Lead Tree *(Leucaena leucocephala)*
Origin: Mexico, Central America
Description: Evergreen tree to 40' tall. Leaves resemble that of a Jacaranda, Royal Poincianna, or the native Wild Tamarind. Fruit are pods 8" long with 15-30 seeds per pod which become brown when mature. Flowers are whitish, 1", spherical heads that resemble small powder puffs.

Sanibel Distribution: Roadsides and rights-of-way. Commonly found in close proximity to mature "mother" Lead Trees on vacant lots. Found occasionally in landscapes where they often times have grown without cultivation possibly due to close resemblance to native Wild Tamarind.
Control: Basal treatment ineffective. Hand-pull small seedlings. Cut Larger trees flush to the ground and immediately treat the stump with Ortho "Brush-B-Gone," Pathfinder II, Garlon 3A, or Garlon 4.
Native Plant Replacements: Wild Tamarind, Satin Leaf, Southern Red Cedar, Longleaf Pine, Jamaica Caper, Necklace Pod.

Mother-in-Law's Tongue, Bowstring Hemp, Snake Plant *(Sansevieria hyacinthoides)*
Origin: South Africa
Description: Flat, stiff, upright leaves resembling fat, green sword blades to 4' long. Underground rhizome (root) usually orange in color. Forms dense groundcover thickets.
Sanibel Distribution: Found in understory of upland vegetation oftentimes escaping from a single potted plant. Prefers shade or partial sun on road rights-of-way and old homesteads. Often seen growing in vacant lots or areas of residential lots where unwanted plants have been placed or dumped. Is adapted to ridge habitat including gopher tortoise areas.

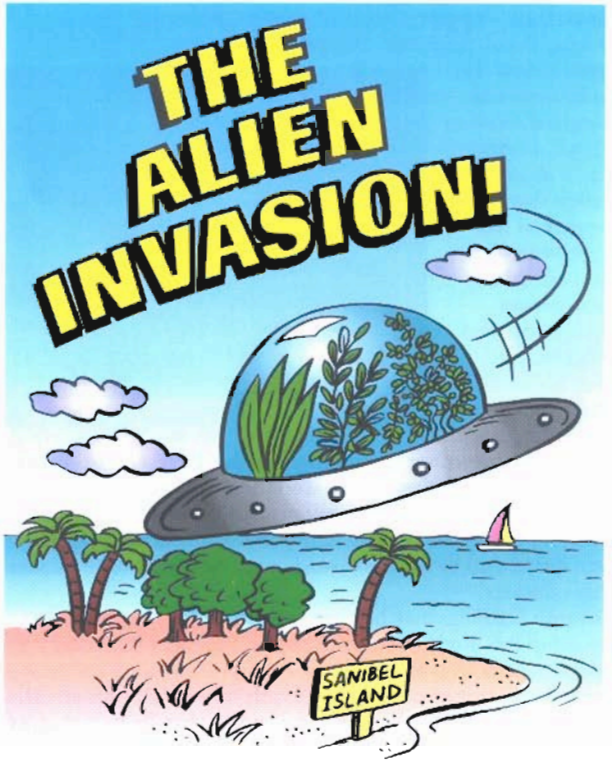
Control: Difficult to control. Best removal and control method is physical removal by digging. Rhizome is fragile and prone to breaking when leaves are pulled up and resprouting will likely occur. Continuous maintenance is recommended. Specialized combinations of cutting and treating stumps with herbicides such as Rodeo, Garlon 3A, and Garlon 4 are moderately effective and are experimental.
Native Plant Replacements: Wild Coffee, Stoppers, Myrsine, Leather Fern, Boston Fern, Christmas Berry, Sea Oxeye Daisy, Varnish Leaf, Coontie, Muhly Grass, Dune Sunflower.

Invasive exotic, or "nonindigenous," plants have been introduced on purpose and accidentally to Florida since the first Europeans arrived in the 16th century. It is believed that as much as 29% of all of Florida's plant species growing on their own are not native. Many of these plant species have the ability to act like weeds, and can spread extensively on their own displacing native plants and wildlife as well as disrupting natural ecological processes. Unfortunately, nearly forty of these plant species call Sanibel home. Conservational land managers continue to remove them from Sanibel's natural areas and in an effort to reduce and eventually eliminate the spread of the "worst offenders" from the island, the City of Sanibel has enacted legislation regulating eight invasive exotic pest plant species. These eight plant species are not permitted to be grown, sold, propagated or sold on Sanibel and, upon issuance of a City Development Permit, they are required to be removed from the parcel which must be maintained free of these plants in perpetuity.

Control Notes:

1. All herbicide use should be accomplished by competent adults strictly adhering to all label requirements for use and safety precautions.
2. Special care should be exercised when removing exotic plants listed from around structures, power lines, and persons. Oftentimes is it prudent to hire a licensed professional to conduct removal and herbicide treatment.
3. The removal or herbicide treatment of native plants on Sanibel is prohibited without special permits. Please consult with the City of Sanibel prior to major alteration or removal of native plants, and adhere to all applicable laws.
4. Follow-up maintenance is CRUCIAL when removing and ultimately controlling invasive exotic pest plants. Survey your property frequently and retreat as necessary to prevent a re-infestation.

Please contact the City of Sanibel Natural Resources Department at (941) 472-3700 for additional information regarding invasive exotic pest plants.



Eight regulated invasive exotic plants threatening Sanibel Island's natural areas

Off the coast of Southwest Florida, Sanibel Island has the rare fortune of lying at the southernmost range of many temperate plant species as well as being at the northernmost range for subtropical plant species. This, and the fact that Sanibel is bathed in predominantly warm breezes from the Gulf of Mexico, has created a sort of "biological experiment station" when it comes to vegetation. Literally hundreds of species of plants thrive on Sanibel including specially adapted beneficial native species like cordgrass and gumbo limbo, naturalized species such as papaya and coconut palms, relatively benign introduced species such as bananas and citrus, and invasive exotic plants.

Brazilian Pepper *(Schinus terebinthefolius)*

Origin: Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay

Description: Tall, multi-stemmed evergreen shrub to 43' tall. Leaves with 7 to 9 oblong leaflets that smell peppery or like turpentine when crushed. May cause poison ivy-like irritation when handled. Fruit are small bright red berries on female plants.

Courtesy of FLEPPC file

Sanibel Distribution: Occurs island-wide. Prefers moist organic soils and disturbed sites such as ditch banks, spoil piles and developed areas. Also hearty in transitional areas between low wet areas and upland areas. Will readily invade urban landscapes. Seed distributed by birds and small mammals. Can form impenetrable thickets.

Control: Seedlings may be hand pulled or treated foliarly with Roundup Pro, Rodeo, or Pathfinder II. Saplings easily hand pulled. Larger trees should be cut flush to the ground and stumps immediately treated with Ortho "Brush-B-Gone", Pathfinder II, Garlon 4, or Garlon 3A. Some trees may be basally treated using Garlon 4, however, unsightly dead branches will be present. (Certain situations may require mechanical removal of the entire plant with roots, a method that requires city permits.

Native Plant Replacements: Dahoon Holly, Wax Myrtle, Buttonwood, Myrsine, Marlberry, Seagrape, Blackbead, Coral Bean, Red Mulberry, Firebrush, Satin Leaf, Sweet Acacia.

Air Potato *(Dioscorea bulbifera)*

Origin: Tropical Asia

Description: Vigorously twining vine forming round aerial tubers resembling potatoes from 1" – 5" in diameter. Leaves are broad heart shaped with veins originating at the stem and radiating all to the leaf tip. Has dormant period with leaves dying and falling off in the winter. Potatoes or "bulbils" left on ground sprout in spring and vines persist until next cold.

Sanibel Distribution: Found primarily in upland treed hammocks, vegetation buffers and residential landscapes. Readily engulfs vegetation including large trees and forms impenetrable masses compared to Kudzu of the north. High production of bulbils yields an increase of coverage each season.

Control: Difficult to control. Hand-pull vines from trees and shrubs, foliar herbicide application of Ortho "Brush-B-Gone", Pathfinder II, Rodeo, or Roundup Pro upon first vine emergence in spring (Careful of overspray on desirable plants underneath), hand-pick all bulbils and place in normal trash. Repeat all steps for continued control.

Native Plant Replacements: Rail-road Vine, Jacquemontia, Grape Vine, Virginia Creeper, Passion Flower, Coral Honeysuckle, Climbing Aster, Beauty berry, Saw Palmetto, Golden Creeper, Wild Alamanda.

Earleaf Acacia *(Acacia auriculiformis)*

Origin: Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Indonesia

Description: Evergreen shade tree to 50' tall. The 5"-8" leaves are banana shaped and appear slightly yellowish-green. Flowers are yellow drooping spikes. Fruit are flat pods that are brown and twisted at maturity.

Sanibel Distribution: Used island-wide in residential and commercial landscapes. Continues to be commercially available off-island as fast growing ornamental shade tree. Frequently invades disturbed sites.

Control: Hand-pull seedlings. Larger trees should be cut flush to the ground and the stump immediately treated with Ortho "Brush-B-Gone," Pathfinder II, Garlon 4, or Garlon 3A.

Native Plant Replacements: Strangler Fig, Wild Tamarind, Mastic, Gumbo Limbo, Spicewood, Inkwood, Satin Leaf, Paradise Tree.

Exotic Inkberry, Beach Naupaka, Hawaiian half-flower *(Scaevola sericea, Scaevola frutescens, Scaevola taccada)*

Origin: East Africa to India, Southeast Asia, Australia, Pacific Islands

Description: Large, bushy shrub to 16' tall, which forms dense hemispherical mounds. Eight inch leaves widen at end and are shiny green becoming yellowish with age. One half inch round fruit is fleshy and white when mature with pulpy center (As opposed to native species, Scaevola plumieri, which exudes ink-like juice when squeezed).

Courtesy of FLEPPC file

Sanibel Distribution: Found in residential and commercial landscapes and vegetation buffers. Salt tolerant species found frequently planted on Gulf-front and bay-front properties. Floating fruits and prolific seeds attributed for frequent coastal invasion. Continues to be commercially available off-island as salt tolerant coastal species.

Control: Hand-pull small plants. Larger clumps easily dug out with shovel. The branches are easily cut with loppers, pruners, or machete and the stump cut flush to the ground with a saw then immediately treated with Ortho "Brush-B-Gone," Roundup Pro, Rodeo, Pathfinder II, Garlon 3A, or Garlon 4.

Native Plant Replacement: Native Inkberry, Seacoast Elder, Dune Sunflower, Coco Plum, Wax Myrtle, Seven Year Apple, Necklace Pod, Saw Palmetto, Joewood, Bay Cedar, Wild Cotton, Sea Oats.

Melaleuca, Paper-bark, Punk, Cajeput *(Melaleuca quinquenervia)*

Origin: Australia, New Guinea, and Solomon Islands

Description: Evergreen tree to 100' tall. Four inch long lance shaped grayish green leaves that smell of camphor when crushed. Fruit small, round, woody capsule surrounding young stems holding up to 300 tiny seeds each. Bark is flaky, white and papery. Many persons afflicted with respiratory irritation and congestion when exposed to trees.

Courtesy of FLEPPC file

Sanibel Distribution: Formerly found in residential and commercial landscapes. Prefers wetland type natural areas and transitional areas between ridges and swales. Local eradication and maintenance program has limited this species to only a few individuals found annually.

Control: Hand-pull seedlings. Large trees cut flush to the ground and stump immediately treated with Arsenal, Garlon 3A or Garlon 4. If found on Sanibel, call the City Natural Resources Dept. (472-3700) immediately for professional removal and treatment.

Native Plant Replacements: Cypress, Red bay, Slash Pine, Red Maple, Mastic, Gumbo Limbo, Southern Red Cedar, Pond Apple.

Java Plum, Jambolan *(Syzygium cumini)*

Origin: Southeast Asia, India

Description: Evergreen tree to 80' tall. Leaves smooth, green and leathery with wavy edges. New leaf growth is plum or maroon in color. Tree resembles native Strangler Fig except when broken, no white sap is emitted. Fruit is 1" berry resembling a date sized plum.

Sanibel Distribution: Few in residential and commercial landscapes, old homesteads and rights-of-way. Prefers upland treed ridge type habitat. Prolific seeder, which readily invades natural areas through mammal and bird vectors.

Control: Basal treatment ineffective. Hand-pull seedlings. Cut larger trees flush to the ground and immediately treat stump with Ortho "Brush-B-Gone," Pathfinder II, Garlon 3A, or Garlon 4. Stump retreatment may be necessary.

Native Plant Replacements: Strangler Fig, Mastic, Live Oak, Gumbo Limbo, Short Leaf Fig, Fiddlewood, Tallowood, Sweet Bay.