

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL **AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT**

2009 Manual



Administered and funded cooperatively by:

**The Georgia Forestry Commission &
The U.S. Forest Service**



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Georgia's Invasive Plant Control Incentive Payment Program



The purpose of this incentive payment program is to create jobs and help landowners promote healthy forest ecosystems by eliminating nonnative, invasive plants from their property. Invasive plants aggressively battle for growing space, out competing native vegetation including herbaceous and woody plants. If left unchecked, lands occupied by these plants become unproductive and native flora (and fauna) can be completely displaced. This program targets certain invasive plant species listed as a top concern by foresters in Georgia. There are practices that can be used to minimize or eliminate invasive plants including the use of herbicides or using a combination of mechanical and herbicide treatments. The desired outcome of this program will be an increased amount of healthy, productive forests.

Technical assistance will be provided to landowners by GFC foresters who will take applications, evaluate the site, and then determine the steps the landowner should take to expect successful results (brief management plan). The forester will inspect the area once the practice is completed to determine if the management plan was successfully implemented, and authorize release of incentive payment.

Some general guidelines for this program are:

- Target Species (as identified by GFC foresters in 2004):
 - cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*)
 - privet sp. (*Ligustrum sinense*, *Ligustrum japonicum*, and *Ligustrum lucidum*)
 - Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*)
 - Chinese tallowtree (*Triadica sebifera*)
 - olive sp. (*Elaeagnus pungens*, *Elaeagnus umbellata*)
 - multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)
- Applicant must own the property or have authority to carry out practice (such as Power of Attorney or a controlling interest in the ownership).
- Landowner must sign an application to officially apply for incentive payment and return to GFC project forester for the county of ownership.
- Must fill out W-9 withholding form also (if they aren't in the GFC purchasing system).
- Program is open to private non-industrial landowners as well as lands owned by local governments (Cities, Counties, Board of Education, etc.)
- There is a \$10,000 maximum total incentive payment(s) per landowner. This will be executed in the form of a contract between the GFC and the landowner.
- In most cases **2 treatments will be needed** to control these invasive plants. Incentive payments for the treatments shall not exceed \$250 per acre for the first treatment and \$150 per acre for the second treatment.
- These incentive payments shall not exceed the total cost of the treatment (but can pay up to 100%) of the cost(s).
- There is a minimum practice size of 3 acres, and the landowner must own a minimum of 10 acres of forest land.
- Practices installed before the landowner is approved for funding are not allowed.
- All practices must comply with the Recommended Best Management Practices.
- Limited Resource Landowners will receive priority funding. Landowners who contact us applying for this option should fill out the form (Appendix), sign and notarize. This should be turned in with application to local Forester. GFC forester (or other personnel) should help them with this process as needed.
- Remainder of funds will be distributed via a lottery drawing where by each landowner selected will receive 100% of the funds needed to fulfill their contracts, and additional names drawn until the \$750,000 budget is depleted.

IPC PRACTICES & GUIDELINES:

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL (statewide):

1. Eligible plant species include cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*), privet sp. (*Ligustrum sinense*, *Ligustrum japonicum*, and *Ligustrum lucidum*), Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), Chinese tallowtree (*Triadica sebifera*), olive sp. (*Elaeagnus pungens*, *Elaeagnus umbellate*) and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*). Approved acreage should include these species or any combination of these.
If none of the above species are present, land does not qualify.
2. Treatable area must be at least 3 acres in size (or separate infestations should total 3 acres).
3. Two treatments (or more) are normally required to eradicate these invasive plants. An initial treatment of herbicide should be prescribed by the forester to implement the landowner's objectives. A second herbicide treatment, normally a year later, to control resprouting. The field forester will make the determination if a second treatment is not needed with a field inspection.
4. Mechanical treatments may be needed to gain access to the site and these treatments are authorized in conjunction with number 3 (above).
5. The control prescriptions should be tailored to the landowner objectives, species involved and the site conditions, i.e. standing water, overgrown, soil characteristics, crop trees present.
6. Sources for identification and control recommendations can be found at:
 - a. GFC Booklet: *Invasive Plants of Georgia's Forests*
<http://www.gatrees.org/ForestManagement/documents/InvasivePlantsOfGeorgiasForests0309.pdf>
 - b. USFS Guide: Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests
<http://www.invasive.org/eastern/srs/>.

Incentive Payment Rates 2009

(Statewide averages for 85 % of the actual treatment costs, payment can be 100% of actual costs that landowner incurs, but may not exceed actual costs of treatment)

- | | | |
|---------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1. First treatment | \$ | 250 per acre (max) |
| 2. Second treatment | \$ | 150 per acre (max) |

Appendix

Self-Determination Form for Limited Resource Status

The purpose of this form is to ensure that GFC programs are implemented in a way that enables limited resource producers to maintain and develop economic viability in farm-type operations. This means that limited resource farmers, ranchers, or forest owners may complete this form to determine whether or not they qualify for this assistance. If they in fact do qualify as determined by the information they submit, they will receive priority funding in certain programs offered by the Georgia Forestry Commission.

A Limited Resource Producer has the following characteristics:

- (a) A person with direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than \$102,400 in each of the last two years, and
 - (b) Has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.
- An entity or joint operation can be a Limited Resource Producer if all individual members qualify as a Limited Resource Producer.

(Please complete the following information to determine eligibility)

County: _____

1.) In each of the last two years, is your direct or indirect **Gross Farm Sales** less than or equal to \$102,400 per year? _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

2.) In each of the last two years, was your **Total Household Income** less than the _____ "County Value" of \$ _____? _____ **Yes** _____ **No**
County

SIGNATURE (Landowner)

DATE

WITNESS

DATE

NOTARY

DATE

See website: <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp>
to determine eligibility for a given county of residence



Pesticide Application Record Sheet

LANDOWNER: _____

DATE AND TIME: _____

APPLICATOR: _____

ADDRESS: _____

LOCATION OF APPLICATION: (attach map) _____

TARGET PEST SPECIES: _____

TOTAL AREA TREATED: _____

DISCRIPTION OF TREATED AREA :(pine forest, hardwood forest, open ag. field, etc)

PESTICIDE USED AND APPLICATION RATE: _____

TYPE OF EQUIPMENT USED: _____

WEATHER:

WIND SPEED: _____ WIND DIRECTION: _____

TEMPERATURE: _____

HUMIDITY: _____

SOIL: wet ___ moist ___ dry ___

UNEXPECTED OCCURANCES AND ACTIONS TAKEN:

NAMES, CONCENTRATIONS AND QUANTITIES OF PESTICIDES DISPOSED AND MANNER OF DISPOSITION: