

What We Have Learned and What We Need to Do Next

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What we have learned

Control of Cogongrass and Restoration

- 1. Cogongrass is a difficult to control plant but it can be done with persistent integrated treatments and retreatments. The best sequence of treatments has yet to be found.**
- 2. The most effective herbicides have the active ingredients, imazapyr and glyphosate. Brand name and generic formulations are available and costs are dropping (Table 1).**
- 3. Treatments in spring with these two herbicides with Oust can stop seed formation.**
- 4. Burning is useful to clear thatch to facilitate spraying of new regrowth, but kills native plants, not cogongrass, and bares soil for potential invasion.**
- 5. Disking and burning can be used in combination with herbicide applications to decrease cogongrass rhizome biomass. The sequence and schedule is critical.**
- 6. After herbicide treatments to suppress cogongrass, then other aggressive species of trees or grass must be established to gain long term restoration.**
- 7. Contract applicators are available in most locations to treat cogongrass.**
- 8. In pastures, deep plowing and seedbed preparation with planting of bahiagrass or bermudagrass has been successful in eradicating cogongrass infestations.**
- 9. Biocontrol by insects, diseases, nematodes, and grazers is possible and could be developed with appropriately funded research and development.**

Organizing for success.

We have yet to be organized at the regional, state, or county levels to stop the spread of cogongrass. Good examples of new programs at the state and local levels have been presented at this conference to show how they can be started and how to organize.

Even though it is a federally listed noxious weed, federal programs and responsible federal and state agencies are under funded to effectively aid in the process.

Eradication along road rights-of-ways and immediately adjoining lands must occur through departments of transportations and county roads initiatives. In the same way, eradication along rivers must be the responsibility of TVA and the power companies.

Knowledge networks are presently accessible and growing, such as invasive.org and cogongrass.org at the University of Georgia, and include public accessible mapping programs for tracking cogongrass, such as EDD Maps. Location inputs are needed.

Grants, incentives and cost-share programs are available but need greater funding and a broader scope.

What we need to do next

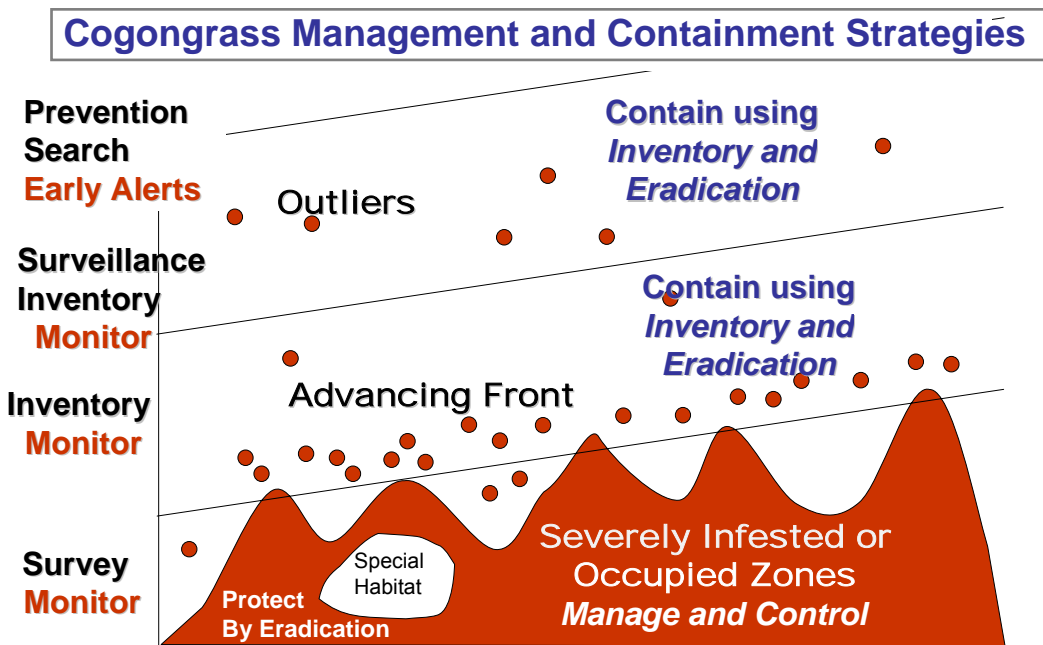
Formulate State Cogongrass Management Plans that state the common GOALS, our objectives and a time line.

Engage and enlist volunteers to enact an Adaptive Cooperative Management Program. And find roles in this program for people with different abilities and skills. Perform cost-risk analyses to quantify the losses that we are incurring so that we can communicate these to leaders and citizens as to what we are and will be losing.

Seek political and agency leadership and involvement.

Organize research and development to devise and communicate better management and restoration strategies and treatments.

STOP THE SPREAD through organized programs at the regional and state levels that can be implemented at the local level. Draw lines on maps to show areas of different strategies.



Outlier Areas

There are areas beyond the highly infested areas where outlier infestations must be detected early and eradicated. Public education is needed for early detection along with organizing search and surveillance teams with reporting networks. Movement of contaminated equipment and materials must be stopped.

The Advancing Front

All infestations must be found and recorded across the landscape. All ownerships must be included. Treatment must be persistent to stop seed dispersal. Equipment and personnel sanitation must be employed when working near or in infested areas. Special

habitats of plants and animals must be saved from destruction. The front must be held and pushed back.

Severely infested Areas

Surveys are required to quantify the acres of infestation. Concerted programs with landowner assistance are needed to fuel control. Equipment and personnel sanitation must be employed when working near or in infested areas. Any forest and nursery product movement must be monitored for contamination. Special habitats of plants and animals must be saved from destruction. Homes must be safeguarded against wildfire.

Win the land Back!!! Become involved in this crisis that imperials future generations.

Everyone can contribute to the effort to combat cogongrass. There are many roles to be performed in an organized approach, which will require people of many talents and know-how. Education is a key need, so educators can play a role. Leadership is needed at all levels from elected officials to group leadership. Searching and reporting new infestations can be done by many with the right training and reporting network. Trained land owners, managers, consultants and contractors along with State and federal agencies personnel will carry the fight to the land, like stopping a huge wildfire.