



Invasive Exotic Plants Management – Wednesday, March 30, 2016

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, 300 Tower Road, Naples FL

Class Overview: An invasive exotic plant is a non-native species that not only has established in a new area but is expanding on its own in native plant communities. The state of Florida has one of the most severe exotic species problems in the country. More than 100 introduced species, brought to Florida for agricultural or horticultural purposes, are now known to be invasive. Despite the millions of dollars spent by the state each year to control the spread of invasive plants, the rapid and effective dispersal characteristics of these invaders make them extremely difficult to eliminate. Preventing the introduction of invasive species to new areas is the most effective and least expensive way to protect our natural habitats from these invaders.

This training will describe some of the most common and troublesome invasive exotic plants in Southwest Florida and appropriate control methods, including proper use of herbicides. Cost to attend is \$15. CEUs will be provided as follows: 4 FDACS, 4 FNGLA, 3 City of Naples, 3 Category 1 CF, and up to 13 ISA.

At the end of this program, attendees should be able to:

- Explain what invasive species are and why they are harmful to native environments
- Identify key invasive exotic species in the landscape and select appropriate removal methods
- Minimize health and environmental risk when using herbicides
- Select appropriate Florida-Friendly alternative plants
- Describe licenses and laws that regulate invasive exotic species

9:00	Welcome <i>Liz Quinter, Watershed Specialist, Rookery Bay</i>
9:15	What Are Invasive Species and Why Are They Bad? <i>Clark Ryals, Senior Forester, Florida Forest Service</i>
9:50	Removal Methods and Herbicide Safety <i>Clark Ryals, Senior Forester, Florida Forest Service</i>
10:00	Methods of Plant Identification <i>Clark Ryals, Senior Forester, Florida Forest Service</i>
10:20	Break
10:30	Plants, Plants, and More Plants! <i>Clark Ryals, Senior Forester, Florida Forest Service</i>
11:15	Break
11:25	Identification continued <i>Clark Ryals, Senior Forester, Florida Forest Service</i>
12:20	Exotic Species Licenses and Laws <i>Michaëlle Crowley, Environmentalist Specialist Investigator, Collier County</i>
12:35	City of Naples Landscape Ordinance – Overview <i>Monique Barnhart, Natural Resources Coordinator, City of Naples</i>
12.50	Evaluation and CEU's
1:00	Adjorn

