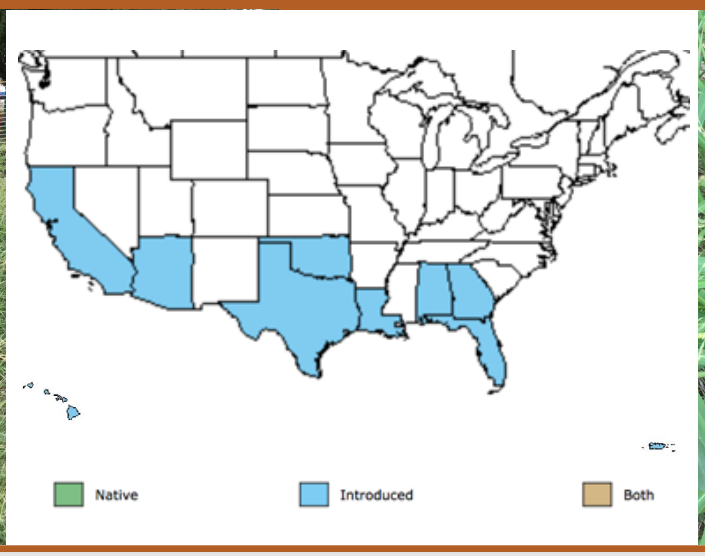
USACE Invasive Plant Species
Best Management Practices

Guineagrass (*Megathyrsus maximus*) – Poaceae (Grasses)



Habitat & Life History

Prevalent in disturbed areas – Native to Africa– FAC & FACU – Perennial grass – Prolific seed producer

Integrated Management Strategy Selections

Prevention **Chemical** **Mechanical** **Cultural**

PREVENTION

- Install diverse native plant community; early detection & rapid action

CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Herbicides—glyphosate (young plants susceptible to selective grass killers)
- Use-pattern—drizzle application, spot treatment

*Refer to product label for specific instructions on rate & use-pattern

MECHANICAL CONTROL

- Hand pulling, grubbing
- Tillage, backhoe

CULTURAL CONTROL

- Plants die rapidly under continuous grazing

MANAGEMENT SEQUENCING

- Timing of control methods—best option is to implement manual, mechanical, & chemical control prior to maturation & seed set (early summer/May)
- Monitoring—monitor high risk areas; Guineagrass can flower year-round
- Niche-filling/Restoration—restoration of invaded plant communities with competitive, functional native grasses

COMMENTS

- Guineagrass regenerates rapidly from underground rhizomes. The species can suppress or displace local plants. Its resistance to drought also means it builds up a dangerous mass of plant material so when a fire occurs, the blaze tends to be more fierce. Native plants which have not built fire-tolerance are eliminated. As guinea grass survives fires, it can dominate the landscape after a fire.

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Contributors, data sources, documentation @ apcrp.el.erdc.dren.mil