



Cogongrass

# Cogon Grass *(Imperata cylindrica)*

## Instant ID

- A bunchgrass with loose or compact groups of blades (leaves) up to 3/4 inch wide
- Leaves change from green to brown and can reach 5 feet high
- Blades have an off-center midrib (vein running the length of the blade) and a slightly serrated (jagged) edge
- Flowers which resemble feathers, grow on fuzzy stems

## Hijacked Habitats

- Native to Southeast Asia
- Grows worldwide where winter freezes are not severe
- Introduced to Alabama in 1911 from packing material
- In Florida it was used as browse (food for grazing animals)
- Can overtake entire plant communities in almost any habitat





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## Plant Particulars

- Spreads by rhizomes (roots) and windborne seeds
- Tiny portions of rhizomes are capable of creating new plants
- Burns hotter than native grasses
- Can sprout after severe burns
- Chokes out native grasses
- Mowing can cause it to produce more seeds

## Population Prevention

- It is illegal to plant cogongrass
- Herbicides have proven to be the only effective means of removal
- For removal information, visit [www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu)

