

Larson & McGowin, Inc.



Cogongrass: No Field of Dreams

Alabama Cogongrass Control Center

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www.alabamacogongrass.com

Acknowledgments

- Alabama Forestry Commission
- Alabama Forest Owners' Association
- Cogongrass Technical Committee
- American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA)

Introduction

- Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) is rapidly spreading
- Affects the framework of Alabama
 - Value reduction – crops
 - Increased cost – treatment and prevention
 - Ecosystem *transformer*



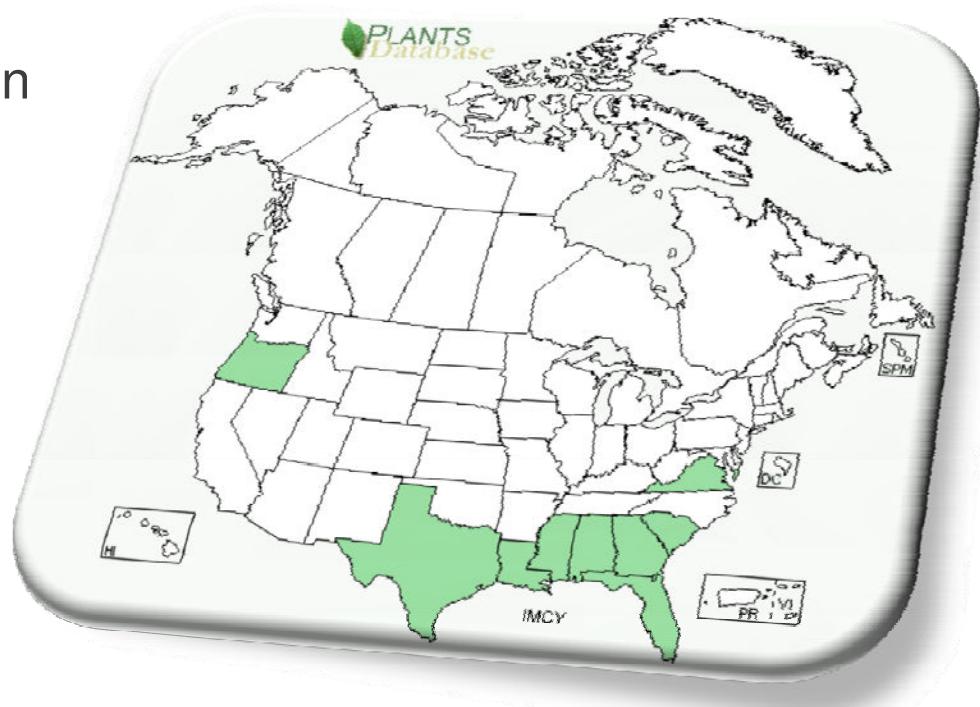
Introduction

- *Prolific* seed producer
- Rhizomatous plant
- Spreads above- and belowground
- New stems arise quickly
 - Four-inch fragment + 2 years = ten-inch deep rhizome mat!



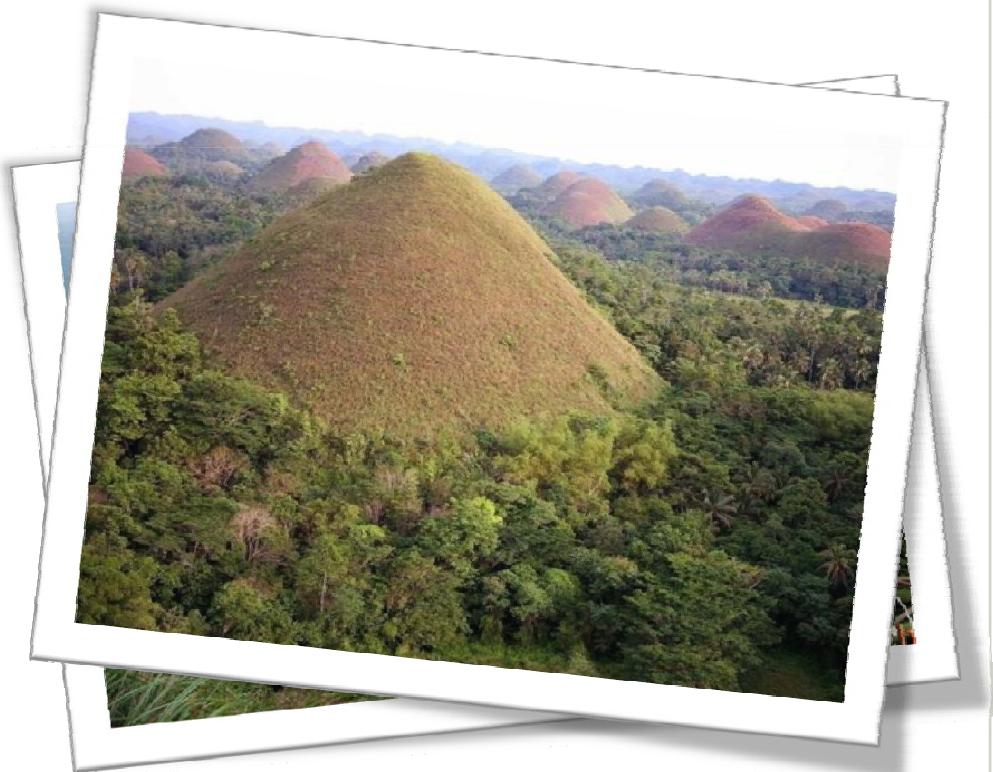
Across the US

- In 9 states (known)
- Danger is occupation in *every* state!



Across the World

- One of the world's worst weeds
- 1.2 billion acres
- 73 countries
- Tropical forest soils most susceptible



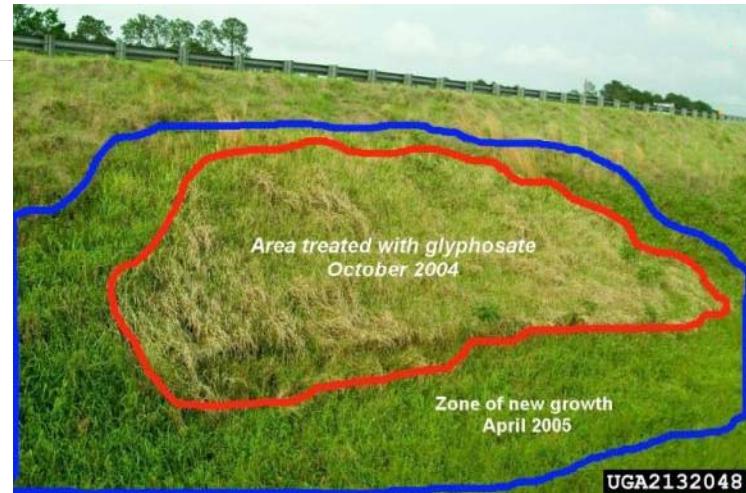
“The Perfect Weed”

- Prolific reproducer/ spreader
- Outcompetes almost everything
- Little to no wildlife value
- Kills fire-tolerant plants
- Grow on almost any site
- *Up to \$500/acre for eradication*



“The Perfect Weed”

- What it takes to eradicate
 - Herbicides glyphosate and imazapyr
 - Initial treatment June-October of year 1
 - Retreatment year 2
 - Monitoring, and in *some* cases year 3 treatment



Program Inception

- 2007 – no coordinated effort exists
- 2007 - AFC obtains 3-year grant to begin mapping and education
- 2008 – AFC facilitates establishment of Alabama Cogongrass Task Team
 - Goal to hire a director with 4 sub-teams established in Task Team
 - Limited funding success

Project Inception

- ARRA Grant - 2009
- Larson & McGowin awarded 3-yr, \$6.28 million contract September 2009
- Task Team's structure provides Larson & McGowin with technical resources

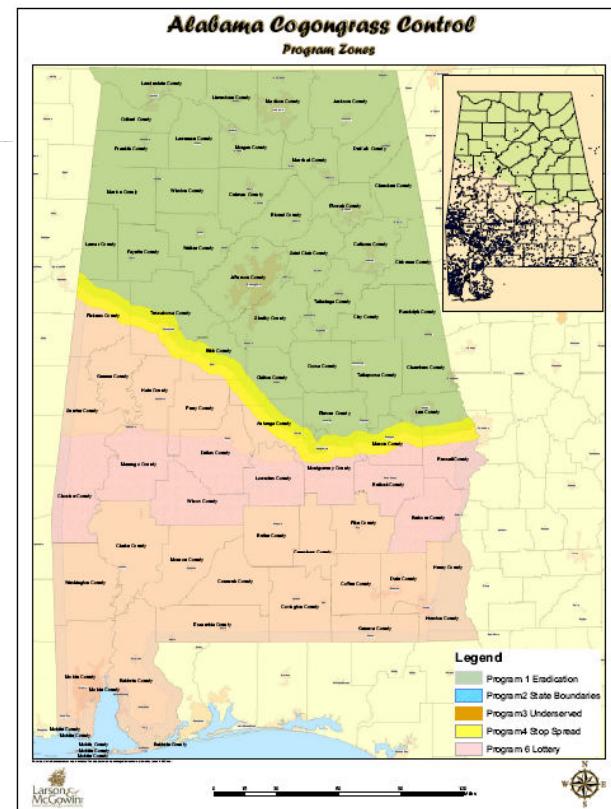
Program Goals

- Create jobs (OVERALL STIMULUS OBJECTIVE)
- Meet mandate of Alabama Task Force
- Meet guidelines of Technical Committee
 - Eradication
 - Control/Mitigation
 - Enhancing cogongrass database



Program Overview

- Six Strategies:
 - Detect and Eradicate (20.6%)
 - State Borders (12.4%)
 - Underserved (10.3%)
 - Halt The Spread (6.2%)
 - Habitat Protection (0.2%)
 - Landowner Select (**50.3%**)
- Not a cost-share program



Program Overview

- This year's objectives
 - Spray June-October in Eradication zone and along the state's borders in the south
 - Increase known locations
 - Enroll landowners
 - Get ready for 2011 in south Alabama!!



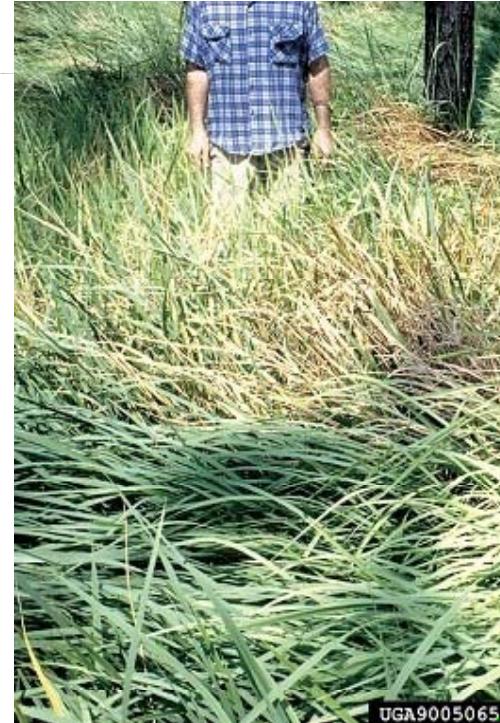
Program Overview

- Landowner contacts program
- Sign access and treatment agreement
- Verification and prescription
- Treatment/Retreatment
- Inspection
- Monitoring
- All records managed in GIS



Program Overview

- Use only licensed, insured, local workforces
 - Jobs, jobs, jobs



Program Expectations

- \$6 million for the entire state
 - Won't go far
 - Hard choices made from the outset
 - Greatly infested areas *will not* be eradicated
- Development of a management system and comprehensive program is what will outlive the grant
 - Use of stand-, tract-, and landscape-level decision tools

What You Can Do

- YOU are a key set of eyes and ears
- Any cogongrass should be reported, *however small or large*
- Things you can do now!
 - Don't drive in, operate in, or treat flowering areas
 - Clean equipment if and when possible
 - Enroll in our program
 - Be aware of new areas

Where You Come In

- Participation depends on you!
- Let friends and neighbors know
- Tell them about the program and our website
- Invite us to meetings



How To Contact Us

- Hotline: (334) 240-9348
- Website: www.alabamacogongrass.com
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We CAN win this war!

Questions?

