

# GEORGIA'S FIRST CISMA: DIVERSE PARTERSHIPS & UNIQUE APPROACHES FOR TACKLING INVASIVE SPECIES

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## INTRODUCTION

In March of 2012, the Coastal Georgia Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CoGA CISMA) was established to work across Federal, State, Local, and private lands for invasive species management. The CISMA covers 11 counties and includes approximately 3,900,000 acres and 25 partner agencies.

## STATEMENT OF NEED

- Georgia is one of four states in the US without a noxious weed list and laws
- Coastal Georgia contains two major ports with close proximity to a third in Florida
- 100 miles of coastline with ecologically rare and valuable habitat types

## STRATEGIES

- Invasive species playing cards
- Billboards at major interstate stops
- Film festivals
- SCA Interns and Americorps crews for manual and chemical site treatment
- CISMA trailer for partner use containing tools and herbicides
- Targeting high priority public lands and refuges
- Partnering with private landowners for treatment
- Bio-control strategies
- Social media
- Annual conference

**CISMAs**  
(Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area)

**can help fill gaps  
in Georgia's  
regulations through  
collaborations and  
creative strategies.**

## IMPACT

- Over 600 acres treated chemically and manually
- Over 800 volunteer hours at a value of \$19,000
- More than 6500 intern hours at a value of \$161,000
- Over 1200 staff hours
- 3 new biocontrols deployed
- Innumerable education and outreach efforts deployed by partner agencies throughout Coastal Georgia

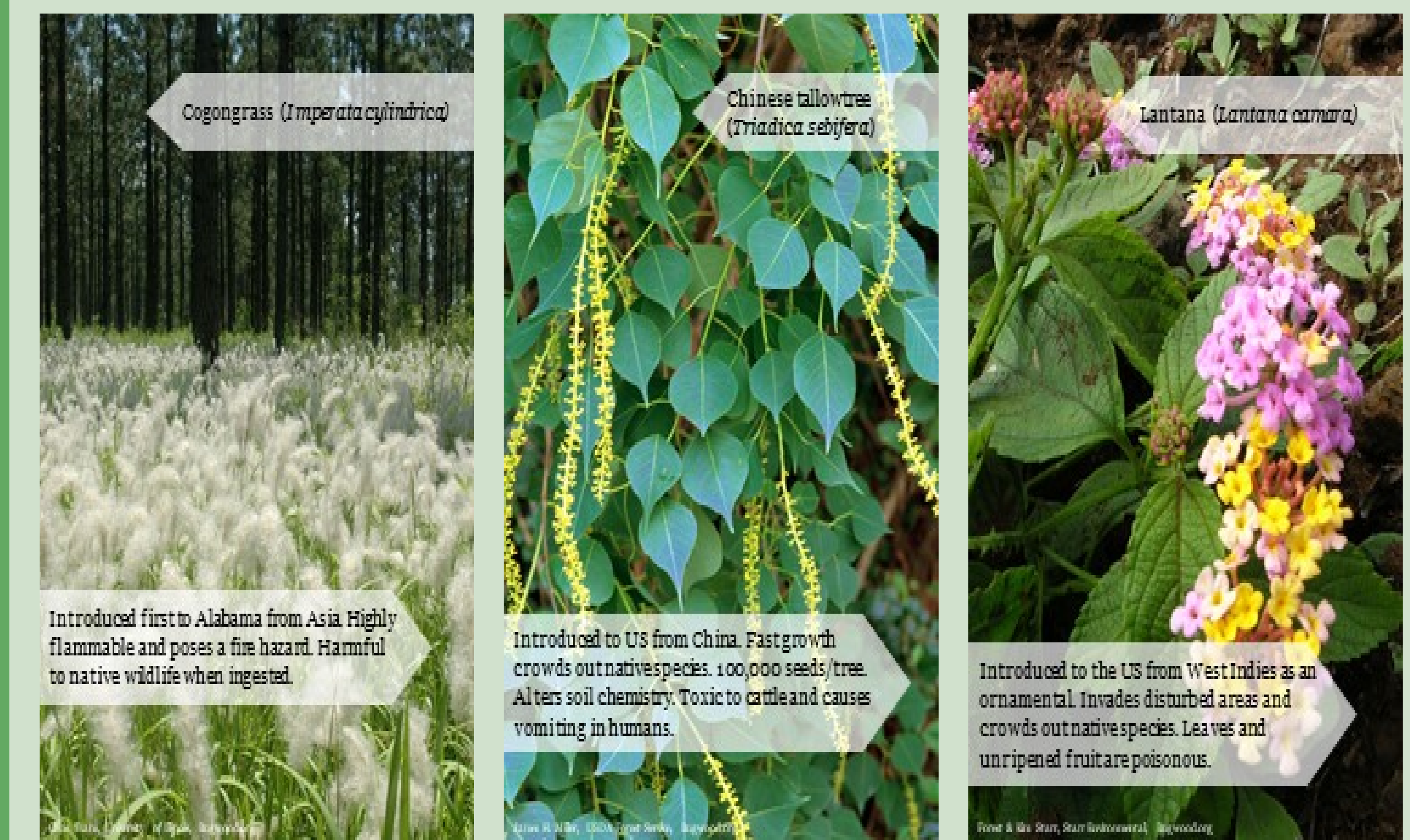


Figure 2: Playing cards. ACE, King, Queen – in order of level of most invasive.

**REPORT  
INVASIVE  
SPECIES**

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CoGA CISMA

Figure 1: Two Billboards were placed promoting the use of a phone APP to report invasives.