

Senna alata

CANDLESTICK PLANT

Fabaceae

Common Synonyms: *Cassia alata*

FLEPPC Category: -

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

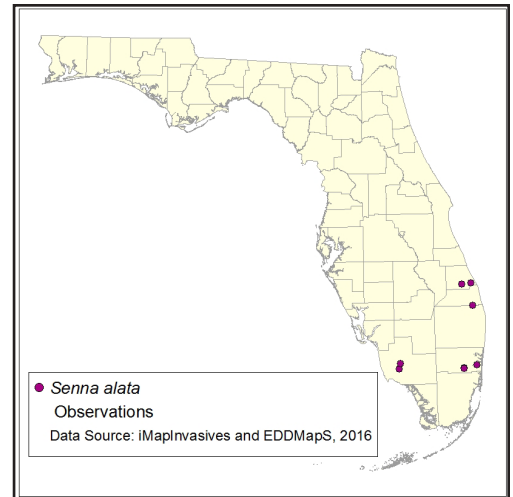
IFAS Assessment

North	CAUTION
Central	CAUTION
South	CAUTION

USDA Hardiness Zone: 10a-11

Growth Habit: Shrub

Origin: Tropical America



Senna alata (L.) Roxb., by Reinaldo Aguilar <https://www.flickr.com/photos/plantaspinunsulaosa/8321558996/>
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Description: Evergreen shrub 3-5~m tall and 3~m wide. Leaves pinnate, up to 75~cm long. Leaflets in 7-14 pairs, oblong to obovate, 8-20~cm long and 3-10~cm wide. Inflorescence an erect axillary raceme 15-60~cm tall, arising from leaf axil, resembling a candle with bottom flowers opening first. Flowers bright yellow, 2.5~cm across, cup-shaped, petals 5. Sepals waxy and smooth to the touch. Fruit straight or slightly curved, 4-winged pod 10-20~cm long and 1.5~cm wide, dark brown to black when mature. Seeds 50 to 60 per fruit, flattened, triangular, to 6~mm long.

Habitat: disturbed areas

Florida Introduction Date: Earliest Florida specimen available vouchered in 1964

Control Methods: Mechanical: Isolated plants can be dug out and roots removed. Follow up is vital to control seedling recruitment and regrowth after a site has been treated..

Chemical: Fluroxypyr 200~g/L. Use as foliar spray on young and mature plants. Mature plants - basal bark on < 10~cm stem diameter, treat up to 45~cm from ground, cut stump on > 10~cm stem diameter..

Useful Resources:

Floridata. 2014. *Senna alata*. http://www.floridata.com/ref/S/senn_ala.cfm. Accessed on June 24, 2014.

Hawaiian Plants and Tropical Flowers. *Senna alata*. 2014. <http://wildlifeofhawaii.com/flowers/996/senna-alata-emperors-candlesticks/>. Accessed on June 24, 2014.

North Territory Government. Department of Land Resource Management. Candle bush Weed Note. 2013. http://www.lrm.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/19159/weed_note_candle_bush_2013.pdf Accessed on June 24, 2014.

Comments: Dies if frozen but can grow back from seeds.