

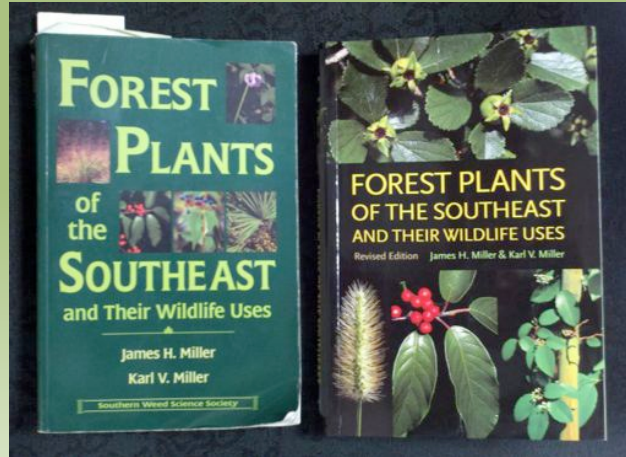
Native Alternatives for Food Plots in Longleaf Ecosystems: Part II

Mark J. Hains
Research Coordinator
The Longleaf Alliance

Themes of this Webinar

- Recognition: Learn to identify your native plants (and non-native species)
- Protection: Modify site prep and management regimes
- Restoration: Plants, seed, techniques
- Availability: Which spp. are available, and some we wish were available
- Additional Reading & Resources

Suggested Reading



Sawtooth Oak (*Quercus acutissima*)
is an exotic species. Is it invasive?



Sawtooth regeneration in a food plot at the Solon Dixon Center.



Sawtooth seedlings that have escaped into a nearby loblolly plantation.



- Native Scrub Oaks
 - Runner Oak – *Quercus pumila*
 - Myrtle Oak – *Q. myrtifolia*



Runner Oak (*Quercus pumila*)



Myrtle Oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*)



Shrubby Scrub Oaks: Wildlife Use

- Runner & Myrtle oak acorns are available before most other tree oaks
- Acorns readily used by deer, turkey, black bear, squirrel, and numerous other wildlife species.



Thousands of offsite oaks (laurel & water) oak =
broadcast site prep. recommendation.



Post oak



Scrub oaks are natural components of upland longleaf ecosystems: sand post, turkey, bluejack, sand live, etc.

Blackjack oak



Blackgum



Typically thought of as wet site species. Very important mast producer with great aesthetics.

Nyssa sylvatica



NATIVE
ALTERNATIVE

Persimmon
Diospyros virginiana

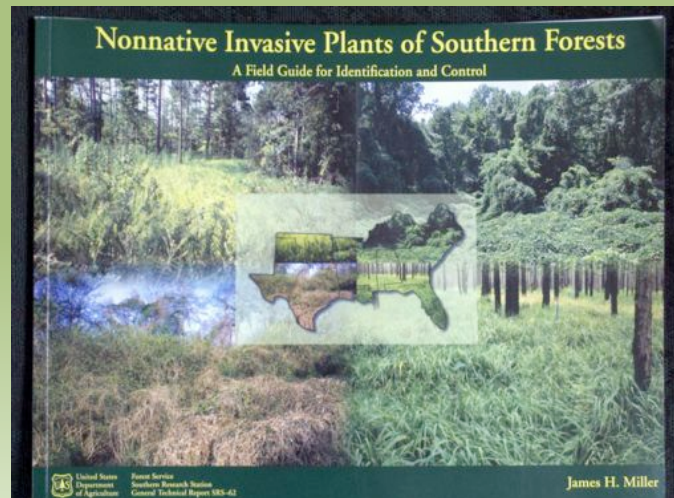


**EXOTIC
SPECIES**

Mock or Trifoliolate Orange
(*Poncirus trifoliata*)



Rec. Reading: USDA – FS Gen. Tech Rep. SRS-62



**EXOTIC
CONTROL**

Cut stem treatments:

- Glyphosate as 25% sol.
- Garlon 3A as 25% sol.

Basal sprays:

- Pathfinder II
- Garlon 4 as 20% sol.
- Stalker as 6-9% sol

Foliar sprays:

- Garlon 3A as 4% sol.
- Arsenal AC as .5% sol.



**NATIVE
ALTERNATIVE**

Hawthornes (*Crataegus spp.*)
Miller & Miller = 56 spp. in SE, US



Deer: "Fair to medium browse."

Game birds: Ruffed grouse & turkey

Game animals: Raccoon, squirrel, cottontail, deer

Songbirds: Numerous spp. incl: cardinals, blue jays, etc.



NATIVE
ALTERNATIVE

Sumacs
Rhus spp.



Deer: Consume fruits

Game birds: Quail, ruffed grouse & turkey

Songbirds: Numerous spp. including: bluebirds, gray catbirds, ruby-crowned kinglets and others.



NATIVE
ALTERNATIVE

Sumacs: winged,
smooth & staghorn



NATIVE
ALTERNATIVE

White Titi
Cyrilla racemiflora



Titi is a natural component of flatwoods sites and it can be kept in place with frequent fire.



Wildlife Use: Miller & Miller
“Young shoots are a preferred deer browse.. mature leaves eaten in winter.”
Many pollinators make use of the flowers.



NATIVE
ALTERNATIVE

Viburnum spp. Eg: *V. nudum* = Possumhaw,
V. rufidulum =Rusty Blackhaw,
V. dentatum = Arrow-wood



Viburnum spp. Fair to medium deer browse. Winter fruit: ruffed grouse, turkey, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon and many songbirds.



EXOTIC
SPECIES

Bahia or Bermuda
Paspalum notatum
Cynodon dactylon



Bermuda: 64 oz imazapyr/acre
Bahia: imazapyr or glyphosate



NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

- Panic Grasses – *Panicum* spp. or *Dichanthelium* spp.
- Indiangrass – *Sorghastrum* spp.
- Bluestems – *Andropogon* spp. or *Schizachyrium* spp.
- Wiregrass – *Aristida stricta*



Switchgrass
Panicum virgatum

Wildlife Use:

- Seeds consumed by wild turkeys, bobwhite quail, and songbirds
- Provides cover for small mammals and bobwhite quail



Indiangrass
Sorghastrum nutans

Wildlife Use:

- Provides habitat for wildlife
- Foliage is browsed by deer
- Seeds consumed by songbirds and small mammals



Little Bluestem
Schizachyrium
scoparium

Wildlife Use:

- Provides cover for birds and small mammals
- Seeds consumed by songbirds and upland gamebirds



Wiregrass
Aristida stricta

Wildlife Use:

- Seeds occasionally consumed by songbirds
- Provides important nesting sites for bobwhite quail
- Provides cover and forage for gopher tortoises



EXOTIC
SPECIES

Sericea Lespedeza
Lespedeza cuneata



EXOTIC
CONTROL

Foliar sprays:

- Garlon 4 as 2% sol.
- Escort XP at $\frac{3}{4}$ oz/acre
- Transline as .25% sol.
- Glyphosate as 2% sol.
- Velpar L as 2% sol.

Mowing prior to herbicide application can assist control



NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

- Partridge Pea – *Chamaecrista* spp.
- Beggar ticks - *Desmodium* spp.



Large Flower Partridge Pea *Chamaecrista fasciculata*

Wildlife Use:

- Seeds important food for bobwhite quail, wild turkey, and small mammals
- Moderate forage for deer
- Host plant for several species of butterflies



Large-Flower on Left,
Small-Flower on Right



Large Flower Partridge Pea is a
Great Plant for Food Plots



Large Flower Partridge Could Be a Terrible
Choice in CRP Plantings
(1st Growing Season in Covington County, AL)



Longleaf that perished
from *Rhizoctonia*
beneath large flower
partridge pea.

Hemp Sesbania



**EXOTIC
SPECIES**

Can be invasive especially on wetter & ruderal sites.

Sesbania exalta



Florida Ticktrefoil *Desmodium floridanum*

Wildlife Use:

- Seeds important food for bobwhite quail, turkey, dove, small mammals, and other songbirds
- High preference deer forage



Beggar's Lice

Demodium paniculatum

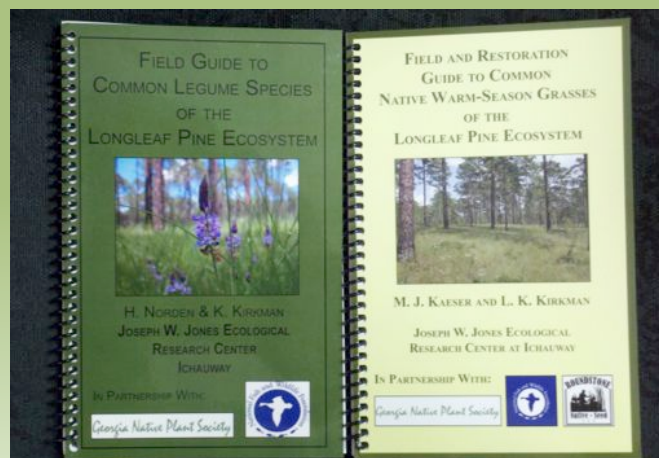


**NATIVE
ALTERNATIVE**

D. paniculatum is a widespread species that is more shade tolerant than many other species.



Suggested Reading



Native Plant Sources

Rancho la Orquidea (FL): (850)983-8948

www.rancholaorquidea.com

Roundstone Seed Company www.roundstoneseed.com

SC Forestry Com: (803)275-3578

Southern Habitats www.southernhabitats.com

Superior Trees (Florida): (850)971-5159

The Natives: www.thenatives.net

VA Dept. of Forestry: (540)363-7000

www.buyvirginiatrees.com

Native Plant Sources

Arborgen: www.arborgen.com

Ernst Conservation Seed: www.ernstseed.com

FL. Assoc. of Native Plant Nurseries (FANN)

www.afnn.org

GA Forestry Commission: [www.gfc.state.ga.us/
reforestation/](http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/reforestation/)

LA Dept. of Ag. & Forestry: (225)925-4515

NC Forest Service: (919)731-7988