

Automatic Exemption

Is this species listed on any federal or state noxious or prohibited plant lists?

Yes Under "BY STATE" on page R-1 check **Prohibited**

No **Go to Section I-a** below

Step-by-Step Assessment Responses

I-a Current Invasion in Florida

1. Is there a proposed or new use for a species that would result in higher propagule pressure* in Florida? For example, cultivation of ≥ 2 contiguous ac of a species for bioenergy (corresponding to DPI biofuel rule), or commercial cultivation of a species present in Florida for a new use, or increase in acreage cultivated from 1-10 ac to 10 times that acreage (10-100 ac), 10-100 ac to 5 times that acreage (50 to 500 ac), or >100 ac to 2.5 times that acreage.

Yes **Use the Predictive Tool**

No **Go to question I-a 2**

2. Does this species occur in any natural areas of Florida?

Yes *Attach distribution records* and **Go to question I-a 3**

No **Go to Section A**

3. Does it **ONLY** occur in natural areas of Florida because it has persisted from its previous cultivation?

Yes *Attach evidence of previous cultivation for each site* and **Go to Section A**

No **Go to Section I-b**

Section A is on page R-3 and Section I-b is on page R-4

Check box if distribution records are attached

Check box if evidence of previous cultivation is attached

Section A

A1 Does this species hybridize with any Federal or Florida-listed Endangered or Threatened species, Species of Special Concern, or economically important species (e.g., exhibit pollen /genetic invasion)?

Yes Provide *information below*. Enter a conclusion on page R-17 of **No unless limited use approved. Go to Section D** for details on how to make a proposal for specified and limited use for the species.

No **Go to question A2**

If yes, then *provide name of listed or economically important species & information sources*:

A2 Has this species been introduced to Florida within the last 10 years if herbaceous, or last 20 years if woody?

Yes **Use Predictive Tool** and so indicate on page R-1

No Highlight *attached distribution records that show presence in Florida before 10 or 20 years ago or attach other evidence* and **Go to question A3**

A3 Does this species have a record of causing problems in other regions with similar habitats and climate to Florida?

Yes *Provide evidence below, Use Predictive Tool and so indicate on page R-1*

No *Enter a conclusion of **Not considered a problem species at this time and may be recommended by IFAS faculty on page R-1** but reassess if invasion of natural areas is recorded or within 10 years, whichever is earlier.*

If yes, then *give evidence of where and what problems this species has caused*:

"*R. niveus* is a highly invasive perennial shrub native to India, China and Southeast Asia. It was introduced around the world through the horticultural trade for its production of sweet tasting fruit and as an ornamental due to the striking redpurple colour of its stems. Nevertheless, cultivated crops were abandoned due to the formation of dense, spiny thickets and many *R. niveus* plants escaped from cultivation aided by the distribution of seed by birds. Outside of cultivation, *R. niveus* can outcompete native vegetation, decrease biodiversity and threaten rare endemic species. The success of many *Rubus* species is linked to the rapid growth of the roots and their ability to reproduce vegetatively. *R. niveus* has been described as the most invasive weed species on the Galápagos archipelago and declared a noxious weed in the state of Hawaii, USA (Starr et al., 2003)." FROM CABI (<http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/107939>)

Section D is on page R-19

I-b Invasion Status in Three Zones of Florida

Check responses to the following questions for each zone (north, central, south) separately.

For “Yes” responses to questions 1-3, *distributional evidence of invasion* (forming self-sustaining and expanding populations within a plant community with which it has not previously been associated) *must be attached and distinguished for each zone.*

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|--|--|--|--|
| | North | Central | South |
| | Yes No | Yes No | Yes No |
| 1. Does species exist in areas outside its current, or former, cultivation in this zone? | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If <i>Yes</i> Go to question I-b 2 | | | |
| If <i>No</i> Go to question I-b 4 | | | |

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|--|---|---|--|
| | North | Central | South |
| | Yes No | Yes No | Yes No |
| 2. Is species invading in this zone ONLY when natural disturbance regime and scale have been altered? | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If <i>Yes</i> Go to question I-b 3 | | | |
| If <i>No (or unknown)</i> Go to Section II-a | | | |

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|---|---|---|--|
| | North | Central | South |
| | Yes No | Yes No | Yes No |
| 3. Has this species ever been known to persist if the natural regime is resumed and the natural flora/communities recover? | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| If <i>Yes (or unknown)</i> Go to Section II-a | | | |
| If <i>No</i> Go to question I-b 4 | | | |

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|--|--|--|--|
| | North | Central | South |
| | Yes No | Yes No | Yes No |
| 4. Are there other zones in which this species has invaded or persisted after restoration? | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| If <i>Yes</i> indicate I = 0 for this zone
on page R-1 then Go to Section III-b | | | |
| If <i>No</i> Go to Section A | | | |

Section II-a is on page R-5, Section III-b is on page R-10, Section A is on page R-3

Check box if distribution records by zone are attached