

Vitex rotundifolia

BEACH VITEX

Verbenaceae

Common Synonyms: *none*

FLEPPC Category: -

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

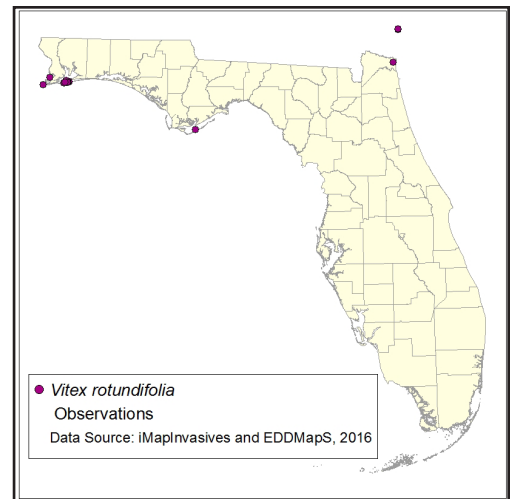
IFAS Assessment

North	INVASIVE
Central	INVASIVE
South	INVASIVE

USDA Hardiness Zone: 10-Jul

Growth Habit: Shrub

Origin: Japan, eastern Asia, Southeast Asia, India, Pacific islands.



Beach vitex
Vitex Rotundifolia
Photo by Lawrence
UFL-Sea Grant
Forest and Kim Starr, Starr Environmental, Bugwood.org

Description: Woody, deciduous shrub growing 30 to 60~cm tall, procumbent stems sprawling to 5~m or more, rooting at nodes, forming dense mats with age. Leaves suborbicular, opposite, 2 to 7~cm long, blue-green above and light greenish-white below, pubescent, with spicy aroma when crushed. Flowers blue-purple, to 2~cm long, in short terminal panicles to 8~cm long. Fruits green, turning blue-black at maturity, to 6~mm in diameter.

Habitat: Beach dune

Florida Introduction Date: 1980s in North Carolina

Control Methods: Mechanical/Chemical: removal using a machete, shears, or a pruning saw to slice stems diagonally, close to the ground and with the cut surface facing up, and then applying an herbicide to the exposed cuts. Thick stands of small seedlings or resprouts can be treated with a roller dipped in herbicide. Sparse seedling populations can be pulled out manually..

An imazapyr solution at 1.2 g ai/cm (0.1 oz ai/in) applied to recently cut stems effectively controlled beach vitex in both greenhouse and field studies. Foliar applications of imazapyr in greenhouse and field studies confirmed that it effectively controlled beach vitex at rates of 1.0, 1.4 and 2.0 kg ai/ha (0.89, 1.25 and 1.79 lb ai/A). Imazapyr effectively controlled beach vitex in these studies whether applied either as a cut stem treatment or as a foliar spray application. Ineffective control was observed from glyphosate and triclopyr applications, which resulted in beach vitex regrowth (Whitwell et al. 2016)..

Useful Resources:

Public Works Magazine. 2013. http://www.vegetationmanagement.pwmag.com/bestpractices/coastal_exotic_vine_diminishes_dunes.html. Accessed on December 6, 2013.

University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. 2013. Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States: beach vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia* L.). <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=11609>. Accessed on December 6, 2013.

Comments: Can colonize beach foredunes, established in North and South Carolina.