaces native vegetation

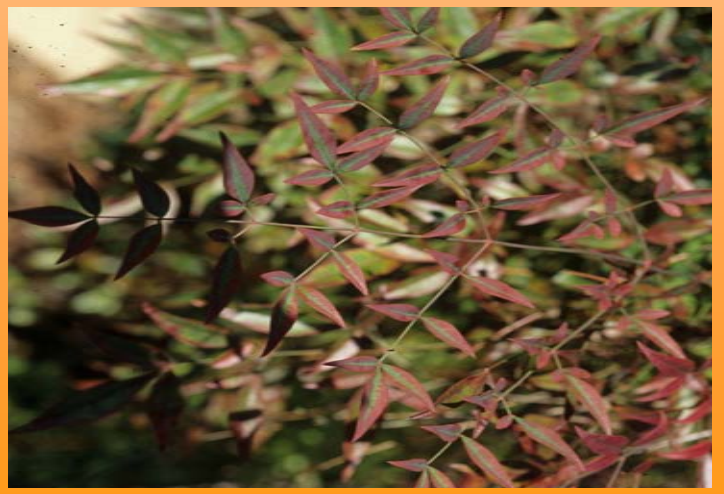
Identification

Mature Plant

- Evergreen shrub, grows 4 to 8 feet tall
- Inner bark is yellow
- Spreads vegetatively through root suckers

Leaves

- Leaves are tri-pinnately compound
- Alternately arranged
- Reddish bronze, turning green, then returning to reddish color in fall



Flowers and Fruit

- Flowers are white, borne in panicles
- Fruit are round berries, red and persist on the plant until consumed

Management

Preventative

Cultural

Mechanical

Biological

Chemical

Preventative

1. Limit planting as an ornamental, especially the non-hybridized cultivars
2. Remove existing plants, including rootstocks and before seeds are produced
3. Rouge out plants in abandoned areas

Cultural

1. Alternative landscape plants to replace nandina
2. Programs to educate homeowners about the problems associated with nandina and proper identification
3. Maintain good ground cover and mixture of plant species to reduce establishment

Biological

1. There are no known biological control agents available for nandina management in Florida or the southeastern U.S.

Mechanical

1. Hand pull young seedlings, including all roots, repeated pulling for resprouts
2. Cut plant down at ground level, but will resprout and require re-cutting
3. Mowing is effective on small bushes and resprouts, but must be repeated

Chemical - Foliar

1. Over-the-top applications for seedlings, resprouts and small plants
2. Thoroughly wet leaves with herbicide
   - ✓ Triclopyr – 2% solution
   - ✓ Glyphosate – 2 to 3% solution
   - ✓ Use surfactant at 0.25%
3. Best results applied before fruiting

Useful Links

- Floridata Homepage: http://www.floridata.com
- University of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants: http://aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu/welcome.html
- University of Florida's Cooperative Extension Electronic Data Information Source: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/index.html

Useful Links

- The Plant Conservation Alliance's Alien Plant Working Group. Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas: http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/index.htm
- Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER). Plant Threats to Pacific Ecosystems: http://www.hear.org/pier/threats.htm
- Invasive Plants of the Eastern United States: http://www.invasive.org
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Plants Database: http://plants.usda.gov

Literature Cited

Langeland, K.A. and K. Craddock Burks. 1998. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville. 165 pp