

Invasive and undesirable plant!

**Have you seen this plant
on your property?**

This is **Earleaf acacia**
(*Acacia auriculiformis*) and
it has recently been
identified as becoming
invasive and unmanageable
on Pine Island!



If you see this plant, remove it! Call the Lee County Extension Service at 239-461-7514 for information on how to get involved in the Earleaf acacia control program on Pine Island.

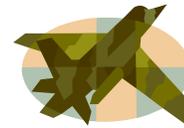
What is an Invasive Exotic Plant?



A Native plant is a species whose natural range included Florida at the time of European contact; 1500 AD.



An Exotic plant is a species introduced to Florida, purposefully or accidentally, from a natural range outside of Florida. *Not all exotic plants are harmful to the environment.*



An Invasive Exotic is an exotic plant that not only has naturalized but is expanding on its own in Florida plant communities.

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) places invasive exotic plants in categories related to their level of invasiveness, and the impact they are having on the local ecology of native plants and animal species.

Many invasive exotic species are harmful to the environment because they change the natural landscape by drying up wetlands (A good example of this is Melaleuca), or they grow in such large numbers that they crowd out native plants and the animals that depend on natives plants for food and shelter (Good examples of this are Brazilian Pepper, Australian Pine and Earleaf acacia).

A Category I Invasive Exotic is an exotic plant that is altering native plant communities by displacing native species, changing community structures or ecological functions, or hybridizing with native plants. This definition relies upon documented ecological damage caused.

A Category II Invasive Exotic is an exotic plant that has increased in abundance or frequency but has not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by a Category I species. Category II Invasive Exotics may become ranked Category I if ecological damage is demonstrated.

Earleaf acacia (*Acacia auriculiformis*) is a Category I invasive plant that is currently found in alarming abundance on Pine Island. When you find a small sapling on your property, uproot it and place it in a sealed garbage bag to kill all viable seeds.

The Pine Island Invasive Plant Control Program is a collaboration among the Univ. of Florida, IFAS, Lee County Extension, The Greater Pine Island Civic Association, Florida Native Plant Society, Pine Island garden Club, Calusa land Trust and various volunteer groups and individuals working in the interest of Pine Island.