



Spot The Invaders!



Project Overview

The goal of this project was to remove invasive plant species on Amelia Island and create accessible information for the public to advocate awareness of invasive species in Nassau County. A native plant is identified as a species that has naturally existed in a given place for an extended length of time. Whereas, an invasive species displaces and prevents native species from establishing. The project included removing Asparagus Fern from the Southend Beach access on Amelia Island with volunteers. I led about 10 volunteers on two removal days to eradicate Asparagus Fern from this beach access. In addition to physical removal days, I also created factsheets for the common invasive plant species in Northeast Florida and assisted in creating a website for these specific species. The most common invasive species include Mother of Millions, Russian Thistle, Asparagus Fern, and Brazilian Pepper.

Outcomes/Results

- Eradication of Asparagus Fern at the Amelia Island South Beach Access
 - Removed 25 bags worth of plant material over 3, 3-hour volunteer shifts
- Created four invasive plant fact sheets on Asparagus Fern, Mother of Millions, Brazilian Pepper, and Beach Vitex
- Assisted in creating Northeast Florida invasive plant species website.



How You Can Help!

1. Prevent and Protect

- a. Know which invasive plant species lurk in the garden section of our stores!
- b. Check if plants are invasive on the plant directory at <https://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/>

2. Identify the Invaders!

- a. When you are walking on trails or at the beach, look out for the wanted criminals below! They are the most common invasive plant species.

3. Report!

- a. Download the Ivegot1 app and upload images of any invasives you spot.

Fight With Us!

- In Northeast Florida? Join our invasive plant removal days by contacting Justina Dacey at the email below!
- OR Visit <https://www.floridainvasives.org/> to partner with organizations near you to fight against invasive species!

Russian Thistle



- **Where:** Found in coastal areas
- **Impact:** Disturbs our shore bird and sea turtle nesting habitats
- **Characteristic:** Summer annual, reproduces by seed. At maturity, the plant breaks off at the ground forming "tumbleweeds" that are tossed by the wind, scattering seeds.

Asparagus Fern



- **Where:** Coastal areas like our beach access paths
- **Impact:** This invasive smothers groundcover and prevents native plant establishment.
- **Characteristic:** A perennial, reproduces by fruit dispersal and resprouting tubers.

Mother of Millions



- **Where:** Found in coastal areas
- **Impact:** Outcompetes Native species and decreases biodiversity
- **Characteristic:** Tall succulent stock with green leaves with purple/black spots on the bottom side and drooping bell-shaped flowers.