

GEORGIA'S COGONGRASS TASK FORCE INITIATIVE

www.cogongrass.org

Problem

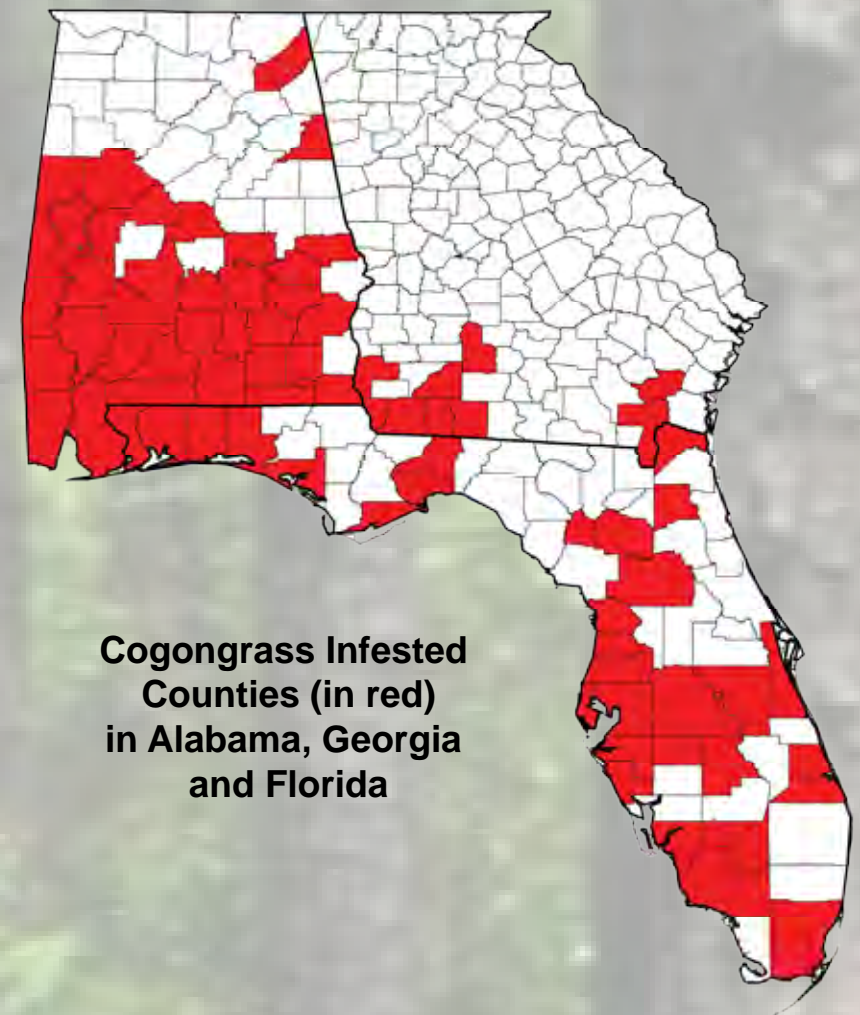


Powerline Infestation in Folkston, GA

With only 25 known infestations, cogongrass, (*Imperata cylindrica*), is an emerging invasive species in Georgia. To facilitate cooperation in all areas of management, both of cogongrass and other invasive species, State and federal agencies, university personnel and EPPC members have combined to form the Georgia Invasive Species Task Force.

The task force has adopted a three-fold approach to managing cogongrass in Georgia:

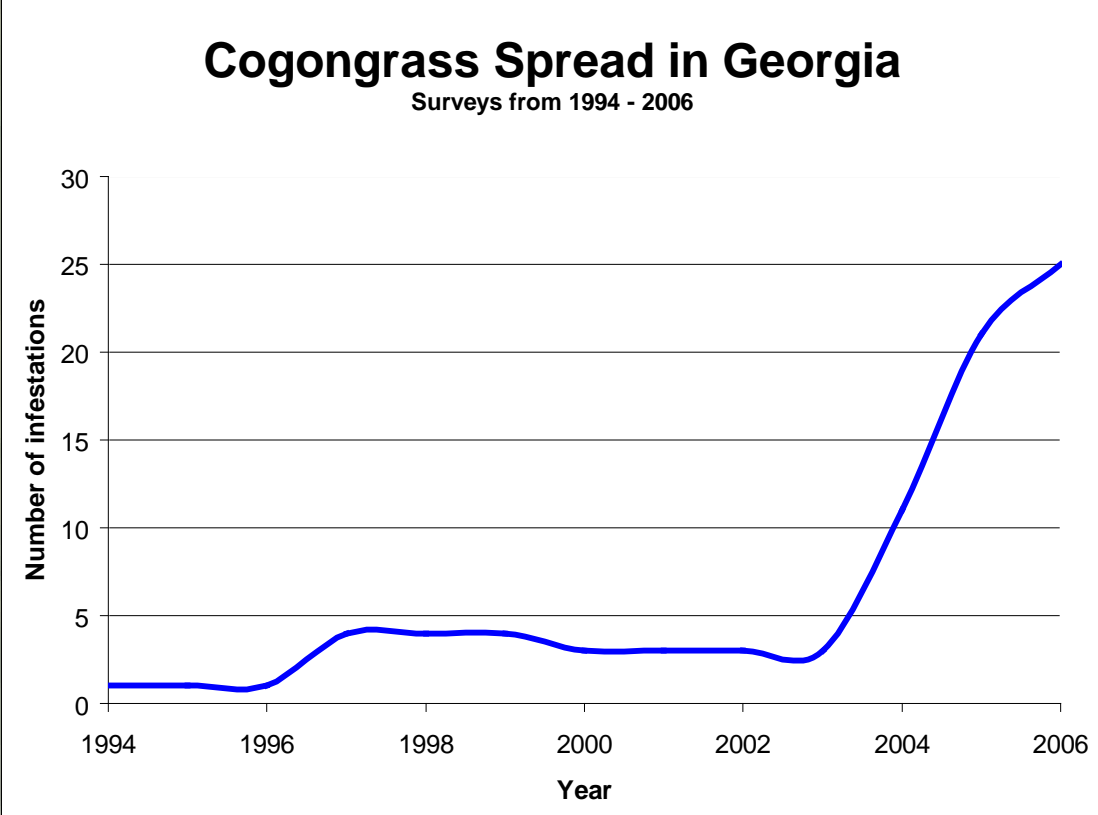
- 1) management of known infestations,
- 2) discovery of any existing but unknown infestations, and
- 3) preparing for new infestations.



Cogongrass Infested Counties (in red) in Alabama, Georgia and Florida



Known Cogongrass Infestations in South Georgia



Cogongrass Spread in Georgia
Surveys from 1994 - 2006

Year	Number of Infestations
1994	0
1996	0
1998	0
2000	0
2002	0
2004	1
2006	25

Action

Workshops, educational materials and press releases are all being used to inform and educate the public on this new threat. To prepare for the inevitable increase in new infestations, the Georgia Invasive Species Task Force is developing protocols for handling new finds, initiating a land-owner assistance program, and training agency and university personnel on identification, management and control of cogongrass.



Many pine stands were infested by contaminated equipment



Flowering in late spring aids in locating infestations



Infestations are commonly seen along roadside and forest edges



Established from contaminated fill dirt used in construction



Spread is common during roadside maintenance



Rhizomes are often moved on equipment from site to site



Identification and control workshops are being held throughout the state



USDA APHIS and GFC personnel are treating active infestations









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 In cooperation with the Georgia Forestry Commission, USDA Forest Service, USDA APHIS PPQ,
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 All images from www.invasive.org.