

Pennisetum purpureum

NAPIER GRASS

Poaceae

Common Synonyms: none

FLEPPC Category: 1

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

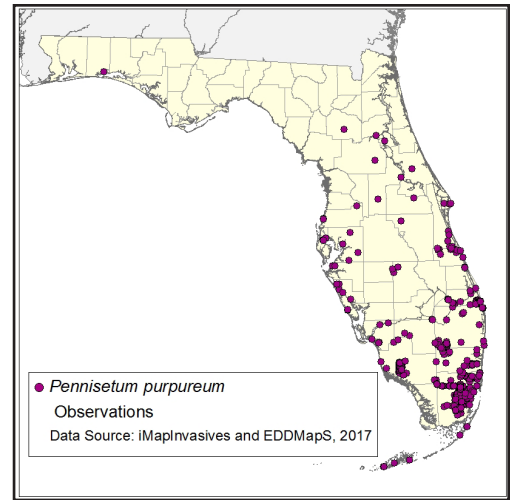
IFAS Assessment

North	INVASIVE
Central	INVASIVE
South	INVASIVE

USDA Hardiness Zone: 7b-11

Growth Habit: Large, perennial grass

Origin:



Brenda Herring

Description: Large grass with erect stems that can grow up to 5 m tall. Leaves up to 4 cm wide and 1 m or more long and are flat and have very fine teeth along margins and few hairs on leaf surface. The ligule has long hairs. Flowers in long tan to green cylindrical spikes (13 to 30 cm long). Each spike is composed of numerous spikelets with bristles.

In general appearance similar to native foxtail grasses (*Setaria* spp.), but differs in foxtail grasses retain their spikelet bristles at maturity.

Habitat: Ruderal, edges of disturbed waterways, pastures, scrub, hammocks, floodplain swamp, and other wetland habitats

Florida Introduction Date: 1913

Control Methods: Mechanical: manually removing small plants is effective, but care must be given to remove all fragments of roots..

Useful Resources:

IFAS, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants. 2017. *Pennisetum purpureum*. <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/plant-directory/pennisetum-purpureum/> Accessed September 19, 2017.

IFAS, UF. 2017. Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas. *Pennisetum purpureum*. <https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/assessments/pennisetum-purpureum/> Accessed September 19, 2017.

Comments: Prevents regeneration of native species.